

**OPINION 8**  
NEED TO OBJECTIFY HISTORY

**WORLD 12**  
IRAN'S TOP LEADER STRIKES DEFIANT TONE AMID MONTH OF TURMOIL

**SPORT 16**  
INDIA HUNT KANGAROOS IN RAJKOT

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## Nirbhaya rapists get 10 more days to live

### Fresh death warrant issued for Feb 1 as President rejects mercy plea

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday rejected the mercy petition of Nirbhaya's death-row convict Mukesh Kumar, a Delhi court issued fresh death warrants against all the four rapists-killers for hanging on February 1. Earlier the death warrant was issued for January 22.

In a fresh development, that may further delay the execution of the four convicts, another death-row convict Pawan Kumar moved the Supreme Court on Friday challenging the Delhi High Court's order dismissing his claim of being a juvenile at the time of the offence in December 2012.

The President rejected Mukesh's mercy plea after the Union Home Ministry forwarded the petition to his office late on Thursday night. On Friday, the Ministry forwarded the President decision to the Delhi Government and Tihar Jail, where the four men have been lodged.

Soon after the rejection of the mercy plea by the President, the Tihar jail authorities, via Public Prosecutor Irfan Ahmed, sought issuance of fresh death warrants against the four convicts Mukesh, Vinay Sharma, Pawan Gupta and Akshay Thakur.

Additional Sessions Judge (AS) of Patiala House courts Satish Kumar Arora was hearing a plea by one of the four death-row convicts in the case. "This case presents a scenario



when convicts were given the opportunity to file mercy, but only one availed the opportunity. There might be delay tactics. For how long will this go

on? Had death warrant not been issued, the convicts would not have initiated using their legal remedies," the court said. Distraught over the hang-

ing of his 23-year-old daughter's rapists-murderers being further delayed due to the legalities, her father hoped that the convicts will not escape the

gallows. His comments came after the President rejected the mercy plea of Mukesh.

"We are happy that the chances of them getting hanged have increased. We are assured that as soon as they file mercy pleas they will be rejected," he said, adding that the news of the execution not happening on January 22 had disheartened them but Friday's developments have ignited their hope.

Incidentally, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajaj's office had sent Mukesh's mercy petition to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday, a day after the Delhi Government recommended its rejection.

"The MHA has forwarded the mercy petition of Mukesh to the President. The Ministry has reiterated the recommendation of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi for its rejection," a Home Ministry official said on Friday morning.

Meanwhile, denying the Delhi Government's role in delaying the hanging of the Nirbhaya case convicts, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the victim's mother is being "misguided" and accused BJP leader and I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar of politicising the matter.

Kejriwal, who is the AAP's national convener, told reporters that whatever responsibilities the Delhi Government had, it had finished them within a few hours.

"We sent the mercy petition within hours, so the Delhi

Government has no role in delaying the hanging of the convicts," he said.

Six people — Mukesh, Vinay Sharma, Akshay Kumar Singh, Pawan Gupta, Ram Singh and a juvenile — were named as accused in the brutal gangrape and murder of Nirbhaya. The trial of the five adult men began in a special fast-track court in March 2013 while the juvenile was tried by juvenile justice board, and is now free.

The prime accused, Ram Singh, committed suicide by hanging himself in Tihar jail days after the trial began. The juvenile, who was said to be the most brutal of the attackers, was put in a correctional home for three years. He was released in 2015 and sent to an undisclosed location amid concerns over a threat to his life.

The juvenile, when released, was 20 years old. Mukesh, Vinay, Akshay and Pawan were convicted and sentenced to death in September 2013.

Meanwhile, Sandeep Goyal, Director General, Delhi Prisons, denied charges made by Vinay's lawyer that he had tried to end his life.

"Vinay was slightly unwell and he was attended by prison doctors and his health condition is normal. However, he sometimes refuses to have meal and jail wardens keep a watch on him. All four the convicts are under round the clock watch in the executions cell," said Goyal.

## BJP's 1st list of 57 bets big on civic poll feats

### Party picks 11 SC candidates for Delhi polls

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi BJP State president Manoj Tiwari during the release of BJP's first list of 57 candidates for Delhi Assembly polls, at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Friday

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday announced candidates for 57 Assembly seats for the February 8 Delhi polls picking 11 SC and four women candidates.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, joined by senior BJP leader Prakash Javadekar, announced the list finalised at party's Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting on Thursday night.

It seems that the BJP, which swept the 2017 civic polls in Delhi, is betting big on its municipal leaders to shore up the party's fortune for in the Assembly polls.

Therefore, the BJP gave poll tickets to nearly 20 municipal leaders, including four former mayors, as many ex-deputy mayors and a host of sitting and former councillors.

Former Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra has been fielded from Model Town. Karwal Nagar seat, from where Mishra had won on AAP ticket, has gone to old war horse and four-term MLA Mohan Singh Bisht.

The BJP has not declared candidate against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal from New Delhi seat.

JD(U)'s Shilendra Kumar filed nomination from Burari which the latter has demanded from the BJP. JD(U) has staked claim for Badarpur seat too but the BJP has fielded seasoned politician Ram Singh Bidhuri who had won this seat thrice.

The BJP central command is mulling over to field a strong candidate against Kejriwal.

## CAPSULE

### TRUMP'S IMPEACHMENT TRIAL BEGINS IN SENATE

Washington: The US Senate opened the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump with quiet ceremony on Thursday — senators standing at their desks to swear an oath of impartial justice as jurors, House prosecutors formally reciting the charges and Chief Justice John Roberts presiding.

### BEEF DELICACY TWEET KICKS UP ROW

Thiruvananthapuram: After a storm erupted over a "beef fry" tweet by Kerala Tourism on Makarasankranti day, the CPI(M)-led LDF Government on Friday clarified its aim was not to hurt anyone's religious beliefs.

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## Opp-ruled States object to NPR format

### States' concerns unwarranted, one can skip some of questions: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday clarified to the States opposing the National Population Register exercise that their concerns about the nature of questions in the NPR format was unwarranted saying it was not mandatory to answer some newly-introduced questions. No official from the West Bengal Government attended the meeting, an official said.

Congress-ruled Rajasthan and some other Opposition-ruled States raised these concerns at a day-long conference convened by the Union Home Ministry to discuss the modalities to be adopted during the House listing phase of the Census 2021 and the NPR to be carried out from April 1 to September 30.

Rajasthan Chief Secretary DB Gupta said he and the representatives of a few other States raised objections to a few questions to be asked by enumerators to people during the NPR exercise. "We said certain



questions in NPR are impractical, like questions related to the birth place of parents. There are many people in the country who even don't know what was their birth place. I don't know what is the purpose of such questions and we demanded in the meeting to remove such questions," Gupta told reporters after the meeting.

He said the Central Government officials told them that answers to all such questions are not mandatory but voluntary and no one is going to force anyone to reply any question. "They said such questions were asked earlier also and this time they have just linked with an individual's place of birth with his or her parent's place of birth. But they said answer to this question is not mandatory," he said.

## After Kerala, Punjab adopts resolution to challenge CAA in SC

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Minutes after the Punjab Vidhan Sabha passed a resolution against the BJP-led Central Government's Citizenship (Amendment) Act on Friday, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh declared that the border State will join Kerala in challenging the newly-amended law in the apex court.

Describing the controversial legislation as 'inherently discriminatory' and a negation of the very secular fabric on which the Constitution of India is based, the Punjab Assembly adopted, by voice vote, a hard-hitting resolution seeking immediate repeal of the unconstitutional Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA), which the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh compared with the ethnic and religious cleansing of Hitler's Germany. Clearly, no lessons had

been learnt from history, said a visibly anguished Chief Minister during the discussion on the resolution, which also urged the Centre to put on hold the work on the National Population Register (NPR), till forms or documents associated with it are amended suitably, in order to allay apprehensions that it is a prelude to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and designed to deprive a section of persons from citizenship of India and implement CAA.

"Like Kerala, the Government will approach the Supreme Court on the issue," said Capt Amarinder while talking with the media after the conclusion of the two-day special Assembly session.

He said that the Centre would have to make the necessary amendments to CAA if it had to be implemented in Punjab and other States Opposing the legislation.

## India to get S-400 by 2025 as Russia begins production

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will get all the five units of S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile systems from Russia by 2025 and its production has started, Russian envoy Roman Babushkin said here on Friday.

The deal inked in 2018 is worth over ₹40,000 crore and the weapon systems will significantly boost India's capabilities to defend its airspace.

His assertion comes against the backdrop of the US warning time and again India of sanctions if it goes ahead with the deal. Incidentally, India last year paid the first tranche of 800 million dollars to Russia for the weapon systems. China has already inducted more than six units of S-400 system called 'Triumf'.

Meanwhile, Babushkin, who is Deputy Chief of Mission here, also said a contract will shortly be finalised for joint production of Kamov light weight multi-role military helicopters for India. At a joint Press conference



with Russian Ambassador Nikolai Kudashev, he also said India will receive the first batch of 5,000 Kalashnikov rifles this year which will be produced in India under a joint venture. The Ordnance Factory located in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh (UP), will manufacture these AK-203 rifles for the Armed Forces, Central paramilitary and State police organisations.

The total deal is worth over ₹7,000 crore and a Major General of the Indian Army is heading the factory.

Babushkin said Russia and India have "successfully found solutions" to the payment issues and the focus this year will be to implement mega deals in the defence sector.

## NDFB lays down its arms, signs peace pact with Centre, Assam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bodo insurgent group National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) on Friday signed a tripartite agreement with the Centre and the Assam Government for suspension of operations. According to the pact, the NDFB under the leadership of its "president" B Saoraigwra will abjure violence and join in peace talks with the Government.

Active members of the NDFB, including Saoraigwra, were brought back from Myanmar on January 11.

Top leaders, including Saoraigwra, its "general secretary", "commander-in-chief" and "finance secretary" were part of the group, an official said.

The group carried 25 weapons, more than 50 magazines, more than 900 assorted ammunition and communication equipment with them. Four family members also accompanied the group.

Saoraigwra's group was active in Myanmar and is only active Bodo insurgent group operating in Assam seeking a separate Bodo state.

## Imported onions tear Govt up

### Centre wants to sell it off to Dhaka, Lanka, Maldives at cost price

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Onion is turning out to be a tear-jerker for the Modi Government.

First it was the scarcity of onions that gave headache to the Government. Now, it's the other way round. The Government is grappling to find a way to dispose of huge quantity of onions it imported from Turkey, Egypt and Iran.

The States have refused to accept the imported onions because they don't excite the domestic taste buds. A drop in the price of the desi variant has also posed a challenge to imported onions. The Modi Government has



now approached Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka to sell these onions at "no profit no loss" basis. The Government has made a similar request to Bangladesh. According to Department of Consumer Affairs, over

20,000 tonnes imported onions are available in the stock. In the retail market, onion is being sold between ₹40 and ₹60 a kg.

Officials of the Department of Consumer Affairs said talks are being held with Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives to sell the commodity. Indian missions have been directed to persuade these countries to buy onions from India as arrival of desi onions has increased. India is the main supplier of onions to these countries.

According to officials, a business delegation of Bangladesh is in India and the Government has asked acting High Commissioner Rokebul Haque to buy the imported onions. India had earlier imposed ban on onion export to Bangladesh to ease rising prices of the domestic onions at domestic markets.

## This desi gel can take a bite out of frostbite

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mountaineers, soldiers posted in extreme regions, winter sports enthusiasts, and those visiting/living in snow-bound area at high-altitudes like Siachen or Ladkha have now an on-site treatment available for frostbites — a medical condition involving damage to skin and tissues due to extreme cold.

Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) in Mohali, an autonomous institution under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIAR), DRDO and Panjab University have developed a cold-stable spray gel "Nano-Spray Gel" that could be administered on-site for the immediate treatment of frostbite injuries. If

frostbite is not treated promptly, it can lead to gangrene and amputation of the affected limbs.

The innovation of Nano-Spray Gel, which is a combination of NSAID (painkiller) and anti-inflammatory and anti-clotting (thrombolytic) for rapid relief and effective management of frostbite injury, has been published in the peer reviewed journal "American Chemical Society Biomaterials Science & Engineering".

Frostbite can occur when the skin is exposed to a temperature of 0°C (32°F) or lower. It can be difficult to get treated quickly in remote, snow-bound areas. This is also a serious medical problem for the armed forces operating in snow-bound areas at high altitudes like Siachen, Ladkha and so on, said lead author Kalpesh Vaghasiya from INST.



He said that the spray gel has been prepared using heparin, an anticoagulant that improves blood flow by reducing clotting and aiding in blood vessel repair. The researchers packaged heparin into liposomes — lipid carriers, thus

helping deliver the anticoagulant deep inside the skin. Then they embedded the heparin-loaded liposomes in a sprayable hydrogel that also contained ibuprofen (a painkiller and anti-inflammatory drug) and propylene gly-

col, which helped keep the spray from freezing at very low temperatures.

The researchers tested the spray gel on rats with frostbite, and found that the treatment completely healed the injuries within 14 days.

In comparison, untreated injuries were only about 40 per cent healed, while wounds treated with an antibiotic cream were about 80 per cent healed.

The spray reduced levels of inflammatory cytokines at the wound site and in the blood circulation, which likely accelerated healing, the study "Heparin-Encapsulated Metere-Dose Topical 'Nano-Spray Gel' Liposomal Formulation Ensures Rapid On-Site Management of Frostbite Injury by Inflammatory Cytokines Scavenging" said.

THE OTHER SIDE

# The need for understanding religion



PARITOSH KIMOTHI

Recently while listening to a debate on whether a particular protest was intentionally denigrating Hindu symbols and fueling communalism, one was surprised when a prominent and knowledgeable Hindu activist opined that Hitler and the Nazis had appropriated the Swastik symbol of Sanatan Dharma.

For those who don't know, Hitler used the black straight-armed *hakenkreuz* (hooked cross) on the white circle and red background of the Nazi flag. He himself never referred to it as the *Swastik* but called it the *hakenkreuz*.

Some say that the roots and description of the Nazi symbol were distorted to prevent the world from tracing the roots of the Nazi ideology.

Whether right or wrong, this contention made one recall the crusades fought between followers of two prominent Abrahamic religions.

Though the general public thinks that the crusades were organised by Christian powers mainly to retake Jerusalem and the holy land, according to historians, religious concern was only one of the various reasons which led to and fuelled the crusades.

It is said that the Byzantine

emperor wanted to regain lost territory and defeat a threatening rival state, the pope wanted to strengthen the papacy in Italy, merchants wanted to monopolise important trading centres under Muslim control at that time and earn money shipping crusaders to the Middle East while the knights wanted to defend their religion, follow the principles of chivalry and gain wealth in this life in addition to special favour in the next one.

It would seem that religion has been used for various other purposes apart from the positive effects and ultimate spiritual aim that one would consider it to be for.

Movements, battles and worse were projected to be guided by religious considerations whereas political, territorial, commercial and even petty egos guided such actions under the pretext of religious

principles. Some state that religion is the cause of most problems and disturbances facing society.

However, one disagrees with this contention. It is not religion that causes problems as much as its misinterpretation and distortion for ulterior motives does. Our neighbour Pakistan could be considered an example of this condition because while it claims to be concerned about minorities in India, it not only persecutes minorities within its own borders but also turns a blind eye to what its ally China has been doing to the Uyghur Muslims.

There are various examples of how religious beliefs are actually exploited for purposes which the gods worshipped by followers of those religions would not really like. The god who is all merciful would not encourage mindless hatred and slaughter. The son of god who

is full of compassion and love would not approve of duping and converting those following other faiths. The god who is bliss and consciousness would not encourage exploitation of religion for dubious gains.

So, should those who follow any religion actually try and understand what religion is really about? Swami Vivekananda had said that religion is the idea which is raising the brute into man, and man into god.

Reading a good commentary on the Bhagavad Geeta by a seer will dispel many doubts and provide explanations even for aspects generally not associated with religion.

Instead of rejecting religion as the cause of problems, it would be more sensible to actually know what it contains and teaches. It encourages ethics, empathy, emotional intelligence and all that is good

apart from the main aim of religion- salvation.

This doesn't mean that one has to be religious to be good, even an atheist can attain the highest aim as has been stated by seers too.

One feels that if more people actually knew what their religion is really about, many of the disagreements and problems would be easier to resolve.

There may be some controversial texts in some books but then any sensible person will know to observe what is good. If we were actually religious, many of the environmental, social, economical and other problems we face would not be as bad as they are.

However, the longer we remain ignorant to the good that religions contain, the more will people be exploited by those who have for long been exploiting religion for aims which are far from holy.

## Support Swacch Survekshan 2020: Mayor to councillors

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Concerning the ongoing Swacch Survekshan 2020, the Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' called a meeting of councillors on Friday to seek their active participation in their respective wards to improve the city's ranking in the survey.

The mayor said, "MCD has been doing an incredible job in sanitation, ban on the use of polythenes and other cleanliness work and that's why we are quite optimistic about the good ranking of Dehradun among other cities of India."

He further requested all the councillors to raise public awareness and facilitate at least 200 feedbacks in a day from their respective wards through their contacts till the last day of this month in order to improve the

ranking of Dehradun. Also, each councillor was asked to give online feedback during the meeting to give them the better understanding of the procedure.

Municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said, "The team of Swacch Survekshan is supposed to stay for one week in the city and we have no idea about the timing of their arrival or departure.

The ranking of Dehradun in the last survey was not great but hopefully, it will be better this time. The important part of the survey is citizen's feedback. Cities like Tirupati, Agra, and Lucknow have more than one lakh feedbacks on Swacchata app while we have few thousands despite working so hard. Therefore we need the support and active participation of the councillors to improve the ranking of the city."



## MCD wants one-way trial deferred due to Swacch Survekshan

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) has raised objection on the traffic plan of police due to the ongoing Swacch Survekshan in the city till January 31. The police are planning to conduct trial of one-way system in the city on Sunday.

According to Municipal Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey, "We do not have any problem with the traffic plan per se, but since the routes of the MCD vehicles are fixed, the

plan might hinder the ongoing work of Swacch Survekshan. This is the reason we want the plan to be put on hold till January 31."

It is pertinent to mention that MCD has put all the sanitation workers to work across the city for the Swacch Survekshan 2020 conducted by The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Due to the low rank of Dehradun in the last two years, the corporation is trying to achieve a better rank this time.

## Complete transfers before appointing guest teachers: Teachers' body

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Rajkeeya Shikshak Sangh (RSS), the organisation of Lecturer Teachers (LT) of the State has demanded that before appointment of guest teachers in the schools, the education department should complete the process of the long pending on request transfers.

The organisation has submitted a letter to the director education, R K Kunwar on the issue. The general secretary of the RSS, Sohan Singh Majila said after the implementation of Transfers act, the on request transfers of teachers have not been done yet.

He said that many on request transfers like from Durgam (hard to access) to Durgam and mutual transfer of husband and wife are pending. Majila said that the department should complete these transfers before going ahead with appointing guest teachers so that teachers waiting for transfers from last 10-12 years get some relief.

After getting decision in its favour from the Supreme Court (SC), in the guest teachers' case, the Uttarakhand government has decided to start the process of recruitment of guest teachers on the vacant posts of lecturers and LTs. The guest teachers would be appointed on 4800 posts soon and they would get a remuneration of Rs 15000 per month.

## Anganwadi workers refuse to aid in polio campaign

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The protesting Anganwadi workers state that they have been asked by officials to return to work and assist in the pulse-polio campaign. However, they have refused to comply.

The ongoing protest of Anganwadi workers in support of their demands is affecting the pulse-polio campaign. According to the State president of Anganwadi workers association, Rekha Negi, "Anganwadi workers are the backbone of the pulse-polio campaign as we are the one who assist at booths as well as go door to door for the campaign. This time the government will at least know how much we contribute instead of questioning our role in the system."

One of the protesting

Anganwadi workers, Seema Negi said, "We refused to go for our duty in the pulse-polio campaign because the government has remained blind and deaf towards our demands."

"Our protest is intensifying day by day. On Friday, Anganwadi workers from Sahaspur came to support us. We'll not leave our struggle in the middle. The police are taking our Anganwadi women to the hospital by force but it is not going to change anything. If fast unto death fails to move the government, we will immolate ourselves and then even the police wouldn't be able to do anything," added Rekha Negi.

Earlier, on Thursday, hunger striker Manorama Nautiyal was taken to the hospital by police and Pinky Singh started her fast unto death strike in her place.



## Can't shut waste management plant due to protest, says Municipal Commissioner

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Reacting to the ongoing protest by local residents against the solid waste management and recycling plant in Sheeshambada, the municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey has said that the protest is not going to change anything. The MCD has all the permissions and paperwork required to operate the plant in that area, he stressed.

According to Pandey, "We have submitted our application for the renewal of No Objection

Certificate (NOC) to Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board (UEPPCB). Unless UEPPCB rejects it, it will be viewed as deemed to be sanctioned and we will keep working."

The protest means nothing and it will lead nowhere. Besides, we have all the mandatory documents and authorisation.

Waste management plant cannot be shut down on the terms of the public. Only three authorities have the right to

order its closure- the National Green Tribunal, High Court and Supreme Court."

About the complaints of foul smell in the area and public health risk, the commissioner said that these allegations were baseless.

"There is no foul smell and public health risk on the site. Enzymes are sprayed six times a day to sterilise the place. The people staging the protest have their own personal issues regarding the waste management plant and I don't want to comment on that," he added.



## Imposter arrested for job fraud

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

A man accused of duping a citizen under the pretext of facilitating a job in the excise department was arrested by the police and presented in the court from where he was sent to jail.

Kankhal resident Mukesh Sharma had filed a complaint with the police stating that

when his wife went to a showroom to buy a two-wheeler for their daughter, she met a person there.

This man claimed to be excise sub inspector Ujjwal Goswami. He allegedly said that he could get Sharma's daughter a job in the excise department in return for money. He was paid Rs 80,000 along with the daughter's laptop. However, when contacted

about the job later, the accused started abusing and threatening him. Based on the complaint, the police lodged a case under various sections of the IPC.

While investigating the case, Sharma's daughter's laptop was recovered from the cupboard kept in the accused's room. Kankhal police station officer

Hariom Chauhan informed that the accused was

also facing trial in a case of online fraud of Rs 25,000. The police presented him in the court and also informed about his history. He was sent by the court to jail, added Chauhan.



## Bond interacts with readers in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Noted author Ruskin Bond autographed books and interacted with readers at a programme held at WIC in collaboration with Rupa Publications and Aleph Book Company here on Friday.

Addressing the gathering, Bond talked about his various novels, where he got inspiration to write which novels and what his experiences were.

Moderating the programme, WIC founder president Nazia Izzuddin spoke about Bond's journey as a writer from his first novel 'The Room on the Roof' to his more recent works.

## Efforts begin to shoot man-eater big cat



PNS ■ HARIDWAR

An authorised hunter reached Haridwar on Friday while more are expected to arrive on Saturday to kill a leopard declared man-eater by the Forest Department. The leopard is believed to be responsible for the death of two people and purportedly digging up a grave to scavenge on human remains. Noted hunter Joy Hukil arrived here on Friday for the purpose of shooting the man-eater.

According to information received from sources, the preparation for this operation has been completed. The operation will be conducted in various forest sectors and Roshanabad. It will be monitored by the Haridwar divisional forest officer Akash Verma.

The forest department will use animal baits in an attempt to lure the leopard to where the authorised hunter will be waiting atop a machan. Apart from the authorised hunter, other teams of the forest department are also engaged at their level.

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संख्या: 2046 / पं-1 / स्वा/विश/2019-20 दिनांक: 17 जनवरी, 2020

**मुद्रण कार्यो हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण**

निदेशालय पंचायती राज उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून की ओर से मुद्रण कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदाएँ दिनांक 18 जनवरी, 2020 अपराह्न 3:00 बजे से वेबसाइट <https://uktenders.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती हैं, जिसमें कार्य का विवरण, विभिन्न शुल्कों/प्रतिभूतियों को जमा करने हेतु विधि व समय सीमा, नियम व शर्तें तथा तकनीकी व वित्तीय बिड हेतु प्रारूप सम्मिलित हैं। यह निविदाएँ दिनांक 31 जनवरी, 2020 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक ऑन लाईन जमा/अपलोड की जा सकेंगी तथा 31 जनवरी, 2020 को ही 03:30 बजे अपराह्न कार्यालय, निदेशालय पंचायती राज उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून में खोली जायेंगी। डाक/स्पीडपोस्ट से प्राप्त होने वाली निविदा स्वीकार नहीं की जायेंगी। विलम्ब के लिये कार्यालय, निदेशालय पंचायती राज, उत्तराखण्ड उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।

निदेशक  
पंचायती राज, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

# CM meets Union Ministers, seeks execution of works in U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat met the Union Communications, Electronics and Information Technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar and the Union Minister for Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar in the national capital on Friday.

Meeting Prasad, the CM requested approval for the State's proposal for Bharat Net phase II. Rawat said that under Bharat-Net phase II, the ministry is to facilitate connectivity through optical fibre to each Gram Panchayat.

However, as the project could not be started on time order was received from USOF to execute it under public private partnership mode. For this a Rs 2,700 crore proposal was sent to the Government

PSU PGCIL.

The USOF again requested the state to submit the proposal on the basis of state-led model, after which the state sent a Rs 1,914 crore proposal. Rawat pointed at the importance of connectivity considering the geography and border areas of the state. Stating this, he requested Prasad to ensure approval to the state's proposal and funds on priority basis. Referring to the India Enterprise Architecture pilot project being undertaken in state like Meghalaya and Punjab, Rawat requested that some departments in Uttarakhand like education, health or agriculture also be included in this. This would be an achievement for providing better governance in the state, he said.

Meeting the Union Jal Shakti minister, Rawat sought amendment or relaxation in standards for mountain states in the water for every farm scheme under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. Renovation, strengthening and expansion of



**THE CM ALSO MET THE UNION MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, PRAKASH JAVADEKAR AND DISCUSSED 140 FOREST LAND AFFECTED 1153 KILOMETRE ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA- I**

canals under the surface minor irrigation scheme should also be granted approval.

He told Shekhawat that considering the higher cost of canal construction in mountainous areas, the current limit of Rs 2.50 lakh per hectare should be raised to Rs 3.50 lakh per hectare.

He also requested one sewerage

treatment plant in Haridwar in view of the Kumbh Mela 2021. Shekhawat asked that a proposal be sent for this purpose.

Rawat said that considering the difficult geographical conditions and scattered population in the mountain State of Uttarakhand, the rural drinking water schemes cost more. Collecting five per cent community contribution is practically difficult and also affects work progress. He requested Shekhawat to consider discontinuing the five per cent community contribution condition.

The CM also met the Union minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar and discussed 140 forest land affected 1153 kilometre road construction works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana- I. He requested that the forest land transfer process be completed by March 2020. The two also discussed various forest and environment related issues pertaining to the state.

Meeting the Union Rural Development minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Rawat requested a special package under rural livelihood mission as granted to north eastern states.

The poverty ratio and problem of migration should also be used as basis for budget allocation for this, he said. Loans have been facilitated for about 16,422 groups to link them with livelihood.

The groups are being provided training but due to financial constraints it is not possible to provide livelihood related training to all the groups. Additional funds will also be needed for establishing nano-packaging units, packaging material, developing basic facilities at growth centres, designing, brand development, sale and market linkage for the products among other works.

The CM also requested further action in pending cases pertaining to PMGSY-I and tarring of 121 roads costing Rs 529.42 crore under stage II.

## Health dept gears up to tackle swine flu

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State health department has started preparing itself to combat the spread of swine flu. On Friday, a high level meeting was held at health directorate to review preparation on the disease. In the meeting, senior officials of the health department and the district surveillance officers of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), epidemiologists and micro biologists took part. Speaking on the occasion, the director medical health, Dr Tripti Bahuguna said that H1N1 is on the path of becoming a major health issue in the state. She directed that all the preparations to combat the disease in advance should be taken, the necessary stocks of medicines should be maintained and isolation wards in all the hospitals should be set up. The mission director of National Health Mission (NHM), Dr Anjali Nautiyal said that the swine flu spreads by the human influenza (H1N1) virus and its spreads by sneezing and coughing. She added that awareness campaign should be undertaken to inform people about the preventive measures for the disease. Dr Nautiyal said that special care of the elderly and those suffering from other diseases should be taken so that they are prevented from falling prey to the disease. On a stern note she said that a death audit of the suspected deaths should



**Swine flu spreads by the human influenza (H1N1) virus and its spreads by sneezing and coughing**

be undertaken so that there is no confusion on cause of death. The audit would also help in preventing panic in public. The state nodal officer of IDSP, Dr Pankaj Singh held an elaborate account on prevention, control and management of the H1N1 in the society. He trained the district level officers about the various parameters of the disease.

The participants were told that the swine flu patients are divided into three categories and patients of only the third category 'C', should be isolated, hospitalized, should be administered Tami flu and are needed to be tested for swine flu.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Dehradun, Dr Meenakshi Joshi, additional director Dr Suman Arya and others.

## Suggestions of retd officers sought on improving education

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Minister for higher education Dhan Singh Rawat held meeting with retired education directors on Friday and sought their suggestions for alleviation of higher education in Uttarakhand.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of the higher education department and members of Higher education alleviation committee. Addressing the meeting, the minister said that the infrastructure of colleges would be strengthened and by the end of the year, 90 percent of the colleges would get shifted to their own buildings.

He said that providing good education to all is the dream project of Uttarakhand

government and the colleges would be equipped with smart classes, laboratories and faculty. He said that a model college would be set up in every district. Rawat added that information about activities in all the colleges would be available on the higher education portal and complaints can be lodged on the portal.

On the contentious issue of banning mobile phone in classrooms, the minister said that discussions with students, teachers and parents would be held on the issue and consensus decision would be taken.

The minister said that three day training programme of all the college teachers would be held in two phases and would be completed by March 2020. For training of teachers an academy named



after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee would be

set up in Dehradun. The meeting was attend-

ed by Director Higher education N P Maheshwari former

directors S C Pant, Savita Mohan and M C Trivedi.

## Bhagat meets Khanduri, party office bearers

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The newly elected State president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Bansidhar Bhagat had a busy day on Friday after his election to the post.

A day after assuming charge as the BJP state president, Bhagat met former chief minister, major general (retd) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri and also interacted with various office bearers of the party.

Visiting the former chief minister at his residence here on Friday, Bhagat enquired about his health and sought his guidance.

Bhagat was accompanied by the party's state general secretary Rajendra Bhandari, party's state media co-in-charge, Haldwani mayor Jogendra Pundir, senior party leader Puneet Mittal and other party leaders.

At the party's state office,

the BJP State president held discussion on various issues with the party's state general secretary (organisation) Ajay Kumar, general secretary Rajendra Bhandari and Kuldip Kumar.

The party's state media team led by the in-charge Devendra Bhasin along with co-in-charge Shadab Shams, Sanjiv Verma, Madhu Bhatt and Subhash Barthwal also met the party's state president.

Apart from the party's office bearers, the workers of the party who had arrived in Dehradun from various districts of the state also met Bhagat and greeted him on assuming charge as the party's state president.

It will be recalled that Kaladhungi MLA and former cabinet minister, Bansidhar Bhagat was elected unopposed to the post of the BJP State president on Thursday.



A view of a snow covered road and trees in Kilbury following snowfall in Nainital on Thursday night

Pioneer photo

## Conference of CPA at Lucknow

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The speaker of Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha Prem Chand Agarwal has said that increasing capacity of members of legislative bodies is important for success of parliamentary democracy in the country. He was speaking during the seventh conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) at Uttar Pradesh (UP) Vidhan Sabha at Lucknow on Friday.

Speaking during the inaugural session, the Lok Sabha



speaker, Om Birla said the responsibility of public representatives has increased in recent years with increase in faith of people in democracy. He said that disagreement is a democratic expression but it should be expressed within set

parameters. The chief minister of UP, Yogi Adityanath said that disruption of the house not only obstruct the work of democratic institutions but also weaken the basic essence of democracy.

The Uttarakhand speaker said that the constitution has provided elaborate powers to the members of the assemblies for fulfilling their duties. He said that more than 100 amendments in the constitution suggest that the process of law making is sensitive and full of life. Agarwal regretted that the inclination of the members towards making laws is getting decreased and in absence of necessary homework, discussions on many bills which includes budget have become superficial.

### हथकरघा एवं हस्तशिल्प क्षेत्र में

## उत्तराखण्ड की बेमिसाल परंपरा की प्रदर्शनी

# दून हाट

## आई.टी. पार्क, देहरादून

प्रतिदिन : प्रातः 11:00 बजे से सायं 6:00 बजे तक

उत्तराखण्ड हथकरघा एवं हस्तशिल्प विकास परिषद्, उद्योग निदेशालय, देहरादून

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION

# Under attack, SAD to oppose NRC

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP) decade-old ally, Shiromani Akali Dal, on Friday made it clear that the party would not hesitate in parting ways over the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in case of inconvenience to the people.

Though the party stayed away from supporting a Government resolution recommending the repealing of the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and amending documentation for the NRC, its senior leader and Majitha MLA Bikram Singh Majitha declared in the Vidhan Sabha that the SAD is "strongly" against the NRC "that forces needless hardships on the common people".

"Where people have to stand in queues to prove their identity, SAD is totally against the NRC," said Majitha while speaking on the resolution moved by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Brahm Mohindra on the concluding day of the two-day special assembly session.

At the same time, Majitha pointed that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already clarified that the Central Government was "not contemplating the introduction of the NRC in the country". Majitha's statement came after the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs lashed out at the Akali Dal and the BJP for their "vicious" and destructive attempt to polarize and "divide the country" through the "unconstitutional" CAA.

Even as the SAD MLAs and the lone BJP Legislator made efforts to defend the Centre's decision to implement the CAA and NRC, the Congress and AAP members lashed out at the move, even going ahead to demand the banning of BJP's ideological fountainhead "RSS" (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh).

All the speakers, both from the Congress and AAP, accused the SAD, especially the Badals, of double speak over the CAA — an issue which has led to nationwide violent protests.

"British brought divide and rule policy to rule on Indians, and now some leaders at the Centre who wanted to rule us, is doing it on RSS's directive. "RSS should be banned...it was banned several times earlier also...it is RSS' thinking...it is dividing us," said Cabinet Minister Charanjit Singh



Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh during last day of the two-day special session of Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Friday

Pioneer photo

Channi while speaking on the resolution.

Thanking the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh for taking the lead in raising his voice against the dangerous Act all over the country, Channi said that the CAA was BJP's "vicious attempt" to introduce religion as basis of citizenship. Terming CAA as a major threat to Nation's integrity, Channi said that through this Act, Modi regime had tried to show concern for people living in other countries while showing scant regard for their own people, who were now protesting against their oppressive policies.

AAP MLA from Dirba and Leader of Opposition in the House Harpal Singh Cheema described the CAA as the "RSS' hidden agenda to terrorize the minorities and Dalits with the sole motive of polarizing the Country on religious lines".

He said that the BJP was constantly making all-out efforts to tinker with the basic tenets of the Constitution for its vested interests. At the same time, he castigated the BJP for diverting the attention of the people from the core issues of unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, economic disparities, regional imbalances by bringing the CAA.

He also demanded that the government should also bring a resolution on the floor of the House against the recurring fascist attacks orchestrated on the JNU students and students from other universities and colleges opposing the CAA, NCR and NPR.

Questioning the Centre's intention behind bringing the

Act, Finance Minister Manpreet Badal said that the CAA had been introduced to single out one particular religion and "this will perpetuate sectarian tendencies".

"The resolution is an attempt to raise the voice of all those whom the Central Government is illegally trying to target on religious grounds," he said.

Referring to the 1947 partition, Manpreet said that Punjab had not demanded the division even then and more than 10 lakh lives had been lost in that tragic period and Punjab had paid a very heavy price for that. India's ethos would be tarnished if the Act was not repealed, he warned.

"Why not include people from Sri Lanka, Burma, Bhutan and why they are excluding Muslims...we want all should be included, be it Tamil Hindus from Sri Lanka, Rohingya's from Burma, and others...But they are deliberately ignoring one section," said Manpreet, underlining that the poorest of the poor section would be affected by the move.

Supporting the government resolution, AAP's Sunam MLA Aman Arora said that the CAA was just an attempt to hide the failures of the Modi regime on all major fronts, be it the promise of providing and jobs, or economic prosperity. CAA was against the spirit of our Constitution, he said asking what was the need to bring such an Act.

Speaking in favour of the resolution against CAA, AAP MLA from Kotkapura Kultar Singh Sandhwan said that the Act was in violation of the basic structure of the Constitution

and aimed at create a wedge between the peacefully living communities in India.

"We are against none...but, we are in favour of our Constitution," he said while lashing out at the Akali Dal for never standing with the Sikhs but with the politics.

Lok Insaaf Party (LIP) MLA Simarjeet Singh Bains demanded from the Government to direct all the officials, on the lines of the Kerala Government, not to carry out any work related with the National Population Register (NPR).

Maintaining that the CAAs announcement has affected him "personally", Nabha MLA Kaka Randeep Singh described the Centre's attempt to divide the nation on religious lines as atrocious and dangerous for India's secular fabric.

The issues of employment and declining GDP were being masked by raising religious sentiments by the BJP to instill a sense of fear amongst minorities, he said while pointing that the BJP led Central Government first brought Godra, then Muzaffarnagar, then came Article 370, followed by triple talaq and now this. "Isn't a particular community is being targeted here," he asked.

Commending the Chief Minister for taking a bold initiative by bringing resolution against CAA, Congress' Gidderbaha MLA Amarinder Singh Raja Warring termed it as a "draconian" Act, aimed at promoting hatred, oppression and communalism, as well as promoting sectarian politics.

He blamed the BJP for

isfying to see people from all walks of life coming out on the streets to protest the "draconian" Act.

Castigating the Modi regime for playing with fire by polarizing people on religious lines, Razia Sultana said that the truth was that RSS and BJP have a fascist mindset and these parties have never accepted the national flag and Constitution.

### BJP, SAD ON STICKY WICKET

The government resolution seeking repealing of CAA and amending NPR forms left the BJP and SAD members on sticky wicket as they failed to defend the Centre's move.

BJP's only present member, Abohar MLA Arun Narang, could not muster enough words to justify the CAA, NRC, and NPR and only assuring the House that "kissi ko iss se khata nahi hai" (there is no danger to anyone).

SAD Legislature Party leader Sharanjit Singh Dhillon maintained that the party was in favour of applying the CAA to members of the Muslim community also so that they also get the same benefits as provided to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Christian and Parsi communities under the Act.

"The party wants the Congress not to oppose the relief given to the Sikh community, as from Afghanistan, but to focus only on securing relief to the Muslims also," he said.

SAD's Adampur MLA Pawan Kumar Tinu clarified that SAD president and Ferozpur MP Sukhbir Badal demanded the inclusion of Muslims in the Parliament. "Congress Government brought this resolution to divert attention from issues like agrarian crisis, power scam and unemployment in Punjab...it is a conspiracy," he said.

"Muslims should also be included in CAA. Instead of resolution opposing the CAA, we should bring amendment of including Muslims," he said.

Later, the SAD moved a resolution recommending to the Centre that CAA should be suitably amended to facilitate this relief to the Muslims, in addition to other communities, including the Sikhs, the Hindus, the Jains, the Buddhists, the Christians and Parsis, which was rejected by the Speaker Rana KP Singh.

## Punjab House ratifies SC/ST Bill to extend quota for another 10 years

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Friday ratified a bill to extend reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha, and state legislatures for another 10 years.

Moving a resolution under Article 38 of the Constitution on the concluding day of the two-day special session to ratify the Constitution (126th Amendment) Bill, 2019, extending reservation for SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and state assemblies by another 10 years, the Chief Minister pointed that the founding fathers of the Constitution, led by Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, had provided a term of 10 years of reservation for SCs and STs.

He said that the reservation had been extended by the successive Union Governments since then. Notably, the reservation for the SCs, and STs, given for the last 70 years in Lok Sabha and state assemblies, was due to end on January 25, 2020. The Parliament, only recently, passed a Constitution Amendment Bill in this regard and it has to be ratified by at least 50 percent of the assemblies before it becomes a law. There are 84 members belonging to the Scheduled

Caste and 47 from the Scheduled Tribe communities in the Parliament. In assemblies, there are 614 SC members and 554 ST members.

Chief Minister said that despite improvement in the socio-economic status of these communities over the last 70 years aided by anti-discrimination policies and reservation in political representation and jobs, they still lag behind on several parameters.

"As a result, there is a strong case to extend the reservation to achieve the goal of development of the poor and downtrodden sections of the society," he said.

"I am aware that there may be many other issues concerning development of SCs and my government is fully committed to them. But today, this resolution may be adopted unanimously without any second thought," asserted Capt Amarinder.

He also underlined the need for all to collectively renew their commitment to the welfare and upliftment of the groups through proper education, training and representation in jobs.

Soon after, the resolution was passed by the Assembly "unanimously" without any debate though some of the members wanted to speak on the same.

## Khattar asks officials to launch campaign to promote women's safety

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday directed State Government departments to launch extensive campaigns to promote women's safety and make it a mass movement.

He said that on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, besides a State level function, a Pinkathon (women's

marathon) would be organised at 100 places wherein thousands of women will participate to disseminate the message of women's safety.

Presiding over a meeting here to review the steps being taken for ensuring women's safety and security in the state, Khattar also directed the departments to closely monitor the implementation of these initiatives.



## NABARD sanctions 44 projects worth ₹161cr for HP

Shimla: NABARD has sanctioned 44 projects including 39 road projects and five bridge projects, amounting to ₹ 161.35 crores in Himachal Pradesh under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF-XXV).

Under these projects new road constructions of 143.13 kilometers, upgradation and metalling tarring of 60.68 kilometers and construction of five bridges would be done.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur expressed his gratitude towards NABARD for sanctioning current batch of roads and bridges under RIDF-XXV. He also said that NABARD (RIDF) is playing a significant role in road connectivity in rural areas and it has a special importance for a hill state like Himachal Pradesh where roads are the only mode of connectivity. He directed the department to call the tenders and start the work on these projects.

# Work on all four lanes to start soon in HP

## Himachal CM directs officials to expedite projects

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal chief minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday directed officials to expedite work on all four lane projects under implementation in the State so that commuters do not face inconvenience and projects were also completed in stipulated time period.

Presiding over the review meeting of National Highways and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) projects being implemented in the State, Thakur said committees comprising the representatives of NHAI, State PWD, district administration concerned and contractors would be constituted to coordinate and finalize the issues regarding damages and compensation in respect to these projects.

He also directed the Deputy Commissioners concerned to

hold at least monthly meeting with executing agencies and representatives of NHAI for redressal of any issues pertaining to these projects.

Thakur directed the forest department to award the balance trees coming in the alignment of Kaithlight to Dhalli bypass and they must be cleared immediately to facilitate the construction of the road.

He also directed for early clearance of 80 structures in Dhalli and Chhakdaly area and also handover possession of 4.65 hectare pending land to NHAI.

He said the work on Parwanoo-Solan section which had been awarded to G.R Infra Projects Limited was nearing completion and would be completed soon, adding that the issue regarding land acquisition pending at village Bara and regarding mutation of land in favour of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways must be expedited.

The Chief Minister said that work on stretch between Solan to Kaithlight section of NH-05 awarded to Airef Engineers (P) Ltd. must be expedited, adding



that dumping sites must be identified at earliest and mutation of land in favour of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways should be transferred at the earliest.

Thakur said that the work of Brownfield Alignment of 30.66 kms stretch of Kiratpur to Nerchowk section of NH-21

has been awarded to Ceigall India Ltd. and the company had started the work on this project. He said that the delay in removal of structures in Naulakha to Dadour section of NH-21 was an area of concern which should be redressed at the earliest.

He directed the HPSEBL for immediate shifting of towers of

132 KV transmission line from Kangoo to Bajoura.

Showing his concern over slow pace of work on Nerchowk-Pandoh section which has been awarded to KMC Constructions Ltd., the Chief Minister said that this was causing great inconvenience to the general public as well as to the tourists.

He also directed the authorities to remove encroachments in village Aut, so that work could be expedited on this project.

The CM said that proper maintenance of Shimla-Matour, Pathankot-Chakki-Mandi, Kaichimore-Nerchowk and Kaithlight-Dhali section of Shimla bypass must be ensured as these were the lifelines of the State.

He said that State Government has already taken up the matter with Government of India for entrusting back these highways to State Government for proper maintenance of these roads till award and construction work was not completed.

Thakur said that any laxity in execution of projects would be viewed seriously and erring officers would be dealt sternly.

Chief Secretary Anil Kumar Khachi, Principal Secretary PWD J.C. Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary Ram Subhag Singh, Principal Secretaries Onkar Sharma and Sanjay Kundu, and other officials attended the meeting.

**पावरग्रिड POWERGRID**

1. The applicant above-named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for Petition 1: Determination of Transmission Tariff from DOCO to 31-03-2024 for Asset-I: 1\*100MVA, 220/132KV ICT-III at Sitarganj S/S (100 MVA ICT shifted from Raebareilly) under "Augmentation of Transformation Capacity at Faebareilly & Sitarganj 220/132KV Substations".

2. The beneficiaries for Combined Assets of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (1) Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited, (2) Aijmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (3) Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (4) Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (5) Punjab State Electricity Board, (6) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (7) Power Development Deptt, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, (8) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (9) Delhi Transco Ltd. (10) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (11) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (12) North Delhi Power Ltd. (13) Chandigarh Administration, (14) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. (15) North Central Railway (16) New Delhi Municipal Council, (17) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board.

S. No	Subject	Petition 1
1	Approved capital cost of the project (Rs. in Cr)	29.17
2	Authority which has approved the Capital Cost	Board of Directors
3	Scheduled date of commercial operation	20.03.2019
4	Date of commercial operation	29.06.2019
5	Capital cost on DOCO (Rs. in Cr)	1.73

3. Details of tariff: 2019-24 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Petition	Asset	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition -1	ASSET-I(a)	62.51	104.26	117.29	122.05	121.45
	ASSET-I(b)	56.61	64.31	64.31	64.31	64.43

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at [www.powergridindia.com](http://www.powergridindia.com)

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application to be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Chandralok Bhawan, 36, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurugram Sd/-  
Date: 17.01.2020 Sr. General Manager (Commercial)

**POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Corp. Office: "Saudamin", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-120001, (Haryana) Tel: 0124-2571700-719  
Reg. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Kirti Khera, New Delhi-110016. Tel: 011-26560112, 26560121  
[www.powergridindia.com](http://www.powergridindia.com) CIN: L40101DL1989SO0038121

A Maharashtra PSU

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Vinod Kumar Address: E-15/B, Gurunanak Colony, Poojwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand have changed my name from Vinod Kumar to Vinod Chaudhari for all purposes.

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For advertisement booking or any query contact-9045057787

## Police arrest absconding military deserter

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A military deserter, who recently escaped from a hospital in Hoshiarpur, was arrested from Delhi on Friday.

Harpreet Singh (25), who had been booked for stealing rifles and ammunition from an army institute in Madhya Pradesh, was arrested from Connaught Place in Delhi at around 9 am. "Harpreet

has been arrested from Delhi by a team of Hoshiarpur police," Hoshiarpur SSP Gaurav Garg said, adding that the accused had planned to escape to Nepal.

On January 14, Singh had tricked police guards by making an excuse of going to the washroom and escaped from a civil hospital in Hoshiarpur by scaling its wall.

He had been undergoing treatment

at the hospital for a hand injury since December 31. Singh, who was a sepoy in the Indian Army, is facing charges for stealing two INSAS rifles and ammunition from the army's training institute in Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh, they said.

He was arrested from Chotala village near Tanda in Hoshiarpur district in December after being declared a military deserter in October last year. Singh's three accomplices were also arrested at that

time. Posing as army officers, the accused had stolen the rifles and ammunition in the early hours of December 6.

The stolen arms and ammunition were recovered. Singh is facing charges under sections of 380 (theft), 399 (making preparation to commit dacoity) and 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act, police had then said.

# Nadda dares RaGa to speak 10 lines on CAA

## Says he is misleading mass

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Casting doubts on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's understanding of Citizenship (Amendment) Act, BJP working president J P Nadda on Friday challenged him to speak 10 sentences on the law. Nadda also accused him of misleading the country on the legislation.

Nadda, who is next week expected to take over from Amit Shah the full-time charge of the party, said it is "unfortunate" for the country that some people "exhibit their wisdom" without understanding the issue so as to mislead the mass.

"The Congress is opposing the CAA. I dare Rahul Gandhi

to speak 10 sentences on the law. He should tell us in two sentences what is his problem with the CAA... He is leading such a big party and has to decide himself how he has to do it, but he should not mislead the country," the BJP working president said.

The amendments in the citizenship law are meant to give citizenship to members of minority communities - Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists, Jains - who fled Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan due to religious persecution and took refuge in India, he said.

Likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira

◆ Nadda, who is next week expected to take over from Amit Shah the full-time charge of the party, said it is "unfortunate" for the country that some people "exhibit their wisdom" without understanding the issue so as to mislead the mass.

◆ The Congress is opposing the CAA. I dare Rahul Gandhi to speak 10 sentences on the law. He should tell us in two sentences what is his problem with the CAA

◆ The amendments in the citizenship law are meant to give citizenship to members of minority communities - Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists, Jains - who fled Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan due to religious persecution and took refuge in India, he said



Gandhi had advocated giving citizenship to these persecuted minorities but the Congress does not have any leader now who could understand the issue, Nadda said.

Since coming to power for a second term, the Modi government has in six months resolved issues which had been pending for 70 years, he asserted, adding that opposition parties were left without any issue and had seized on the CAA to mislead the country.

"For the Congress and the Left, their vote bank comes before the country. For Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country comes first and votes later," he said.

Critics are claiming that crores of people will arrive and settle in India due to this law,

but the fact is that it is for those who arrived here by December 31, 2014, he added.

Opposition parties believe in keeping problems unresolved so that they could do politics over it while the Modi government has addressed issues like Article 370, he said.

He claimed minorities were persecuted in Pakistan and Bangladesh and their population, he claimed, fell to three and seven per cent respectively there from 23 per cent in 1947.

According to a section of Pakistani media quoting census report, the total percentage of minorities in Pakistan including the erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was only about 14.50 per cent following the partition.

## DAVINDER ARREST

### Cong slams NIA probe, wants re-investigation into Pulwama attack

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday demanded a fair probe within six months into the case involving Jammu & Kashmir DSP Davinder Singh, arrested with Hizbul terrorists in south Kashmir, as Rahul Gandhi alleged the case was handed over to the NIA to "silence" Singh. The party also sought a re-investigation into the February 2019 Pulwama terrorist attack and Singh's role in it as he had been posted in the district as DSP at the time.

Questioning the Government's "conspicuous silence", it demanded the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to answer questions raised by people after Singh's arrest last week. The grand old party alleged NIA's role has been questionable in the probes against Swami Assemananda and Pragna Thakur. Congress demanded a fast track court to look into the entire activities and the DSP's role.

"The best way to 'silence' Singh was to hand the investigation against him to NIA chief Y C Modi, under whose care the case will be 'as good as dead', Rahul alleged.

Calling the National Investigation Agency (NIA) chief "another Modi", the Congress leader said he had investigated the 2002 Gujarat riots and the killing of former Gujarat home minister Haren Pandya in 2003.

"The best way to silence Terrorist DSP Davinder, is to hand the case to the NIA,"



Rahul said on Twitter, adding, "In YK's care, the case is as good as dead." The former Congress chief put out the Twitter post using the hashtag "WhoWantsTerroristDavindersIlenced" and asked "why".

Congress spokesperson Supriya Srinate said serious questions are being raised on national security. She said Singh was not "just any other officer" as three days before his arrest, he was entrusted with the security of foreign diplomats visiting Jammu and Kashmir and prior to that, he was DSP in Pulwama when the terror attack happened. She said Singh also faced three FIRs for extortion.

When Singh was arrested in Kulgam, he was accompanying Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists Naveed Baba and Altaf and a lawyer operating as an overground worker for terrorist groups. "Why is the government conspicuously silent. The conspicuous silence of the government raises so many questions. It is government's moral responsibility to conduct a fair probe so that there are no doubts," the Congress spokesperson said.

## INSHORT

### JP NADDA SET TO BE BJP PRESIDENT ON JAN 20

New Delhi: The nominations for the election to the post of the BJP national president will be filed on January 20, and polling, if required, will take place the next day, the party announced on Friday. The elevation of BJP working president J P Nadda to the top party post is all but certain as he is likely to be elected unopposed, party sources have said. He will succeed Amit Shah.

### SONIA, RAHUL MEET CONG MLAS FROM JHARKHAND

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi and party leader Rahul Gandhi met the newly-elected party legislators from Jharkhand at the former's residence here on Friday. "Both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi asked the MLAs to work for the welfare and aspirations of people of Jharkhand and fulfil the commitments made to them," AICC in-charge for Jharkhand R P N Singh said.

### HYD ENCOUNTER: SC DEFINES POWER, DUTIES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has defined the power and duties of a three-member commission headed by a former apex court judge set up to inquire into the alleged encounter killing of the four accused in the gang-rape and murder case of a woman veterinarian in Hyderabad. A Bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices BR Gavai and Surya Kant said if any offence appears to have been committed in the course, the responsibility of erring officials will be fixed.

### DECIDE REPRESENTATION TO SET UP KVS, SAYS SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to decide the representation of BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay within three months on a plea seeking to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in every tehsil across the country. A bench headed by Justices N V Ramana said that courts cannot decide as to what school should be opened where.

## Panel formed to look into Swapan Dasgupta case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Visva Bharati University has informed the HRD Ministry that they have set up a three-member committee to look into the incident of BJP MP Swapan Dasgupta confined in a room for several hours when he visited the campus on January 8 to deliver a lecture on the new citizenship law.

Dasgupta, Vice Chancellor Bidyut Chakraborty and others were confined for six hours in a university building as hundreds of Left-leaning students staged a sit-in outside accusing the politician of promoting hatred among communities.

"The university has formed a three-member committee to look into the matter where BJP leader Swapan Dasgupta had said that he was locked in a room with a mob outside, at the university, where he was addressing a meeting on Citizenship Amendment Act on January 8," said a senior

HRD Ministry official. Dasgupta had taken to Twitter to inform about the incident.

The panel will also look into alleged clash between two groups of students of the university on January 15. According to police officials, armed with rods and sticks, a group of men attacked the students of a boys' hostel inside the Visva Bharati campus on Wednesday night leaving several of them injured.

At the backdrop of the controversy and unrest in premier universities like JNU, Jamia Milia Islamia, AMU, the Visva Bharati university officials informed the HRD Ministry about the incident and that they would enquire into the incident and submit the report at the earliest.

"How does it feel to have a mob attack a peaceful meeting on CAA and intimidation students? This is what is happening to a meeting I am addressing at Vishva Bharati now. Locked into the room now with mob outside," Swapan had tweeted.

## Jaishankar holds talks with EU high representative, S African FM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India discussed an entire range of Lissues with European Union and South Africa here on Friday during two separate meetings between External Affairs S Jaishankar and the two nations. While bilateral talks were held with European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell, South African foreign minister Naledi Pandor held parleys with his Indian counterpart.

In his meeting with Borrell, Jaishankar discussed global and regional issues, multilateralism, connectivity and counter terrorism. "A great meeting with HRVP @JosepBorrellF of European Union. Productive discussions on global and regional issues, multilateralism, connectivity and counter terrorism. Underlined our climate change coop-

eration. Agreed to keep in close touch," Jaishankar said in a tweet.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a statement, said Jaishankar and Borrell took stock of the India-EU relations and the way forward, ahead of the planned summit in March 2020 and discussed the possible deliverables.

"Both agreed to further enlarge the existing bilateral political, security, economic and trade cooperation and identify new areas for cooperation in connectivity, Indo-Pacific Region, data adequacy etc," the MEA said.

After his meeting with Pandor, Jaishankar said in a tweet, "Co-chaired a fruitful Joint Ministerial Commission with FM Naledi Pandor of South Africa. Our traditional friendship and cooperation stands re-energised. Deeply appreciate her #Raisina participation."

## No doubts on India's Kashmir approach: Russia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two days after Pakistan's efforts to raise the Kashmir issue through China in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) failed, Russia on Friday said it has "no doubts" about India's approach on Kashmir, which is a strictly bilateral matter between India and Pakistan.

Making this clear, Russian ambassador to New Delhi Nikolay Kudashev said "those having doubts over India's approach on Kashmir can go there, we don't have any doubt," he said on not being invited to visit Jammu & Kashmir.

His assertion comes ahead of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Russia on March 22 and March 23 to

### Conveyed our concerns to India on 'Quad' on multiple occasions: Russian Ambassador

The Russian Ambassador also said it has conveyed to India on multiple occasions its concerns over the US-backed Quadrilateral coalition for the Indo-Pacific and held that introduction of competitive structures will create friction among the countries of the region. Kudashev said Moscow was "concerned and apprehensive" over the Indo-Pacific strategy of the US as it has completely ignored existence of Russia and China while pushing forward its agenda for the strategically key region. In November 2017, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long-pending "Quad" coalition to work closely in the Indo-Pacific region.



attend a meeting of the Russia-Indian-China trilateral, Kudashev said.

On China's attempt to raise the issue of Kashmir at the Security Council, Kudashev said, "It's a strictly bilateral matter to discuss between India and Pakistan based on Shimla Agreement and Lahore Declaration.

Russia is a long-standing ally for India on the abrogation of Article 370 giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir. A after the government abrogated Article 370 in August last year, Russia had become the first UNSC permanent member to come out in support of India as it stated that the move was carried out "within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of India".

## Fund utilisation in development schemes improved, finds study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A study on spending on Aschemes at the district level by Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) and Tata Trusts has concluded that fund utilisation in development schemes has improved significantly, but quality of spending not satisfactory yet. Ahead of the annual Budget, both the organisations together hosted "The Budget Trails", to share and discuss the insights from a two-year long project, which studied fund-flow mechanism at the district level, across 10 development schemes.

The consultation aims to

develop a roadmap for fiscal governance reforms that are needed to ensure significant improvement in resource absorption in development schemes, leading to better development outcomes.

This is a first of its kind study that analyses bottlenecks in fund utilisation, at the district level, by placing a District Budget Analyst (DBA) in each of the selected district headquarters.

Prof Abhijit Sen, former Member 14th Finance Commission and Planning Commission, remarked in his keynote address that such discussions need to note there is a general scare of increasing

regular public employment. Dr. Poorima Dore, Head of Data Driven Governance at the Tata Trusts was also present.

"The rigorous two year research project, focused on 10 social sector schemes (SSA, MDM, NHM, ICDS, SBM, NRDWP, MGNREGS, NSAP, PMAY, PMFBY and RKVY) in five districts of Balasore and Bolangir in Odisha, Chandrapur in Maharashtra, East Singhbhum in Jharkhand, and Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. For these schemes, the districts have reported better utilisation of funds available; with over 85 per cent fund utilisation reported for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

## SC agrees to hear pleas against land acquisition process for bullet train project

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a batch of pleas filed by farmers against the Gujarat High Court verdict which had dismissed their petitions challenging the process of land acquisition for the ambitious Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project.

The bullet train project was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in September 2017.

The train will run at a speed of 320-350 kmph, and will have 12 stations

across its 508-km stretch from Ahmedabad to Mumbai.

A bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose issued notices to the Centre, Gujarat government and others on a batch of appeals challenging September 19 last year verdict of the high court.

As an interim relief, the plea has sought to restrain the Gujarat Government from proceeding ahead with the process of land acquisition for the purpose of the bullet train project.

## SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL for converting public transport, Govt vehicles into electric ones

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday sought the Centre's reply on a PIL seeking implementation of the National E-Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP), 2020 which recommended gradual conversion all public transport and Government vehicles into electric vehicles (EVs) to curb air pollution.

A bench headed by Chief Justice

S A Bobde decided to make the Ministry of Surface Transport and Highways and the minister concerned parties to the petition and listed it for hearing after four weeks.

The PIL alleged that the citizens' rights to health and clean environment under the Constitution are being "violated due to governmental apathy" in mitigating the impact of climate change and air pollution "partly attributable to emissions from vehicles that burn fossil fuels". PTI

## CORONAVIRUS SPREAD IN CHINA

# India issues travel advisory

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of the outbreak of deadly Coronavirus in China which is causing respiratory problems, India on Friday issued a travel advisory asking citizens to follow certain precautionary measures such as avoiding travel to farms, live animal markets or where animals are slaughtered, and refrain consuming "raw or undercooked meat" while visiting the neighbouring country.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, which cause illnesses to people and also circulate in animals including camels, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can also evolve and infect people.

The advisory issued by the Union Health Ministry stated that even though the mode of transmission of the Coronavirus is unclear as of now, those visiting China are advised to avoid travel to farms, live animal markets or where animals are slaughtered,



and refrain consuming "raw or undercooked meat".

It suggested avoiding close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness, such as cough, runny nose among others. The advisory asks travellers to China to follow some "public health measures at all times" like observing good per-

sonal hygiene, practice frequent hand-washing with soap and follow etiquettes like covering mouth when coughing or sneezing.

It also stated that as on January 11, 2020 as many as 41 confirmed cases of infection with the novel coronavirus have been reported so far, of which one person has died.

"Only travel-related cases have been reported (one each) in Thailand and Japan. The clinical signs and symptoms are mainly fever with a few patients having difficulty in breathing. The mode of transmission is unclear as of now. However, so far there is little evidence of significant human-to-human transmission. Although as per the World Health Organisation's risk assessment, the risk for global spread has been stated as low," the advisory read.

All travellers to China, in particular to Wuhan city, have been advised to monitor their health closely.

As a precaution, the Ministry has instructed screening of international travellers from China at designated airports namely, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata through thermal scanners.

"If you feel sick within a span of one month after return from China, report the illness to the nearest health facility and also inform the treating doctor regarding your travel history," the advisory states.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting with Council of Ministers, in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

## Youth Parliament programme set to go online

New Delhi: The annual Youth Parliament Programme run by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs every year is set to go online as the country celebrates 70th anniversary of adoption of the Indian constitution.

The Ministry of Parliament Affairs has partnered with the Human Resource Development Ministry for making the programme online through the web portal of the National Youth Parliament Scheme.

The off-line Youth Parliament programme is being implemented since 1966 in schools under the

Delhi's Directorate of Education, NDMC schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and universities and colleges.

"Around 18,000 students of 300 educational institutions participate through off-line Youth Parliament programme every year. So far, the programme was organised in competition format which was limiting the participation of the institutions and thus not fulfilling the core purpose of the scheme in the desired manner.

"For overcoming this limitation, which is impeding the

expansion of the scheme, the ministry has developed a web portal of the National Youth Parliament Scheme to increase the coverage of the programme manifold to hitherto untouched sections and corners of the country," a senior HRD Ministry official said.

President Ram Nath Kovind had launched the web portal in November last year on the occasion to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Constitution being celebrated as 'Samvidhan Diwas'.

PTI

1981 BEHMAI MASSACRE CASE

# Special court likely to give verdict today

**Kanpur:** A special court is expected to pronounce its verdict here on Saturday on the massacre of 20 people in Behmai village in Kanpur Dehat district, allegedly by bandit Phoolan Devi nearly four decades ago.

"We have much hope that the trial court is likely to deliver its judgment in Behmai massacre today," District Government counsel (criminal) Rajeev Porwal told PTI on Friday.

Porwal said that defense counsel Girish Narain Dubey has submitted certain rulings of the Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court before the trial court with a request to take cognisance of those rulings while delivering its judgment against the alleged accused.

The court is now expected to give its verdict on the role of the four surviving accused — Posha, Bhikha, Vishwanath and Shyambabu.

While Posha is still in jail, Bhikha, Vishwanath and Shyambabu are out on bail. Three other dacoits includ-



ing Man Singh are still absconding.

The special court for hearing dacoity-related cases was expected to deliver the verdict in the 1981 Behmai massacre case on January 6, but it allowed the defence counsel to submit its written arguments by January 16, District Government counsel Raju Porwal said.

Defence counsel Dubey had appeared before the court on January 6, seeking more time to submit written arguments and was granted 10 more days, the Government counsel said.

"Bandit Queen" Phoolan Devi, who later turned to politics, along with her gang mem-

bers were accused of killing the 20 people belonging to the Thakur community at Behmai village in Kanpur Dehat on February 14, 1981.

The non-descript Behmai village, that shot into prominence after the killings, is 170 km from state capital Lucknow and over 400 km from national capital New Delhi.

Phoolan Devi had stormed into Behmai in what was described as an attack to avenge her alleged rape there by two other bandits — Lala Ram and Sri Ram — both Thakurs, a dominant caste in the village.

Two years after the incident, she had surrendered to the Madhya Pradesh police in 1983 and went on to become a Lok Sabha MP from Mirzapur. She was shot dead outside her MP bungalow in New Delhi on July 25, 2001.

Initially, 35 people, including Phoolan Devi, were named as accused in the case. Eight of them were reportedly killed by police in separate encounters. Three others were reportedly absconding.

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India's communication satellite GSAT-30, aimed at providing high-quality television, telecommunications and broadcasting services, was successfully launched onboard Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana early on Friday.

Blasting off from the Ariane Launch Complex in Kourou, a French territory located in northeastern coast of South America at 2:35 a.m. IST, the European launch provider ArianeSpace's Ariane 5 injected the "high power" spacecraft into the orbit in a flawless flight lasting about 38 minutes and 25 seconds.

"India's communication satellite #GSAT30 was successfully launched into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit by #Ariane5 #VA251. Thanks for your support!!" ISRO tweeted soon after deploying the satellite into the transfer orbit.

Confirming the successful launch, ArianeSpace CEO Stéphane Isral too tweeted, "A strong start to 2020 as #Ariane5 successfully deploys its two satellite passengers EUTELSAT KONNECT and GSAT-30 into geostationary transfer orbit! I appreciate the trust from the two customers on this mission: @Eutelsat\_SA



and @ISRO #VA251 #MissiontoSuccess."

GSAT-30 is the first satellite launch for ISRO in 2020, during which the space agency has planned about 25 missions.

ISRO's U R Rao Satellite Centre Director P Kunhikrishnan, who was present in Kourou, congratulated the ISRO community and ArianeSpace team on the successful launch.

Calling it an "excellent start" to 2020 for ISRO with the launch, he said, "The mission team at the master control facility have already acquired the satellite and they will immediately complete the post launch operations..."

ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka took over the command and control of GSAT-30 immediately after its separation from the launch vehicle and preliminary health checks of the satellite revealed its normal health, the space agency said in a statement later in the day.

In the days ahead, orbit-raising manoeuvres will be performed to place the satellite in Geostationary Orbit (36,000 km above the equator) by using its onboard propulsion system.

During the final stages of its orbit raising operations, the two solar arrays and the antenna reflectors of GSAT-30 will

be deployed, ISRO said adding following this, the satellite will

be put in its final orbital configuration.

The satellite will be operational after the successful completion of all in-orbit tests.

The 3,357-kg satellite, which was deployed from the lower passenger position of Ariane-5 launch vehicle (VA 251) into to geostationary transfer orbit (GTO), is configured on ISRO's enhanced I-3K Bus structure to provide communication services from geostationary orbit in C and Ku bands.

The satellite derives its heritage from ISRO's earlier INSAT/GSAT satellite series, and is equipped with 12 C and 12 Ku band transponders.

## PM congratulates ISRO

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation for the launch of its first satellite in the year 2020, saying it will help in enhancing DTH services, ATM and stock exchange connectivity.

"Congratulations to our @isro team for the first satellite launch of 2020. GSAT-30, with its unique configuration will provide DTH Television services, connectivity to ATMs, stock exchanges and e-Governance. Wish many more successful missions to ISRO in the year," the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet quoting Modi. India's "high power" communication satellite GSAT-30, aimed at providing high-quality television, telecommunications and broadcasting services was launched successfully by Ariane space rocket from French Guiana in the early hours of Friday.

PTI



Buddhist monks from Bhutan perform a traditional 'Black Hat' dance in a Buddhist monastery, in Bodhi Gaya on Friday

PTI

## J&K Congress passes resolution seeking restoration of Statehood

**Jammu:** To revive its fortunes in Jammu & Kashmir and resurrect the party base, especially in Jammu region, the State unit of the Congress party on Friday sought immediate restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees for the protection over lands and jobs and release of all political workers.

The State unit also demanded removal of all sorts of restrictions and curbs upon them to create conducive atmosphere for paving way for holding of early Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

It is for the first time, executive committee meeting of the congress party was organised after the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the State in to two Union Territories.

Briefing media persons after attending the JKPC executive meeting, Ghulam Nabi Azad, leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha flanked by Ambika Soni, incharge J&K Affairs and JKPC Chief, GA Mir, told reporters, "we have passed a resolution in the meeting which sought

immediate release of all political leaders and activists of congress and other mainstream parties and lifting of all sorts of restrictions on the political activities".

Azad said, "Unless it is done no political process can take off and succeed, to create conducive atmosphere for the holding of Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir". Azad said, "we have also sought immediate restoration of statehood status and adequate legal and constitutional guarantees to safeguard the rights over land and jobs and admissions to professional courses and higher portals of education to the local youth.

The executive committee meeting was attended by around 300 delegates from Kashmir & Jammu region including senior functionaries of PCC, former Ministers, ex-legislators, Heads of Front Wings and DCC Presidents besides Corporators and other members of the Executive Committee.

The executive committee meeting followed detailed deliberations,

the two AICC leaders had with top leaders of the party on Thursday over the state of affairs in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of special status and dividing & disbanding of the State into UT, apart from detentions of several Congress and important mainstream leaders and workers in the valley and most parts of the erstwhile state.

During the meeting, large number of participants from Kashmir Valley and Jammu region representing different districts and sections of society and wings of the party apprised the visiting leaders and participants about their experiences of the situation and the feelings of the people from different parts over current status.

The participants in the meeting took a resolve to launch a movement throughout Jammu & Kashmir to highlight the aspirations of the people especially with regard to the restoration of statehood status to Jammu & Kashmir besides constitutional safeguards to protect their rights over land and jobs etc. PNS

## GUJ TEJAS EXPRESS FLAGGED OFF

### Railway unions protest, 30 detained

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

At least 30 railway union functionaries were detained on Friday in Ahmedabad in Gujarat for holding a protest ahead of the inauguration of a premium Tejas train to be operated by PSU Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

The Ahmedabad-Mumbai Tejas train was flagged off by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Friday morning.

Members of the Western Railway Employees Union and Western Railway Mazdoor Sangh held a protest outside Kalapur railway station against what they claimed was moves by the Narendra Modi Government to privatise the public transporter.

## Mizoram parties, civil society bodies hail Bru agreement

**Aizawl:** Political parties and civil society organisations of Mizoram on Friday welcomed the agreement that puts an end to the over two-decade-old Bru refugee crisis. Thousands of Bru community people have been living in relief camps in Tripura since 1997. They had fled their homeland Mizoram to reach the neighbouring State because of ethnic clashes. By now, the number of these internally displaced people has risen to over 30,000.

Many Bru families have refused to return to Mizoram, citing security concerns and inadequate rehabilitation package. There has also been a demand for a separate autonomous council for the community.

Following an agreement signed by representatives of the Brus, the central, Tripura and Mizoram

Governments in New Delhi on Thursday, these tribal people will permanently settle in Tripura.

Political parties such as the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), Congress and the BJP, and civil society organisations like the Yong Mizo Association (YMA) and student bodies expressed happiness over the pact.

"It is a matter of joy that a pact, which would finally resolve the Bru imbroglio, has been finally inked. We are highly indebted to Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Mizoram government for their outstanding effort in signing the historic agreement," YMA Central Committee general secretary Prof Lalnunluanga said in a statement.

One good thing about the pact is names of the Bru people would now be permanently deleted from

the state's voter list, the YMA said.

Hailing the agreement as "historic", the MNF expressed hope that the pact is materialised quickly.

In a statement, the Congress said it had made earnest efforts during its regime in the State to repatriate the Bru people or allow them to permanently settle in Tripura.

The party claimed that former Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla had proposed that those Bru people who are unwilling to return to Mizoram be allowed to live permanently in Tripura but it could not be materialised because of objections raised by the CPI(M)-led Left Front government.

The State BJP said neither the Congress nor the MNF could resolve the crisis for more than 20 years.

## 'Justice Clock' on Calcutta HC premises to display status of pending cases at subordinate courts

**Kolkata:** A 'Justice Clock' will be installed at the Calcutta High Court on January 22, displaying the status of cases in subordinate courts of West Bengal, an official said here.

The electronic LED display board beside the 'E' gate of the high court will be inaugurated by Chief Justice TBN Radhakrishnan, its Registrar General Rai Chatterjee said.

The 'Justice Clock' will show the number of cases pending before all district and subordinate courts in the State and the status of each, Chatterjee said. It will also display the ranking of the courts, based on their performance in disposing of the cases.

There are at least 22.81 lakh cases pending before different courts in the state, of which 17.7 lakh are criminal suits, according to the National Judicial Data Grid. Of the total pending cases in the state, including civil and criminal, over three lakh have been pending for more than 10 years, as per the grid.

## Nagas very close to settlement of vexed political issue: Guv

**Kohima:** The talks to end the decades-old Naga insurgency have "successfully concluded" and Nagaland could be "very close" to a resolution of the conflict, Governor RN Ravi told the State Assembly on Friday, raising fresh hopes among people of return to normal life.

In his maiden address to the state Assembly after taking up the gubernatorial assignment in August 2019, Ravi said the Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) Government in Nagaland always considered a settlement to the Naga political issue its most important agenda.

"The negotiations which were going on for the past many years between the Government of India and the Naga political groups have been successfully concluded. It

gives me great pleasure to share with you that we could be now very close to it," Ravi, who was for long the Centre's interlocutor for talks with insurgent groups, said.

To resolve the Naga political problem, a framework agreement was signed on August 3, 2015 between the NSCN-IM and the government in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the details of the framework agreement was never made public.

"My government conveys its deepest appreciation to all the stakeholders for exhibiting utmost sincerity, foresightedness and a spirit of understanding in helping create a conducive atmosphere for conclusion of the talks in a positive manner," Ravi said.

The governor thanked

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their "unwavering commitment, determination and constant guidance", which he said, ensured the progress of talks in the most "purposeful and determined" manner leading to its successful conclusion.

Ravi did not spell out the terms for the resolution of the conflict, but warned, "If we fail this time, then we will be missing a golden opportunity."

On behalf of the Nagaland government, Ravi also made an appeal to the Governments and people of the neighbouring states to extend cooperation so that the peace process, which has now reached a very "critical juncture", concludes in a successful manner in the interest of "enduring peace and stability" in the entire region.

PTI

## Yogi: Apathy of previous Govts forced farmers to commit suicide

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said due to the "apathy" of previous Governments in the State, farmers were forced to commit suicide but the situation has changed for the better under the BJP rule.

Addressing a conference of progressive farmers here, Adityanath said the State Government was aiming to open Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in all gram panchayats that will bring about a major change in the agriculture sector and help farmers in many ways.

"There was everything in the state earlier, but due to the apathy of the previous Governments, the farmers were in a pitiable condition. They were committing suicide and were thinking of

whether to continue with farming or not. In two years, we were able to bring a lot of change," he said.

Highlighting his Government's achievements, Adityanath said, "We waived loans of up to Rs one lakh for small-marginal farmers in the first cabinet meeting and gave relief to potato farmers through market intervention scheme."

"Paddy and wheat were procured in record quantity at minimum support price (MSP) and the money was sent to farmers' account within 72 hours. So far, ₹ 11,594.18 crore have been sent to the account of about 1.83 crore farmers," he added.

Alleging that during the previous governments rule, the payment of sugarcane farmers was stopped, Adityanath said: "The sugar mills were getting closed and

being sold. We paid a record ₹ 82 thousand crore and opened new mills. Today 121 mills are running instead of 116 in the state."

"Old mills are being modernised and their capacity is being expanded. There is a clear instruction to the mill owners that as long as there is sugarcane in the farmer's field, the mills should function. This is the reason why the mills kept running till mid-June in the last crushing season," he said.

For increasing the income of farmers, the CM said, emphasis is on maximum production at minimum cost.

"That is why the efficient modes of irrigation, drip and sprinkler, are being made mandatory with boring schemes given on grant," he said. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla who was present as the

chief guest, said in terms of population, the largest State of the country and the world, has immense potential in the agriculture sector.

"The Ganga basin here is most fertile. Abundant water supply, human resources and diversified climate further increases these possibilities.

The image and fate of the state can be transformed with all these things. The situation has changed under the able leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath," he said.

"For this phase of change to continue, instead of traditional farming, agricultural diversification will have to be encouraged. If the Government gets its products processed according to market demand, the entire world will be the market for agricultural products of UP," he said.



Street graffiti as part of preparation ahead of Children's film festival in Kolkata on Friday

PTI

# '93 Mumbai blasts: Missing Dr Bomb nabbed in Kanpur

**Mumbai:** A convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts case, Jalees Ansari, who went 'missing' while on parole, was arrested on Friday from Kanpur.

Ansari (68), a Mumbai resident who was serving a life term in a Rajasthan jail, was nabbed in a joint operation of Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad and the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), he said.

Ansari, known as Dr Bomb for his suspected involvement in more than 52 blast cases across the country, went 'missing' on early Thursday morning.

He was on a 21-day parole and was expected to return to Ajmer Central Jail by Friday evening after end of the parole period, he said.

Ansari, a resident of Mominpura in Agra in central Mumbai, is a MBBS doctor by training.

While on parole, he was ordered to visit the Agra police station every day between 10.30 am and 12 pm to mark attendance, he said.

However, Ansari did not visit the police station on Thursday during the designated time, the official said.

In the afternoon, his 35-year-old son, Jaid Ansari, approached the police station with a complaint about his "missing" father, he said.

According to the complaint, Jalees Ansari woke up in the early hours and told family members he is going to offer namaz, but did not return home.

On his complaint, the Agra Police registered a missing case, he said. The Crime Branch of the Mumbai Police, the Maharashtra ATS and other agencies launched a massive manhunt for the terror convict, he said.

Jalees was allegedly connected with terror outfits like SIMI and Indian Mujahideen and taught their members how to make bombs, which earned him the sobriquet Dr Bomb, he said.

He was also questioned by the NIA in 2011 in connection with the 2008 bomb blast in Mumbai, he said. **PTI**

# Beef delicacy tweet kicks up row

## No aim to hurt anyone's religious beliefs: Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram:** After a storm erupted over a "beef fry" tweet by Kerala Tourism on Makarasankranti day, the Hindu festival celebrated as Pongal, Bihu and Lohri in other parts of the country.

Surendran said those trying to communalise the matter were the ones who were creating a controversy by saying that pictures of pork dishes should also be uploaded by the department.

Various dishes made of pork are already on the website, he pointed out.

Shobha Karandlaje, BJP MP from Udupi, wrote "the state government is taking a ride on Hindu sentiments by glorifying Beef on #MakarSankranti day. Sick mindset of Commies of Kerala is out for display. Communism is a disease, shame on u @KeralaTourism!", the BJP leader tweeted.

Another Twitter user wrote: "Are you out of your mind? Pongal and Sankranti when we revere Cows, Oxen, and Cattle for their contribution to mankind's easy existence

and culture... On one hand we have Gangireddula mLam in Telugu states, Jallikattu in TN, and Kambala races in Karnataka and you showcase this."

However, it was not only brickbats alone for Kerala Tourism, as many came out in support for the "beef fry tweet".

"One Porotta and beef fry - a match made in heaven" was the response of a Kerala twitter user who had also shared a picture of the dish.

Another twitter user shared an old video of BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Suresh Gopi talking about how he gained weight after consuming beef.

"Dear Bhakts, This is Malayalam actor Suresh Gopi... apparently he is also an MP of BJP (not elected by people, of course)," the tweet said.

Some pointed out that pork is also much desired dish of the Keralites.

"We even have hit movie based on pork business. Maybe you should come out of your well," the tweet read. **PTI**

# Bengaluru: Terror module busted, 6 SDPI members held

**Bengaluru:** A Bengaluru terror module has been busted with the arrest of six members of the Social Democratic Party of India who had allegedly attempted to kill an RSS worker on December 22 for taking part in a pro-CAA rally, police said on Friday.

The arrested have been identified as Irfan, Syed Akbar, Syed Siddique, Akbar Basha, Sanaulla and Sadiq Amin alias 'Sound Amin', all residents of KGC Halli in the city, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao told reporters here.

BJP Bengaluru south MP Tejasvi Surya and right wing leader Chakravarthy Sulibe were among the prominent speakers at last month's pro-Citizenship Amendment Act rally.

According to Rao, the SDPI members reached the venue on three stolen motorcycles.

They wanted to storm into the crowd initially but due to heavy police presence, they could not. They wanted to create a panic situation by hurling stones so that people will flee deserting their leaders making it easier to eliminate their targets, the commissioner said.

However, the stones missed the target.

They later decided to zero in on RSS worker Varun who was supplying water and taking care of the participants at the rally. When he was on his way home, the SDPI activists waylaid and attacked him, Rao said.

According to the commissioner, Varun survived due to timely medical assistance. They wanted to carry out the act to create a lot of disturbance in the city, Rao said.

"All of them are from the SDPI and they wanted to carry out the dastardly act to create lot of disturbance in Bengaluru City on December 22," Rao told reporters here.

They were being paid ₹ 10,000 per month from their handlers to carry out their agenda, the commissioner said, adding the matter has now been handed over to the Anti-Terror Squad.

In addition to it, a Special Investigation Team will be formed to ensure that such people do not create any disturbance, Rao said. **PTI**

# Police bust sex racket, rescues 3 actresses: Mumbai

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The social service branch personnel of the Mumbai police have rescued three small-time television actresses, including a minor girl, after blowing the lid off a sex racket operating out of a three-star hotel at Andheri in north Mumbai.

Acting on a tip-off that lady models were available for pleasure at as high cost as ₹ 1 lakh per model for an evening, the police raided three-star Dragonfly Hotel at Andheri (east) on late on Thursday, arrested a 29-year-old woman behind the prostitutes' racket and rescued three small-time actresses.

Of the rescued actresses, one is minor girl. But, all three of them are working in television and web serials. One of them has worked in Marathi television serial, while another has worked in 'Savdhan India' serial.

Identifying the mistress behind the sex racket as one Priya Sharma, the police said that she operated the alleged sex racket under the banner of her tours and travel firm M/s Vinayak Vacation and



Holidays.

"We used some of our constables as decoy. Posing themselves as customers, they established contact with the mistress and called her to the hotel to strike a deal.

She came to the hotel with three actresses. At the hotel, our team arrested accused mistress and rescued three actresses, including a minor girl," a senior police officer said.

Investigations have revealed that three young brokers from New Delhi — as Aavesh, Vinay and Kuldeep Jani — have been helping the accused mistress luring in young and attractive girls to the alleged sex racket. They have been named as absconding accused in the case.

The accused mistress Priya Sharma and three absconding accused have been booked under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and relevant sections of the IPC.

# Bengal BJP warns against not filling CAA papers

CM misleading people by asking to reject, boycott law: Ghosh

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Friday warned immigrants from Bangladesh against falling into the 'trap' of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee by not applying for citizenship and not providing the related documents for the same.

Addressing a crowd during an Abhinandan, Yata Ghosh said, "I must warn one and all, particularly those who have migrated from Bangladesh before 2014 to apply for citizenship by providing all the relevant information... this is an utmost requisite because Prime Minister Narendra Modi will wait for another 2-3 months after which the Government will take appropriate action."

Accusing Banerjee for misleading the people by asking them not to abide by the Citizenship Amendment Act which is a central statute, Ghosh said "the Chief Minister is misleading the people by asking them to reject and boycott the law. Those who will fall in that trap, will do themselves great harm. They will not file the documents at their own peril because the Prime

Minister will wait for another 2-3 months where after the Government will act."

Like it happened during the protest against the GST "when people who refused to register had to do so afterwards by paying fine this time also CAA will be implemented at any cost," he said.

He also iterated that Aadhar card or voters' identity card were not the right documents to prove citizenship. "The new law is there to give you citizenship and not to snatch it from you. So those who have come before 2014 are required to report it to the Government through proper document and apply for citizenship."

Not doing so at the instigation of Mamata Banerjee will amount to invite trouble," Ghosh said rejecting allegations brought by the Chief Minister and even the Left and the Congress that one has produced the birth certificates of their parents to prove their bonafide.

"This is all bunkum. You will not be required to produce the birth certificates of your parents... they are only spreading disinformation about this.

You will only have to apply for citizenship with right documents so as to get citizenship," he said.

Slamming the civil society members for taking out rallies against CAA Ghosh said "these so called members of the intelligentsia class are only half-educated people. Today they are descending on the streets against CAA but we want to ask them where they were when thousands of Hindus were massacred by fanatic Muslims in Bangladesh... where they were when our Hindu brothers and sisters had to flee that country leaving their home and hearth everything."

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has decided not to attend an all-party meeting called by Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar citing "preoccupations."

The Governor had called the meeting to discuss two bills held up at the Raj Bhavan, officials said. The refusal of the Chief Minister to attend the meeting and calling by the Governor of an all-party meeting is seen as an extension of the ongoing face-off between Nabanna (State Secretariat) and Raj Bhavan.



Artists participate in a rally to protest against CAA, NPR and NRC in Kolkata on Friday

PTI

# Catholic priest slams Syro-Malabar synod for CAA, love jihad statements

**Kochi:** A Catholic priest has slammed the statements of Synod of Syro-Malabar Church on CAA and 'Love Jihad', saying they had not taken a clear stand against the law and it was not the right time to say something about the latter when the nation is 'polarised along religious lines'.

Syro-Malabar Church priest Fr Kuriaakose Mundadan condemned his Bishops' stand over the two controversial issues in his column "in between lines" in "Sathyadeepam", a weekly run by the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese. **PTI**

# Students, activists hold protest outside IIMA against CAA, NRC

**PTI ■ AHMEDABAD**

Around 70 students and activists on Friday held a peaceful protest outside the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) here against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The protesters also expressed their solidarity with the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi and denounced the violence that took place there earlier this month.

This is the third such protest held outside the IIMA campus by activists and students, mostly from prominent education institutions like CEPT University, Gujarat Vidyapith and Ahmedabad University, activist-lawyer Shamshad Pathan said. The protesters expressed their dissent by holding posters with slogans — 'You can't shut our voices', 'No CAA- No NRC', 'Stop violence', 'Ahmedabad supports JNU', 'Kagaz nahi dikhaenge' (Won't show documents).

Since the police had granted permission to the protest, nobody was detained from the spot, inspector of Gujarat University Police Station H M Vyas said.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ONBOARD SHOPPING SERVICES**  
 Executive: Sr. DCM, EOI Notice No.: CA/11/EOI/Onboard shopping/2019, dated: 16.01.2020. Work and location: Expression of Interest for Onboard shopping services in 01 no. of AC EMU rake from Churchgate to Virar (Up/Dn) of Mumbai Division. Website where EOI Notice available: www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in. Date & Time of closing of EOI: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 27.01.2020. Date & Time of opening of EOI: At 15.30 hrs. on 27.01.2020. Note: Please visit our website www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in to download the Expression of Interest Notice. Bidder should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated for any corrigendum/amendments.  
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**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**  
 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001  
 CA No. 226/19 DATE: 10.01.2020  
**KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.**  
 APPLICANT  
 VERSUS  
**SH. MANOJ KUMAR VIJAY & ORS.**  
 RESPONDENT

**FORMAT OF CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**

SR NO.	LETTER / MEMO NO. & DATE	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/ BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE / NIT/ TENDER RE. NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT/ BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	Letter No. 352 Dt. 15-01-2020	Development and Panchayat Department	Letter No. 6230 dt. 30-12-2019	Tender date extended due to administrative reasons	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	Executive Engineer

Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj, Sonapat  
 RO NO. 79952N Dt. 17-01-2020

# Mumbai to be 24x7 city from Jan 26

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Come January 26, Mumbai will literally live up to its reputation of being 'a city that never sleeps', when the Maharashtra Government begins to implement on an experimental basis its much-discussed proposal of keeping all restaurants, malls, multiplexes and shopping plazas open for 24 hours.

Five years after he mooted for the first time his "Vibrant Mumbai Nightlife" proposal, then Yuv Sena leader and now Maharashtra's Tourism and Environment Aditya Thackeray — at meeting of top Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and police held that he presided over on Thursday night — has given a go-ahead for the '24x7

Maximum city' proposal.

As per the decision taken by the State Government, all restaurants, malls, multiplexes and shopping plazas falling within-gated communities, non-residential zones with security, CCTVs and parking areas in the maximum city can remain open round-the-clock from January 26 onwards.

Thursday's meeting, where the crucial decision was taken, was attended among others by Aditya, Municipal Commissioner Pravin Pardeshi and Sanjay Barve.

Currently, the restaurants and bars close down at 1.30 am. However, once Aditya's proposal gets implemented, these establishments will remain through the night — provided these establishments are not in designated residential areas.

**VIBRANT MUMBAI NIGHTLIFE**

The 1.30 am closure deadline for bars and restaurants has been in force since 1992-93.

It may be recalled on February 17, 2015, Aditya had met chief minister Devendra Fadnis and submitted a formal letter requesting the latter to put in place the laws that make Mumbai a "live 24/7" city. His meeting with Fadnis had come after the Sena-ruled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) adopted a resolution seeking "Vibrant Nightlife" for Mumbai and sent off a proposal to the Maharashtra government suggesting necessary amendments to relevant laws.

Known for pursuing his pet projects, Aditya had pushed the

proposed once again in the run-up days to January 1, 2019. In a letter written on December 27, 2018, Aditya had reminded then chief minister Devendra Fadnis about a request he had made three years earlier to put in place the laws which make Mumbai a "live 24/7" city.

Aditya had requested Fadnis to allow Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Pune and other cities "that wish to celebrate New Year" to remain open all night "for legal activities of entertainment and celebration, especially in non-residential areas."

"I take this opportunity to drop a small reminder of the proposal of the BMC, first passed in 2013, then approved by the Commissioner and now

legislated on by the state in 2017, to let non-residential areas in Mumbai and other cities to remain open 24/7. The proposal for Mumbai is awaiting your approval from the Home department for a few months now and is fool-proof."

Reiterating the stand that he had taken three years ago, Aditya wrote in his letter sent to the chief minister December 27, 2018: "The move would give our State more employment and revenue from safe and legal places. What is illegal during the day cannot be illegal at night. Legal establishments in malls and mill compounds will be a boon for Maharashtra. We need to trust our citizens and give them more space and time to unwind after hours of work."

**UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM**

SR NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/ BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE / TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL	TENDER REF. NO. / TENDER NO.
1	Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited	Whole current AC Single phase two wire DMS compliant static energy meter (10-80A) of accuracy class 1.0 with communication facility with self locking type polycarbonate meter box conforming to Nigam's technical specification no. CS-C-47/Rev-VIII/JHR&D/2017-18 with latest amendments and as per relevant ISS thereof.	Last date of submission: 10-02-2020 upto 15:00 Hrs.	30.0 Cr / EMD 2.00 Lacs	uhbvn.org.in, attenders.hrynic.in	com@uhbvn.org.in, 9357189013	Notice Inviting Tender No. SH/HRM/104-12545 dated 16-01-2020

RO NO. 79954N Dt. 17-01-2020

# Teacher asks girl students to go to Pak if unwilling to accept CAA; suspended

**Thrissur:** A teacher of a Government girls school at Kodungallur in Kerala has been suspended after he allegedly asked students to go to Pakistan if they were not willing to accept the Citizenship Amendment Act.

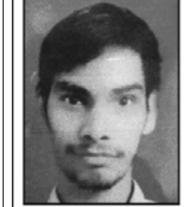
According to officials, the action was taken against the Hindi teacher Kaleshan on Thursday, after the Education department deputy director here inquired into the incident following a complaint filed by the father of a student through social media. According to the education department, Kaleshan, who was suspended

pending inquiry, had entered a class and addressed the students on the CAA and told them that if they were not willing to accept the new law, they should move to Pakistan.

Several students had also complained to the headmaster of the Kodungallur girls higher secondary school against the teacher, who also allegedly used to speak in a sexually coloured manner to the students, officials said.

The teacher was suspended after a disciplinary committee found substance in the allegations against the teacher, they added. **PTI**

# SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPED



**Bharat**  
 Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in  
 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641  
 Fax : 011-24368639

SHO  
 P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi  
 Ph: 011-29551597

DP/5906/SD/20 8750870835

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Bharat** S/o Munna Lal R/o H.No.1135, L 1<sup>st</sup>, Gali No. 25, Near Asthal Mandir Sangam Vihar, New Delhi Age-24 years, Height- 5'11", Face-Long, Build: Normal, Complexion-Fair, Wearing-Shallow Colour Jarsi Black Colour Pant and Pink Colour Cap has been missing/ kidnapped since dated 31.11.2019 at about 4:00 PM from Area of P.S. Neb Sarai. In this regard a DD No. 41A Dated 05.12.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.

**UJVN Limited**  
 H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
 Telephone: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508  
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866

**TENDER NOTICE**

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-SHP), UJVN Limited, Munsyari, district-Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) invites sealed and separate tenders from interested bidders. Brief summary of tenders are given below :-

Tender No.	Name of work
03/EE(Civil-SHP)/Munsyari/2019-20	Repair & maintenance of approach road upto power house of Suringad-II SHP.
04/EE(Civil-SHP)/Munsyari/2019-20	Protection works at river bank for feeder pipe of Suringad-II SHP.

Estimated value of work : ₹ 23.86 Lac, ₹ 9.46 Lac respectively.  
 Earnest Money : ₹ 59650.00, ₹ 23700.00 respectively.  
 Tender fee : ₹ 1180.00, ₹ 590.00.

Availability of tenders on website : 16/01/2020  
 Last date for submission of tender : 15/02/2020 upto 15:00 hrs.  
 Date of opening of tender : 18/02/2020 at 15:00 hrs.

For full & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com".

Executive Engineer (Civil-SHP), Munsyari  
 पर सं: 23 - 17 / 01 / 2020  
 "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

## Talks with Pakistan?

While UNSC backs India on Kashmir and insists on it being discussed bilaterally, our SCO invite is a smart move



Pakistan may have nudged its all-weather friend China into raising the Kashmir dispute at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) yet again — perhaps going by Western concerns about the continued lockdowns in the erstwhile State that is now a Union Territory — but failed with a big thud. This is the second time that such an attempt, either in the nature of informal consultations or closed door meetings of the Council's permanent members, has been thwarted convincingly. The message is quite clear. The remaining Big Four

(US, Russia, France, UK) are still committed to their position that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan to be settled within the paradigm of dialogue set by existing agreements among the neighbours. It also means that the UK and the US, while responding to criticism on shutdown in the Valley, have delinked it from the larger Kashmir question and would much rather address it one-to-one. At the same time, certain facts cannot be ignored like China being allowed to raise the issue despite no significant change in collective viewpoints. Or that Pakistan's lobbying is high-pitch, with its Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi believed to be in New York while China moved the motion. He even met the UN Secretary-General. Clearly, given the emphasis on bilaterals, at some point both India and Pakistan have to sit across the table and look to engage with each other. Perhaps, India's invitation to Pakistan for a meeting of the regional alliance called Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an opportunity to thaw relations and set up some sort of interaction on the sidelines. Besides, China is scheduled to take over the rotational presidency at UNSC in March and without some movement from India, it will have no point to neutralise Pakistan with, much as it would want to keep its working relationship with India going. Besides, it has to show something for giving assent to the declaration of Jaish chief Masood Azhar as a UN-designated global terrorist. China and Pakistan back each other up on the world stage, representing each other in official groups of nations where the other is not present. For instance, Pakistan stands up for China in the Non-Aligned Movement and in return, it gets China's veto power in the UNSC.

India's bigger challenge though is to manage the SCO, where both China and Pakistan are key members, for its strategic imperatives. Already, we have made noises about jointly strengthening the fight against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and organised crime to corner Pakistan as a sponsor of terror. India has to also walk cautiously on economic cooperation with members and ensure that China does not surreptitiously ensure its overlordship as the latter has proposed a free trade area for all. Most members are yet to feel comfortable on multi-lateral trade and cooperation. Besides, all other SCO members have embraced the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which India is opposing. In fact, Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan formed the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which has signed a non-preferential trade and economic cooperation agreement with China. For all of India's efforts to highlight its connectivity corridors, like the Chabahar port and India-Myanmar-Thailand highway, Pakistan will always counter their significance with that of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Negotiating terrain with both Pakistan and China, India must find its feet in the SCO if it wants to strengthen its footprint in Central Asia, a diplomatic initiative that the Modi Government is keen on. India's other counter-balancing act is between Russia and China, both of whom have come closer but are wary of eating into each other's sphere of influence. India can be the counterweight and use that status to extract its gains. Besides, India needs to work on its economic heft vis-a-vis the SCO majors. Our trade with Russia stands at about a little over \$10 billion and is projected to be \$30 billion by 2025. In contrast, China's trade with Russia has already crossed \$100 billion. A similar lopsided volume prevails with Central Asian republics. The lack of connectivity has stifled energy cooperation between the hydrocarbon-rich region and India. We cannot miss the bus as the SCO accounts for 20 per cent of the world's GDP and can guarantee its relevance in the region. But can its bilateral differences with Pakistan and China mean SCO members could set up their own mini-groupings of mutual benefit and derail its very purpose? That's for India to understand and move adroitly.

## Bezos' bumper trip

From getting a Gandhi quote wrong to drawing the ire of the BJP, the Amazon CEO's latest trip didn't go that well



In terms of disastrous visits to India, Amazon's Chief Executive Jeffery Bezos's latest trip wasn't quite up there. No, it will take a lot more to top the stupendous failure of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit a few years ago. Despite misquoting Gandhi. Yet, Bezos' rap on the knuckles delivered by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, where he straight up accused Amazon of funding its losses in India with its latest investment, was harsh. Even though Goyal was forced to backtrack and claimed that his quote was taken

"out of context," it was strange that a Minister, who speaks decent English, is taken out of context time and again. But the message was clear: Bezos' ownership of *The Washington Post* and articles published by it against Prime Minister Narendra Modi counted against him. Also the fact that the BJP still draws huge support from the trading community, which has deeply been affected by the advent of online retailing, has meant that Bezos has had a problematic visit to the country this time. He has even eschewed both the Government and media interactions. Indeed, Bezos' most high-profile interactions were in Mumbai where he celebrated the success of Amazon's video streaming service *Amazon Prime* with Bollywood's elite and the honchos of several Indian conglomerates.

While Goyal was surprised by the way some reacted to his comments, they did have an element of truth. Although reactions were delivered with the grace of a dancer wearing work boots and quickly retracted, there was no hiding from the fact that the Government wanted Bezos to know it is not very happy with Amazon and his ownership of *The Washington Post*. While Bezos is unlikely to interfere in the editorial process of his newspaper, it is also clear that he needs India as a market. Most American internet giants are locked out of China and India is the "it" market. This is the case not just for Amazon but also Google, Facebook and Uber. And as India becomes more aware of this, it will flex its muscles economically. Recent actions against Malaysia are a case in point and a decision is also likely to be taken against Turkey for its support to Pakistan-sponsored separatists. It is unlikely that India will act against Amazon in the immediate future but the firm does need to answer some questions as to how it is abusing (or not) its market position. The BJP, too, should understand that it cannot control the narrative in the foreign media. It needs to have better spokespersons who can defend the Government's position or change perceptions.

# Need to objectify history

As India charts its course through the 21st century, the liberation we all need is not from the glories of the past but from its burdens — communal, economic and psychological



AVIK CHANDA

Why, when the nation should be focussing all its resources on remedying its economic slowdown in a fascinating but disruptive world driven by automation and Artificial intelligence (AI), should we continue to be obsessed with the past? Well, because history is no longer the sole purview for reclusive academics tucked away amid lengths of dust-laden bookshelves. It's being revisited and morphed, banded about by politicians and re-branded in the media everyday. It's used as a veritable psychological battleground and there's a war, for our allegiance. It's a campaign characterised by selective erasure, of highlighting specific events, the systematic reduction of historical figures to mere unidimensional labels and retro-fitting them into contemporary political positions.

Take the case of Dara Shukoh, the would-be emperor of Hindustan, haloed in his timeless promise of ideal kingship. The traditional tack of pitting him against his nemesis, Aurangzeb, has implored in recent times. So much so that even the debate of "good Muslim versus bad Muslim, good Mughal versus bad Mughal" has faded away. Dara Shukoh, rescued from centuries of indifference, has re-emerged in his new avatar as "the emblem of Indianness", confident and consummate. Dara the eternal victim is a notion of the past and we can all pretend that his belligerent brother never existed. Ample reasons are being furnished for this new, posthumous *khilat*. The Mughal prince was a deeply syncretic thinker, accomplished scholar, poet and a theologian of unusual merit; a calligraphist and connoisseur of the fine arts as well as a dutiful son and warm-hearted family man.

The first stumbling block comes in the nature of an anachronistic fallacy: The idea of retrospectively imposing the concept of "Indianness" — and by corollary, nationhood and nation-state and more specifically, the personification thereof in the form of a deified "Bharat Mata" — onto the Mughal empire of the 17th century. The fact is that in our land, the consciousness of nationhood has evolved as the end-result of a much later historical process: The idealistic, patriotic reaction to the brutal British colonial experience and rather more tenuous associations with 19th century European history such as the Germanic *Freiheitkampf* (freedom struggle) during the Napoleonic regime. This is brought out very clearly in Sugata Bose's book, *The Nation as Mother and Other Visions of Nationhood*.

There is, however, another challenge. The cherry-picking of only the syncretic attributes of Dara completely leaves out other aspects of his personality. He was habitually cold and arrogant towards the mass of courtiers and commanders, who he felt, were intellectually inferior to him. He was highly superstitious by nature, easily swayed by mystery, magic and all manner of self-styled godmen, a conspicuously uninspiring military



commander and an alarmingly poor judge of human character. One can well wonder whether, even assuming he had managed to ascend the throne, his eclectic nature but indifference towards administrative and military matters would have enabled him to hold the empire together. In the years between 1654 and September 1657, when Shah Jahan fell grievously ill — the War of Succession broke out soon thereafter — Dara was the *de facto* ruler of the empire. This period was characterised by moves to thwart campaigns of territorial expansion in the Deccan and Kashmir, coupled with a reclusive temperament and highly creative outpouring of a philosophical nature. In terms of court politics, Dara displayed a steady, cold hostility towards the senior imperial advisors and commanders and his mutually acrimonious exchanges with the seasoned *wazir*, Saadullah Khan, almost mirrors the rivalry between the crown prince Salim (later, the emperor Jahangir) and Abul Fazl. But the moot question is: Would the current unidimensional narrative about Dara have even brought up these other facets of his personality and objectively looked at the man in the context of his times?

Separated from Dara Shukoh by almost two-and-a-half centuries but basking in this same Lazarus light is Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Stymied

through the prime of his life by the draconian prisons of the British Raj and then after Independence, even posthumously, by a succession of Congress-led Governments, only in recent years has his release from oblivion taken place. The image of the controversial political leader has been resurrected by the present administration to larger-than-life proportions and with it, his ethos of Hindutva.

This very term has come to denote a number of aspects in our common perception, the re-establishment of rituals and religious practices (including the cult of cow worship) in the heart of societal life, the retention — and at times, deepening — of the fault-lines of caste and a steadfast advocacy of vegetarianism, among other things. Consequently, the image of Savarkar looms before us as an austere, conservative traditionalist, steeped in the rituals of his faith, a sort of archetypal Hindu counterpoint to the *ulema*. And politically, a Hindu Jinnah.

But is that who he was, in reality? A recent biography, sourcing the treatises, letters and speeches of this polemic leader in the original Marathi, reveals a very different picture. Savarkar's conception of Hindutva, the book informs us, was essentially political, a move to galvanise the eternally splintered Hindu communities into a homogenous whole — and not an ultra-reli-



gious manifesto. In Savarkar's credo, the key to achieving this was the uniting and unifying of the Hindu polity, across caste lines. Far from being a traditionalist, this high-caste Chitpavan Brahmin established a Patit Pavan temple open to all castes, organised inter-caste dinners and marriages and did not personally care for rituals, including that of cow worship. In this more objective narrative, Savarkar emerges not as a fanatic but an astute rationalist, who rejected the Gandhian project, and wholeheartedly espoused industrialisation as the vehicle of progress in the future.

A significant aspect of Savarkar's life, unravelled in the biography, further belies the unidimensional label adduced to him. In *The Indian War of Independence*, his first major literary work that catapulted him to fame — and in the eyes of the colonial rulers, notoriety — he presented his narrative as a unified uprising against the British oppressors, stemming from a strong sense of nationhood. Savarkar's position in this book is unambiguously secular — Hindu satraps and commanders had rallied in unison against the British under the flag of the Muslim Mughal titular monarch, Bahadur Shah Zafar. There's no hint of any deep-seated hatred of the Muslims, which henceforth became the quintessential trait associated with him. In fact, it was

only later, triggered by particular experiences and tribulations during his long incarceration in the Cellular Jail of the Andamans, that Savarkar developed his animosity towards the Muslims.

We're now faced with a lingering, larger question, which is central to this whole issue. Is there still a purpose to all this indulging in history in today's world? The Churchillian, though unoriginal, viewpoint purported to answer this question: "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." But such aphorisms have long since dissolved into clichés.

Contemporary thinkers such as Yuval Noah Harari are not only more ambitious, they're also more persistent when demanding our participation: "Though historians occasionally try their hand at prophecy (without notable success), the study of history aims above all to make us aware of possibilities we don't normally consider. Historians study the past not in order to avoid repeating it — or perpetuate it — but in order to be liberated from it."

As India charts its course through the 21st century, the liberation we all need is not from the glories of the past but from its burdens — communal, economic and psychological.

(The writer is a columnist, business advisor and entrepreneur. He is the author of *Dara Shukoh: The Man Who Would Be King*)

## SOUNDBITE

The Congress is opposing the CAA. I dare Rahul Gandhi to speak 10 sentences on the law. He should tell us in two sentences what is his problem with the CAA.

BJP working president —JP Nadda



I was very naughty in class but I was a teacher's pet. When the teacher was out, I was making dirty jokes and I was grabbing boys and kissing them. I was terrible!

Actor —Kalki Koechlin



Our Government wants peace in the neighbourhood. But we are not prepared to pay any price, certainly not without resolving the Kashmir dispute in a just manner.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister —Shah M Qureshi



I want to inform the CDS, if you want to deradicalise, then you first read the Juvenile Act. IPC is not applicable to children. What de-radicalisation are you talking about?

AIMIM chief —Asaduddin Owaisi



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Act responsibly

Sir — It is disappointing that educated politicians speak irresponsibly. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor criticised Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by comparing him to a "eunuch." Leaders must inspire the masses, otherwise their words can adversely impact the mindset of their supporters.

Ravi  
Via email

### Experiment first

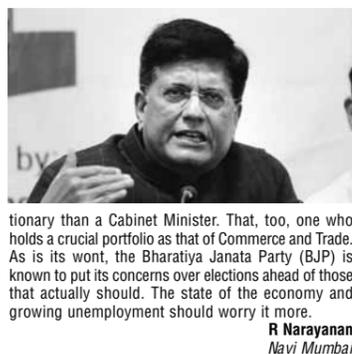
Sir — This refers to the editorial, "SC to the rescue" (January 16). There have been several controversies about the educational qualifications of some of our Ministers. A complete mismatch between the claims made by them and their marks in their certificates has been found. How then do they expect the citizens to have all necessary documents? If there is merit in the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), it must be explained. Before it is applied throughout the country, our leaders must first pass the CAA test.

Even then questions will

### Government must rise above politics

Union Minister Piyush Goyal seems to have jumped the gun by saying that Amazon is not doing a favour to the country by investing \$1 billion and that this was probably on account of a need to fund losses. To recall, Amazon had promised to create more than 25,000 jobs on a new campus in Long Island City, New York, in return for nearly \$3 billion in Government incentives. It was a cocky and raw business approach in a nation that is a votary of pure capitalism. Yet, it failed in this venture mostly due to the growing influence of the progressive Left in New York.

In its current home in Seattle, Amazon is being criticised for impacting house prices and growing inequality that has damaged the city. Now, the Minister in our own Right of the Central Government has chosen to cast a barb on its predatory pricing policies. This might well be due to the party's concerns on saving its trader vote bank. But the remarks, though credible, could as well have come from a party func-



R Narayanan  
Navi Mumbai

### Space dreams

Sir — The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) must be complimented for successfully launching the GSAT-30 into the orbit. After last year's setback, where the Chandrayaan-2 mission failed to touch down on the lunar surface, this is its first launch this year. GSAT-30 is

aimed at eliminating the technical bottlenecks not only for the country's communication system but also of a large number of Asian countries. Given that ISRO has helped India earn several firsts through its space missions in the recent past, hopefully, it will continue pushing the boundaries of Indian space science.

Yugal Kishore Sharma  
Faridabad

### Healthy lifestyle

Sir — Kudos to the Ministry of AYUSH for coming out with an excellent initiative to make people at work destress and refresh themselves through Y-BREAK or Yoga break — a five-minute exercise designed to make professionals at workplaces get some physical activity. It will help keep the mind tension-free and also enhance lifestyle apart from increasing productivity. This project may soon become a part of the schedule at all Government institutions and corporate bodies. Around 15 institutions, including corporate houses like Tata Chemicals, Axis Bank and Ernst & Young Global Consulting Services, have volunteered to join the project.

Booklets and videos on how to practise yoga will be given to the staff at the work places. Besides, the Ministry would also provide all possible help and support to see that this programme is inculcated among all.

M Pradyu  
Kannur

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Tectonic shift in US' attitude

The US no longer views West Asia as critical to its economic well-being as it did in the past, when it depended on the oil from that region



DEEPAK SINHA

Karl Marx once wrote, "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce." But often times events tend to combine both the tragic and the farcical in equal measure, just as we are seeing them play out between the Iranians and the Americans. US President Donald Trump's recent actions remind one of the Hollywood blockbuster, *Gunfight at the OK Corral*, except for the minor aberration that West Asia is no Wild West and Trump is certainly no Marshal Wyatt Earp.

Whatever reasons he may put forward for his actions, the targeted execution of a serving Iranian General and war hero, Qasem Soleimani, while on an official visit to Iraq raises serious questions of sovereignty, morality, ethical conduct and can never be justified in any civilized society. It was, in fact, a blatant act of aggression in clear violation of international law and a war crime, made even more heinous because neither America nor Iran is at war with each other. It shows up the true face of America for what it is and has been these past decades, a global bully.

More importantly, the rationale and timing of the attack raise grave suspicions as to Trump's motives. The late General Soleimani was by no means a tactical commander and his neutralisation would hardly stop operations in progress, in this case the launch of "imminent attacks" on American embassies, as has been alleged by the President. What is more likely is that Trump ordered this rash and utterly immoral attack in the vain hope that it would divert attention from his forthcoming impeachment trial, while at the same time make him appear to be a strong and decisive leader. However, make no mistake General Soleimani's killing was a grievous loss to the Iranian establishment, especially to its "Irregular Warfare" capabilities, something that will take time to rebuild.

While Trump's action was totally transactional and short-term in nature, it coincided with the American deep state's far more long-term strategy there, the necessity to squeeze China. Over the past two decades there has been a tectonic shift in the manner the United States (US) views West Asia, ever since it became one of the world's leading oil producers, exporting more oil than Saudi Arabia. In March last year, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported that the US exported more crude and petroleum products than it imported. As senior partner Per Magnus Nysveen of Rystad Energy, a global oil consulting and analysis firm, put it, "The oil market is overly preoccupied with short-term US crude stocks but the big picture tells a new story. Increasingly profitable shale production and a robust global appetite for light oil and gasoline is poised to bring the US to a position of oil dominance in the next few years."

This fact obviously suggests that the US no longer views West Asia as critically important to its economic well-being as it did in the past, when its economy depended on the oil from that region. For it, the geostrategic value of that region lies more in the adverse impact that any exacerbation of tensions there would have on the Chinese economy, as it is bound to, given Chinese dependence on oil from that region. It, therefore, stands to reason that it no longer finds it necessary to maintain a large troop presence in the region and can achieve its long-term aims through the use of proxies such as Saudi Arabia and Israel. In this context, much has been made of the Russian attempts to fill the vacuum that the US withdrawal has left. However, President Putin must be aware that he is punching well above his weight given the fact that the Russian economy is just around 1/20th that of the US.

Finally, with regard to the US-Iran imbroglio, while it is certainly extremely far-fetched to suggest that World War-III is just around the corner, one can also safely assume that the existing stalemate is not going to last forever and probably the situation is going to get far worse, before it gets better. This is more so if in the coming months the Iranians attempt to utilise their considerable irregular warfare assets to force the Americans out of Iraq, if not the Middle East. Escalation in tensions would then be unavoidable and that would have serious repercussions, with unintended and unpredictable consequences for the world at large.

In this context we would do well to recall the innocuous events that triggered one of the darkest chapters in world history, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife by a 19-year-old Serbian terrorist, Gavrilo Princip. While that event may have occurred in far-away Sarajevo, it did set the world aflame, bringing untold misery to tens of millions over the next four years. It would indeed be unfortunate if this tragedy were to be repeated.

*(The writer, a military veteran, is a Consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)*

I WANT TO TELL AAP THAT AFTER THE REJECTION OF THE REVIEW PETITION, BECAUSE OF YOU THE CONVICTS COULDN'T BE HANGED IN TIME.

—UNION MINISTER SMRITI IRANI

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



PLEASE DON'T DO POLITICS ON THIS. I DON'T BLAME THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR THIS. BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE TRYING EVERYTHING THEY CAN.

—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

# Change or perish

There is no alternative to sustainability and the present trajectory of economic growth divorced from environmental considerations is dragging us towards mass extinction



BKP SINHA

Despite the concerns of policymakers and planners regarding the efficient management of natural resources, the threat to them is growing exponentially by the day. This is because the country's efforts towards market-led development are eating up our social, natural and cultural capital faster than ever. Unfortunately today, the core issue of a preferred pattern of growth is hidden behind the innocuous facade of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth as the supreme objective. Decisions on all matters related to development require the adoption of a holistic approach because the need for environmental improvement is not able to attract appropriate investments. This is mostly owing to the fact that they are essentially long-term in nature and their support to sustained economic growth is seldom appreciated or quantified. In a world which refuses to adopt the concept of a steady state of long-term economic growth, sustainability is seen as absurdity.

Gradually, however, the world is coming to realise that there is no alternative to sustainability and the present trajectory of economic growth divorced from environmental considerations is dragging us towards the reckless path of mass extinction. The fact remains that there is no alternative to a concerted effort towards sustainable management of natural resources that demands collective action at the regional, national and global level.

The key areas in which action is required are big investments designed towards land, water, and biodiversity conservation, apart from simultaneous reduction in emissions on a mass scale. That includes Herculean efforts in jealously safeguarding forests; reduction and diversion in investment in new sources of energy away from dirty sources like coal, crude and nuclear power; improvement in availability and affordability of public transport systems with metro and light rail systems everywhere; switching to material and energy-efficient houses; smart electrical grids carrying renewable energy and all these supported by massive research efforts to improve efficiencies as we move on. Considering the increase in the pressure on forests, sincere efforts to mobilise agroforestry initiatives coupled with adequate scientific support, extension and education in resource literacy are a must. This great leap, however, will necessitate the shedding of our preoccupation with short-term gains that creates hurdles in integrating economic growth-related issues and sustainable management of natural resources. In short, the planners have to accept without any inhibitions the holistic approach which considers ecology, economics and ethics as a part of a whole interconnected circle — which at present appears to have been broken.

A careful consideration of the policy impact of different sectors, the essential trade-off between different sectors for restoration and development of natural resources, would have created huge economic demand and job opportunities for a wider base of poor like tribals and others residing in far-flung areas. One cannot overlook the fact that the economic health of any society or country in the ultimate analysis is supported by its basic ecological status.

Let us take forests as their management is important. However, effective linkage of forestry with other important sectors of the economy is not yet in place. Forest-based activities have largest forward and backward economic linkages. Just to elaborate: Along with the flexibility of capital, skill and energy requirement; it has a spectrum of activities, ranging from value-

“ A CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE POLICY IMPACT OF DIFFERENT SECTORS, THE ESSENTIAL TRADE-OFF BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECTORS FOR RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WOULD HAVE CREATED HUGE ECONOMIC DEMAND AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR A WIDER BASE OF POOR LIKE TRIBALS AND OTHERS RESIDING IN FAR-FLUNG AREAS. ONE CANNOT OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF ANY SOCIETY OR COUNTRY IN THE ULTIMATE ANALYSIS IS SUPPORTED BY ITS BASIC ECOLOGICAL STATUS ”



addition activity at the household level to micro industries and small sawmills to forest-based industries and to a totally computerised ayurvedic drug as also the paper industry. Policy measures and activities in other sectors mar the ability of the forests to perform their economic, social and environmental roles, as much as the policies set in forestry do.

In fact, policy decisions taken outside the forestry sector may be detrimental or beneficial for effective functioning of services from forests on a long-term basis. Let us take, for example, the development of infrastructure. The policy instruments attempting modernisation of transport, telecommunication and highways do create both positive and negative impacts for forest conservation and development. They do improve forest firefighting and public awareness of environmental issues but also create backlash in the shape of forest degradation. Pucca roads through forest habitats serve as barrier for dissemination of pollen grains, mating of smaller animals and recharging of underground water reserves, loss of hybrid vigour due to inbreeding and related extinction, noise and other disturbances resulting in the decline of reproduction or mating of many wildlife species. Measures are needed to strengthen the positive impacts and reduce the negative fallouts.

Careful planning and strict implementation could avoid many such backlashes. Provision of compensatory afforestation elsewhere can never be a substitute for loss of natural forest and its ecosystem services at the point of concern.

An overarching policy of creating a platform for dialogue can remove barriers between sectors and institutions currently working with different myopic mandates. Understanding of involved trade-offs in natural ecosystems and benefits of harmony among forestry and other land-based sectors are urgently needed. Canada

already has the provision for removing barriers between institutions and orienting them towards a philosophy of common goals. An outcome of this is a model forest programme in which forests are managed by a partnership of diverse interest groups of industry, conservationists, community, aboriginals and so on.

Professional forestry in a country like India needs a radical change. Our Government, committed to social justice, has so far failed to adequately recognise that the services needed by people cannot come from the Forest Department staffed by men trained as professional foresters in the core subject.

It is well understood by now that forest ecosystems have multifarious roles to play in helping the country in halting the downward spiral of land degradation; in restoring the vitality of the land; in protecting land from wind and water erosion; in job creation in far-flung areas; in carbon sequestration and of course in combatting climate change-related problems.

A location-specific proper model of agroforestry can promote and sustain an intrinsically-sustainable and resilient agriculture system especially under marginal conditions. There is a whole range of local problems of forestry that requires different solutions based on different strategies. Placements of Indian Forest Service Officers in different development Ministries are adequate proof of the fact that forestry professionals can handle various dimensions of administrative work. Their special inputs, in fact, through provision of new insights in relating conservation and sustainable management of natural resources to their respective sectors of economy will be their most worthwhile contribution to the country.

Gradually provisions are being made for placement of environmental personnel in industries and other Government departments too. Their roles, more often

than not, are generally confined towards pollution abatement measures. It will be better if they are designated as natural resource managers with additional mandate of looking at the use or abuse of natural resources for sustainable development. In addition, the time has come for university courses to be re-designed and made compulsory in all branches of education apart from promoting and subsidising the courses of management of natural resources on a sustainable base as the core subject.

The horizon of knowledge about natural resources is ever-expanding and accordingly conservation is reinventing itself. New models in forestry as well as agriculture incorporating the role of trees that are known to exert an influence far beyond their immediate environment, can go a long way to save the farmers from committing suicides and help them go ahead on the path of sustainable development.

Conservation of resources and sustainable development is the bedrock of survival of mankind but conservation today is much more than merely a choice in favour of one's long-term economic self-interests.

It entails moral choices and responsibilities, too, involving the community of all life forms in the company of which we have evolved and to which we essentially belong. Further, it has to be alive to the issues of inter-generational equity. Conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, within this perspective, is a radical endeavour to save Earth itself and that will essentially have to derive strength from knowledge, ethical value, wealth of our dreams and an understanding of nature as a sacred space.

*(The writer is Advisor at Amity University and former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Uttar Pradesh)*

# States also responsible for economic growth

If we take stock of all the major areas which need improvement for attracting investment then, barring fiscal and monetary policies, almost all the key items are either in the State List or the Concurrent List of the Constitution



SHSHANK SAUROV

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her first full Union Budget on February 1 and people are expecting some out of the box initiatives to stimulate the economic growth of the country. Some of the key macroeconomic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, tax collection, credit growth and so on, indicate that the economy is grappling with a slowdown which is largely due to a decline in demand.

Global trade protectionism, a looming oil crisis and a rise in retail inflation are further aggravating the situation. Given the current economic scenario, it would be too optimistic to believe that growth will jump and

the private sector will start investing all of a sudden in the coming fiscal.

India has a federal structure where sufficient autonomy has been given to State Governments. This autonomy is not just for making legislations and administration over the territory but it extends to the fiscal arena also. The States are getting their fair share of revenue after the implementation of the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

Our constitutional mechanism empowers the State Governments to deal with the matters which come under the State List, as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, and they have joint control over the matters coming under the Concurrent List.

Despite the enormous powers given to States and the responsibility entrusted upon the State Legislature, it is a fact that whenever the question of economic growth arises, people always look to the Union Government. The fact that the union is nothing but a sum of all States should be appreciated and,

therefore, the journey towards economic prosperity is the equal responsibility of both the Centre and the States. A common man doesn't want to be entangled in a tug of war between warring politicians but unfortunately, gaining and retaining power is more important for people who are sitting at the helm of affairs than the welfare of the people who put them there.

There is a general perception that a State which is ruled by the same political faction for a relatively longer period offers far more policy certainty and enhances its ability to attract investors. It is also perceived that having a Government of the same party/coalition at both the Centre and State helps in the unimpeded growth of the State.

However, if we see the data for the two most populous States of the country viz. Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar, then these notions will prove to be a myth.

Bihar has been continuously ruled by Nitish Kumar for the last 15 years (except for a short while when Jitan Ram Manjhi was at the helm).

In the case of UP, most of the time the State was ruled by Governments which had allies at the Centre.

However, despite this favourable political environment, these States are not doing well economically and are called the BIMARU States. This means that the State-level politicians are not doing good enough work for their development. This lackadaisical attitude of State Governments stems from the fact that economic growth and job creation are considered the sole responsibility of the Union Government, which it is not.

For Chief Ministers it is easy to pass the buck on to the Centre in case questions regarding the economy and development are asked.

The persona-centric politics of the major parties like the BJP and the Congress is also to be blamed for not grooming the State leadership and not pushing regional leaders to present a development role model for others.

The people of the country all want jobs and a higher income and

a better quality of life. For this, we have to start making State-level leaders accountable and question their inability to deliver on their promises made during the election campaigns.

Economic reforms are an ongoing process and investors continuously evaluate various investment options before committing their resources. Land and labour reforms are the most critical of all the structural changes which this country needs. Land comes under the State List and matters related to labour are part of the Concurrent List. Among various things, an investor looks for infrastructure and the law and order situation. These two vital prerequisites for development also fall under the domain of States. If we take stock of all the major areas which need improvement for attracting investment then, barring fiscal and monetary policies, almost all the key items are either in the State List or the Concurrent List of the Constitution.

The rural economy and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector are fac-

ing severe distress. The rural economy is largely driven by agricultural activities and as a matter of fact, the farm sector accounts for almost half of the workforce employed in our country and contributes 18 per cent to the GDP. Similarly, the MSME sector contributes almost 29 per cent to the GDP and more than 45 per cent of product exports come from this sector. State Governments are uniquely positioned to understand local needs and tailor schemes as per those requirements, including tax concessions by reducing State Goods and Services Tax rates. Central schemes are applied across the country and "one size fits all" may not be true in every situation.

If India has to grow, then State Governments should take ownership for development and people should also ask regional leaders to deliver on their promises. This nation belongs to all and therefore development is the collective responsibility of all of us, particularly those who have been given the mandate to rule.

*(The writer is a Chartered Accountant)*



**FOREIGN EYE**



**TRUMP'S TRIAL A DEFINING MOMENT**

US President Trump's trial is not just a defining moment for him but also for the presidency and the Senate. If the Senate votes on party lines to acquit and Trump is then re-elected, this would be an infamous outcome. The idea that a president can abuse his office would be accepted. A new and lawless presidential legitimacy would be sanctioned. And the checks and balances of the US constitution would no longer exist and would need to be built afresh.

*(The Guardian editorial)*

AMAZON ROW

# 'Foreign investments must adhere to law of the land'

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

A day after he scoffed at Amazon.Com founder Jeff Bezos' offer to invest USD 1 billion in India, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday tried to do damage control saying the country welcomes all kinds of investments that follow the "letter and spirit" of the law.

Goyal clarified his remarks on Twitter as well as to reporters saying some people have misconstrued his remarks by suggesting that he had said something negative against Amazon.

"I was only saying that investment should come as per the rules and regulation," he told reporters in Ahmedabad. Big-ticket investments in the retail space should not hurt small traders who do not have "lakhs and crores" of rupees, Goyal said.

"We welcome all kinds of investment. However, the necessary legal process would follow if any investment is made outside the purview of law," he said.

While Goyal had on Thursday raised questions



about Amazon's business practices saying the company had done no big favours to India by announcing a new USD 1 billion investment, his party's foreign cell head Vijay Chauthaiwale tweeted barely-veiled criticism of Bezos-owned the Washington Post, which has been criticized by the BJP for its coverage of the Modi government's increasingly right-wing policies.

Bezos who topped up his announcement of investing

USD 1 billion to help bring small and medium business online, with an announcement of creating one million new jobs in India over the next five years.

With an association of small traders aligned with the BJP holding demonstrations against his visit and India plans, the world's richest person visited a neighbourhood store in Mumbai, met Bollywood stars and captains of industry.

"Our country has some rules for e-commerce industry. We welcome all those investments which come as per these rules. However, it should not create unfair competition for the small traders of India. They do not get zero per cent loans. They do not have lakhs and crores of rupees. They do business with small capital," said Goyal on Friday.

On Thursday, he had questioned why the e-commerce market place should make losses but for its predatory pricing.

## Jet Airways to sell Netherlands business to KLM

New Delhi: Bankrupt Jet Airways plans to sell its Netherlands business to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, according to a regulatory filing.

The domestic full-service carrier, which shuttered operations last April, is undergoing insolvency resolution process.

The insolvency resolution professional managing the affairs of Jet Airways said various options are being explored for the "company's resolution and maximising the value for its stakeholders", as per the filing on Friday. Providing an update, the company said there is a separate liquidation proceeding ongoing in the Netherlands and that the resolution professional has agreed a co-operation protocol with the Dutch trustee appointed by the local court.

PTI

# More than 300 items may see customs duty hike in Budget

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

As a measure to boost domestic small and medium industry, the Government may consider a hike in customs duty on over 300 items like toys, furniture, footwear, coated paper, rubber items among other in the Union Budget.

Besides giving relief to the domestic industry and boosting employment, the move to keep imports down and help to raise revenue. Many of these are industries which are essentially concentrated in the small and medium sectors and employment intensive.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry in its budget recommendations has proposed rationalisation of basic customs on over 300 items across sectors including furniture, chemicals, rubber, coated paper and paper boards.

On footwear and related products, the Ministry has suggested increase in duty to 35 per cent from the current 25



per cent while for new pneumatic tyres of rubber, it has proposed to hike customs duty to 40 per cent from the current 10-15 per cent.

The import duty hike on footwear is a move to thwart the increase in imports of undervalued and cheap footwear. While the majority of imports are coming from ASEAN countries, with which

India has a free trade agreement, it is suspected that China is re-routing large quantities of footwear through these countries.

The ministry has proposed to increase import duty on wooden furniture to 30 per cent from the current 20 per cent. For coated paper, paper boards and hand made papers, it has suggested doubling the duty to 20 per cent.

The Ministry has asked for the removal of import duty on waste paper and wood pulp, which is currently at 10 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively. The paper industry has expressed concerns about cheap imports and a surge in inbound shipments.

For wood, metal and plastic toys, the ministry has suggested increase in import duty to up to 100 per cent from the current 20 per cent. Import of these toys increased to \$304 million in 2018-19 from \$281.82 million in 2017-18 from China and Hong Kong.

## Banks' risk on ₹1.5L cr lent to telcos up after SC ruling

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The risk for Indian banks on their loans to the telecom sector appear to have risen a notch higher for both public and private sector lenders who have a combined exposure of ₹1.51 lakh crore, following the Supreme Court rejecting the review petition of the three incumbent telcos. The apex court has mandated that Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Tata Teleservices pay nearly ₹1.02 lakh crore as a statutory payments to the Government by January 23.

According to banking sources, state-run State Bank of India (₹42,400 crore), HDFC Bank (₹24,500 crore), Axis Bank (₹16,600 crore), Bank of Baroda (₹14,400 crore), Indusind Bank (₹8,800 crore), Canara Bank (₹6,100 crore) and Punjab National Bank (₹8,400 crore) have high exposures to the telecom sector.

These debts, however, are not classed as non-performing assets (NPAs or bad loans).

Banks do not reveal client specific information and queries sent to them on their loans disbursed to the telecom sector did not elicit any response. The Union Bank of India which has loaned ₹15,200 crore to the sector said it does not have any outstanding on account of Airtel or Vodafone Idea. Bank CMD Raj Kiran Rai its exposure is among the public sector undertakings (PSUs) and not in the privately-run Airtel and Vodafone Idea.

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank have ₹4,700 crore and ₹1,600 crore exposure to the telecom sector, while RBL Bank has lent the telcos ₹500 crore. There are other telecom companies who have to pay dues to the Department of Telecom but are defunct now or have been acquired.

## Reliance reports record quarterly net profit of ₹11,640 crore in Q3

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

India's most valuable company - Reliance Industries on Friday posted a record quarterly net profit of ₹11,640 crore as a turnaround in oil refining business together with the continued rise in the share of its consumer businesses of retail and telecom countered lower profitability in petrochemicals.

The oil-to-telecom conglomerate, led by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani, reported a net profit of ₹11,640 crore, or ₹18.4 per share, in October-December, up from ₹10,251 crore, or ₹17.3 a share, in the same period of the previous financial year, the company said in a statement.

This is the highest quarterly net profit earned by any private company, surpassing its own previous best of ₹11,262 crore in the July-September

## BUSINESS CORNER

### SUBODH GUPTA, DIRECTOR (FINANCE), BHEL, RECOGNISED FOR HIS FINANCE LEADERSHIP

New Delhi: Subodh Gupta, Director (Finance), Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been awarded the "TOP RANKERS Excellence Award 2020" for Best Finance Professional of the year. The award has been conferred on Gupta in recognition of his finance leadership. Gupta has been instrumental in revamping the financial systems and procedures in the company and ensuring best corporate practices. The award was presented to Gupta at the 21st National Management Summit being held in New Delhi.



### PFC ISSUES SENIOR UNSECURED USD BONDS

New Delhi: Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), the leading NBFC in power sector, successfully carried out the issuance of 10.25 year \$750 million bonds on 15th January 2020 under Reg S & 144 A route. The bonds have a fixed coupon of 3.95 per cent p.a. and a yield of 4.066 per cent. With this offering, PFC becomes the first Indian Public Sector Company to issue senior unsecured USD bonds with a tenure of more than 10 years. This is also PFC's third international bond issuance in FY 19-20 as well as PFC's largest single tranche bond. The final order book amounted to more than \$2.2 billion, attracting active and wider participation from investors across US, European and Asian markets, with around 42 per cent participation from the US market.

## Amazon to create one million jobs in India by 2025, says Jeff Bezos

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World's largest online shopping platform Amazon on Friday announced plans to create one million new jobs in India over the next five years as it firefights comments from Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on the firm not doing a favour to the country by making the investments.

Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, in a statement on Friday, said the company plans to create one million new jobs in India over the next five years. The new jobs — created both directly and indirectly — will be across industries, including IT, skill development, content creation, retail, logistics, and manufacturing.

These jobs are in addition to the seven lakh jobs Amazon's investments have enabled over the last six years in the country.

The statement comes a day after Goyal said the US-based company was not doing a favour to the country by the investments, and questioned how the online retailing major could incur such "big" losses but for its predatory pricing.

Bezos, who is in India this week, had on Wednesday



announced \$1 billion (over ₹7,000 crore) investment in the country to help bring small and medium businesses online and committed to exporting \$10 billion worth of India-made goods by 2025.

"We've seen huge contributions from our employees, extraordinary creativity from the small businesses we've partnered with, and great enthusiasm from the customers who shop with us - and we're excited about what lies ahead," Bezos said in the statement on Friday.

The company noted that the Indian government has prioritised job creation and skilling initiatives — including the training of more than 400 million people by 2022 — in rural and urban areas.

## China's economy slumps to 6.1% in 2019; lowest in 29 yrs

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's GDP grew by 6.1 per cent last year, the lowest in 29 years, the Government said on Friday, as sluggish domestic demand and the bruising 18-month trade war with the US seriously impacted the world's second-largest economy.

The new GDP data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) comes a day after China and the US signed

## Global equities burst higher on trade deal

AFP ■ LONDON

Global equities rose Friday as investors, still buoyed by a landmark China-US trade deal, turned their focus to the earnings season and the global outlook, while also cheered by Chinese economic data.

In early afternoon European trade, London rose 1.0 per cent, Frankfurt jumped 0.7 per cent and Paris added 0.9 per cent, aided by news that China's economy appears to be stabilising.

"Stock markets in Europe are higher this morning as the bullish move in Asia overnight has influenced traders in this part of the world," said CMC Markets analyst David Madden.

"China released some broadly positive economic reports, which has boosted sentiment around the globe."

All three main indexes on Wall Street ended at record highs Thursday, boosted by the Senate's approval of a new North American free-trade deal, while Google parent Alphabet joined Apple and

## Global equities burst higher on trade deal

AFP ■ LONDON

Microsoft to become a trillion-dollar firm for the first time.

The positive energy fuelled through to Asia, where Hong Kong gained 0.6 per cent, Tokyo ended 0.5 per cent higher, Shanghai rose 0.1 per cent and Sydney added 0.3 per cent. Apart from last week's blip caused by the US assassination of Iran's top general, markets have enjoyed a strong start to the new decade, building on the rally of late 2019.

The gains have been fanned by the "phase one" trade agreement as well as signs of improvement in worldwide economies, lower interest rates, government stimulus and easing Brexit concerns.

And with the prospect of a healthy batch of company reports, there are hopes for further advances.

"It's very hard to be bearish here," Linda Duessel, at Federated Investors Management, told Bloomberg TV. "We could have really good earnings surprises to the upside" as more profit reports roll in, she said.

## IRDAI chief cautions insurers against predatory pricing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) chairman SC Khuntia on Friday cautioned insurers against indulging in predatory pricing, saying it is not a sustainable model while citing examples of airline and telecom sectors.

Highlighting that the insurance industry is different from other business, he said if an insurer fails, it has bearing on customers as well.

"I would like to give a word of caution here. Though your (insurance brokers) share is very high in group health insurance, the loss ratio in group health insurance is also very high. Probably, it is not very sustainable at present," he

said at an event organised by Insurance Brokers Association of India here.

"So the insurance companies, intermediaries and policyholders need to unite to create a sustainable atmosphere. In other industries if there is unfair competition, the industry suffers but the clientele don't suffer. While this has happened in airlines and telecom industries but we cannot afford that kind of a situation in the insurance industry because insurance is an industry for protection," he said.

"So if the industry suffers, then clientele also suffers. And as a regulator we would not like that to happen. One should not overcharge and also not undercharge," he said.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Gangan Deep Singh**, S/o Kripal Singh, R/o A-22, Gali No. 07, Sanjay Nagar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 14/01/2020. In this regard D.D. No. 18-A, dated 14/01/2020 has been registered at P.S. Mahender Park, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped man is as under:



Gangan Deep Singh

**Name:** Gangan Deep Singh, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Charee colour jacket, black colour shirt, blue colour jeans and blue colour shoes in his feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped man, kindly inform SHO/Mahender Park, Delhi. E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax : 011-24368639 SHO P.S. Mahender Park, Delhi Ph. No.: 011-27632501, 27630203 DP/9681/NW/2020

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely **Ram Sanjivan S/o Late Sh. Ramdhan R/o H.No.1557/1558, J-Block, Jahangir Puri, Delhi Aged-72** Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 01.12.2019 vide DD No.06A Dated 22.12.2019 registered at Police Station Mahendra Prak, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

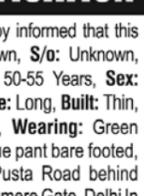


Ram Sanjivan

**Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Yellow coloured shirt, Black coloured pajama, sky coloured jacket and slipper in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped male, may inform SHO, Mahendra Park, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Mahendra Park, Delhi DP/9680/NW/2020 Tel.: 011-27632501, 27632502

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 50-55 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Green Checkard Shirt and blue pant bare footed, Near Power House Pusta Road behind Faridabad Bus stand Yamuna Bazar Kashmere Gate, Delhi In this regard a DD No.06-A, dated 11.01.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.



SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123 DP/890/N/2020

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sachin, S/o Singhshen, R/o Jhuggi No. 230, Near Balmiki Mandir, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** is involved in case FIR No. 433/18 & 437/18, u/s 457/411 IPC & 25 Arms Act, at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sachin**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sachin**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant) Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sachin**, in case FIR No. 433/18 & 437/18, u/s 457/411 IPC & 25 Arms Act, at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi is required to appear on this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 18.02.2020. By Order **Sh. Vaibhav Mehta** Metropolitan Magistrate - 05 (North), Court Room No. 114, 1st Floor Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/934/ON/2020-(Court Matter)

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Anuradha W/o Sh. Arjun and Sh. Arjun Mehlawat S/o Sh. Attar Singh R/o Flat No. 10/289, Sai Apartment, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 2548/15, U/s 354/509/506/323/34 IPC & 2 PCO Act at P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Anuradha and Arjun Mehlawat** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Anuradha and Arjun Mehlawat** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Anuradha and Arjun Mehlawat** of FIR No. 2548/15, U/s 354/509/506/323/34 IPC & 2 PCO Act at P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.02.2020. By Order **Ms. Jyoti Kler** Additional Session Judge-05, Room No. 605, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi DP/5918/SD/2020

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Praveen Kumar S/o Satish Kumar, R/o H. No. 164, Devli Village, New Delhi** is involved in case FIR No. 187/16 u/s 420/34 IPC, P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Praveen Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Praveen Kumar** 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 **Praveen Kumar**, case FIR No. 187/16 u/s 420/34 IPC, P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi is required to appear in this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.02.2020. By Order **Sh. Anuj Kumar Singh** Metropolitan Magistrate Saket Court, New Delhi DP/5905/SD/2020-(Court Matter)

# Market ends flat; banks slide on NPA concerns after SC's AGR ruling

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market gauges Sensex and Nifty gave up early gains to close on a flat note on Friday as investors moved to the sidelines amid concerns that the Supreme Court ruling on telecom AGR issue might further aggravate stressed assets problem in the banking sector.

At the closing bell, the BSE benchmark Sensex was up 12.81 points or 0.03 per cent at 41,945.37. The index also marked its new all-time high of 42,063.93 in intraday trading, before surrendering some of its gains.

The broader Nifty, however, settled 3.15 points or 0.025 per cent lower at 12,352.35. The NSE barometer too touched its life-time intraday peak of 12,385.45 in early deals before losing momentum.

During the week, the Sensex advanced 345.65 points or 0.83 per cent; while the Nifty rose 95.55 points or 0.77 per cent.

In a session marked by high volatility, gains in Reliance Industries offset losses in other heavyweights HDFC, ICICI Bank and TCS.

On the Sensex chart, Bharti Airtel was the top gainer, rallying 5.47 per cent, after experts said the Supreme Court's rejection

of a review of its order that put ₹1.47 lakh crore liability of past dues on telcos, will weaken Vodafone Idea's ability to compete in the Indian market; in turn, providing an opportunity for Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio to gain market share.

Shares of Vodafone Idea plunged 25.21 per cent. Ahead of their quarterly earnings, Reliance Industries and HCL Tech advanced up to 2.79 per cent, while TCS fell 0.79 per cent.

Heavyweight HDFC dropped 1.23 per cent. In percentage terms, IndusInd Bank, SBI, HDFC, ICICI Bank and L&T were among the top losers.

On the contrary, Bharti Airtel, Reliance, Sun Pharma, HCL Tech and Maruti Suzuki emerged as major gainers.

Sectorally, BSE banking, metal, finance, capital goods and IT indices fell up to 0.78 per cent. While energy, telecom, healthcare, consumer durables, power and auto indices rose up to 1.79 per cent.

In the broader market, BSE midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.54 per cent.

"As anticipated, mid and small caps are outpacing the broader market... Main indices are impacted by Supreme Court verdict on

AGR, having an effect on telecom and banking sectors which are already facing NPA problem. The pre-budget rally has been very solid on a month-on-month basis, market may consolidate in the short-term and take cues from the actual budget and ongoing results," Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed review petitions filed by telecom companies against its October 24, 2019 order that asked for inclusion of non-telecom revenues for calculating statutory dues such as licence fee and spectrum usage charge.

Dues, which total to ₹1.47 lakh crore for 15 telecom companies including Airtel and Vodafone Idea, as per the October order, have to be paid by January 23.

According to traders, domestic investors are awaiting directional cues from key corporate results for cues amid concerns over higher bank non-performing assets and a spike in retail inflation.

"Global markets witnessed a strong rally as easing trade tensions and promising economic data buoyed the sentiments. Indian markets too ended the week with strong gains especially in midcaps

and small caps. Midcap and small caps have significantly outperformed the Nifty... We are seeing strong traction in the broader market with revived risk appetite among investors ahead of Budget, Hemang Kapasi, portfolio manager (equity investment products) at Sanctum Wealth Management, said.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended higher. European markets also started on a positive note.

Brent crude oil futures rose 0.36 per cent to USD 64.86 per barrel.

## RUPEE DROPS 15 PAISE

The Indian rupee dropped 15 paise to close at 71.08 against the US dollar on Friday amid strengthening of the American currency overseas and rising crude prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 70.98 to the US dollar and lost further momentum to touch a low of 71.10. It finally settled the day at 71.08, showing a fall of 15 paise over its previous close.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell by 0.17 per cent to 97.48.

During the week the rupee has depreciated by 14 paise.

# Vodafone Idea's ability to compete in Indian market may weaken: Moody's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the Supreme Court rejecting a review of its order that put ₹1.47 lakh crore liability of past dues on telecom firms, Vodafone Idea's ability to compete in the Indian market is likely to weaken and this will provide an opportunity for Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio to gain market share, Moody's Investors Service said on Friday.

"The financial burden will likely further weaken Vodafone Idea's ability to compete in the Indian market, potentially providing an opportunity for competitors Bharti and Jio to gain market share," the US-based agency said.

Moody's further added: "While a fresh blow, the judgment is no real surprise and Bharti had already made provisions to help offset the impact on its balance sheet. Nevertheless, the impact on its credit profile will likely be significant, with both debt and leverage set to rise."

Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea are evaluating filing a curative petition before the apex court for relaxation on penalties and payment deadline. In a statement, Bharti Airtel, which faces a liability of nearly ₹35,586 crore, said it was disappointed by the order and was now "evaluating filing a

curative petition". Vodafone Idea, which has to pay ₹53,038 crore, said it was also "exploring further options, including filing of a curative petition".

## MOODY'S PLACES YES BANK'S RATINGS UNDER REVIEW

Moody's Investors Service has placed Yes Bank's long-term foreign currency issuer rating of B2 under review, with the direction uncertain, citing "slowness in raising new capital".

"The placing of Yes Bank's deposit rating of B2 under review reflects Moody's expectation that the bank's standalone viability is getting increasingly challenged by its slowness in raising new capital," the US-based agency has said in a statement.

It further said the potential credit risk to the bank's senior creditors is uncertain, because there are a number of diverse scenarios that could affect the rating in either positive or negative directions.

Yes Bank is in discussions with a number of investors to raise new equity capital, which would be credit positive if executed successfully, Moody's said adding that "if the bank successfully recapitalises and repairs and cleans its balance sheet, its ratings could stabilise or face upward pressure".

# TCS Q3 net profit marginally up

Mumbai (PTI): Country's largest software services major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Friday reported a muted 0.2 per cent growth in consolidated net profit at ₹8,118 crore for the third quarter ended December 2019. This is against a net profit of ₹8,105 crore in the year-ago period, TCS said in a BSE filing.

Revenue of the city-based firm grew 6.7 per cent in the quarter under review to ₹39,854 crore from ₹37,338 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal, it added.

"We saw the sectoral trends of the first half of the year continue to play out in the third quarter. Our robust order book during the quarter reflects our ability to pitch innovative technology solutions to address the business needs of different stakeholders in the enterprise, and participate in our customers' enterprise-wide transformation initiatives," TCS CEO and managing director Rajesh Gopinathan said in a statement. This is helping deepen and broaden the company's customer relationships and make the business more resilient, he added.

The TCS board has declared a third interim dividend of ₹5 per equity share of ₹1 each of the company.

## HCL TECH Q3 NET PROFIT RISES 13% TO ₹2,944 CR

New Delhi (PTI): IT major HCL Technologies on Friday posted a 13 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at ₹2,944 crore for the December 2019 quarter. The company had registered a net profit of ₹2,605 crore in the year-ago period as per Indian Accounting Standards, HCL Technologies said in a statement.

Its revenue from operations grew 15.5 per cent to ₹18,135 crore in the quarter under review, from ₹15,699 crore in the year-ago period. The company has revised its revenue growth outlook to 16.5-17 per cent for 2019-20 from its previous forecast of 15-17 per cent topline growth in constant currency terms.

HCL Technologies' board has declared a dividend of ₹2 per share.

"We continue our stellar performance over the years and have now crossed a revenue run rate of USD 10 billion this quarter. Our revenues have grown 16.4 per cent year-on-year in constant currency and we have delivered a strong 20.2 per cent earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)," HCL Technologies President and CEO C Vijayakumar said. He added that within two quarters of its inception, HCL Software has already onboarded 4,600 customers. "I am pleased that our results continue to validate and reinforce our growth, profitability and investment strategies," Vijayakumar said.

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	12328.40	12385.45	12321.40	12352.35	-3.15
BHARTIARTL	475.10	503.85	475.10	499.80	25.90
DRREDDY	2944.40	3049.00	2940.00	3026.80	89.35
RELIANCE	1553.50	1584.95	1552.30	1581.00	43.10
GRASIM	715.00	722.00	711.00	767.90	11.85
SUNPHARMA	448.20	456.25	446.00	454.75	5.70
HCLTECH	585.00	602.00	585.00	600.50	7.25
MARUTI	7469.00	7569.90	7432.55	7550.85	88.20
BAJAJFINSV	9614.00	9740.30	9601.00	9725.00	102.85
ONGC	124.55	125.55	124.00	125.40	0.90
HINDUNILVR	2055.00	2063.90	2040.05	2061.95	12.70
ULTRACEMCO	4440.00	4522.40	4411.30	4495.00	22.65
NESTLEIND	15399.00	15600.00	15388.65	15428.20	73.30
HEROMOTOCO	2445.00	2474.90	2421.60	2445.00	10.50
POWERGRID	195.95	197.35	195.65	197.30	0.85
HINDALCO	209.50	212.00	208.15	210.10	0.45
M&M	566.80	574.00	565.15	568.50	1.05
WIPRO	252.00	253.90	249.65	250.80	0.40
BAIFINANCE	4217.00	4242.00	4202.00	4224.15	3.90
INFY	770.70	772.90	762.25	767.45	0.45
AXISBANK	734.85	742.45	730.85	737.70	0.40
ASIANPAINT	1835.60	1838.90	1815.00	1836.00	0.85
TATASTEEL	493.30	498.90	491.90	494.00	0.80
ZEE	279.65	284.25	277.40	279.65	-0.05
BAJAJ-AUTO	3112.00	3138.00	3098.00	3110.50	-1.60
CIPLA	480.00	482.95	476.55	479.95	-0.30
UPL	589.95	592.35	585.90	587.50	-0.60
KOTAKBANK	1703.90	1705.85	1690.10	1699.00	-2.55
NTPC	121.45	121.70	120.60	121.10	-0.35
ITC	240.75	242.10	239.40	239.95	-0.80
TATAMOTORS	197.25	199.45	195.70	196.70	-0.85
TITAN	1194.80	1196.85	1184.00	1186.20	-6.70
TECHM	783.50	786.75	775.50	778.05	-4.80
HDFCBANK	1281.75	1284.90	1271.90	1277.40	-10.25
TCS	2240.75	2253.35	2213.00	2220.00	-18.80
BRITANNIA	3155.00	3169.00	3114.35	3120.00	-30.25
COALINDIA	210.00	210.55	206.10	208.10	-2.15
EICHERMOT	21509.05	21770.00	21103.55	21292.25	-244.00
LT	1320.60	1325.95	1302.00	1304.00	-15.30
HDFC	2467.75	2479.00	2448.25	2452.70	-29.40
ICICIBANK	534.50	538.00	530.60	530.65	-6.50
IOC	124.15	124.25	122.30	122.65	-1.50
ADANIPORTS	390.90	392.40	386.00	386.90	-4.95
JSWSTEEL	276.80	279.55	272.80	273.70	-3.75
YESBANK	37.60	39.55	37.00	39.30	-0.65
SBI	313.00	323.50	310.00	318.00	-5.30
BPCCL	462.00	462.25	452.00	453.80	-8.00
VEDL	162.70	162.70	159.00	159.35	-2.90
GAIL	126.90	127.40	122.75	126.00	-2.75
INDUSINDBK	1350.00	1377.00	1317.05	1350.55	-35.95
INFRADEL	218.75	228.60	210.25	216.00	-27.05

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	28957.30	29083.95	28929.25	29034.85	86.20
PEL	1551.00	1655.00	1550.50	1632.10	55.35
BOSCHLTD	14915.00	15409.95	14858.70	15400.00	574.75
SIEMENS	1537.00	1597.70	1537.00	1586.00	50.55
BERGEPAINT	548.00	566.00	546.00	560.30	15.55
DMART	1948.00	2000.00	1942.00	1997.15	51.10
AUROPHARMA	477.40	489.95	475.95	486.20	10.40
LUPIN	753.00	770.00	751.45	766.35	12.40
PAGEIND	25440.00	25997.00	25243.05	25820.00	351.50
OFSS	2866.05	2956.45	2859.40	2917.00	35.60
INDIGO	478.00	480.00	478.55	472.10	14.65
BANDHANBANK	145.00	148.90	145.15	148.55	4.70
DLF	257.00	262.00	256.90	260.05	1.90
BIOCIN	288.50	291.95	286.00	289.60	1.80
ASHOKLEY	83.35	84.75	83.10	84.05	0.50
PGHIL	11194.90	11339.95	11194.90	11260.00	65.10
HDFCAMC	3257.90	3270.40	3241.05	3260.80	16.00
DIVSILAB	1899.45	1913.85	1892.05	1908.00	9.00
LATHE	126.80	129.15	126.30	126.55	0.50
HINDZINC	217.00	219.60	216.35	216.05	0.85
UNIL	1293.50	1314.60	1288.90	1310.15	4.55
AMBUJACEM	209.65	212.40	208.60	210.45	0.70
ACC	1594.50	1522.60	1494.05	1509.00	4.20
DABUR	488.00	491.95	486.70	488.25	0.65
COLPAL	1511.95	1518.60	1509.00	1511.05	1.65
SHEREEN	2335.00	2366.40	2320.00	2328.00	-4.85
HINDPETRO	2180.00	252.70	246.85	250.05	-4.15
MARICO	349.00	353.95	348.10	348.85	-0.30
HAVELLS	639.50	651.60	637.70	638.70	-0.80
PNB	62.90	63.90	61.30	62.35	-1.10
HDFCLIFE	607.50	611.55	601.70	606.35	-1.15
NIACL	165.00	168.80	165.45	164.80	-0.40
BAJAJHLING	3416.60	3419.95	3375.95	3387.00	-8.95
BANKBARODA	96.00	98.25	95.10	97.30	-3.55
PIDILITIND	1453.50	1455.20	1434.20	1447.10	-5.55
GODREJCP	746.00	751.00	740.90	743.75	-3.00
DAHEPC	271.90	272.80	266.70	269.10	-1.10
ICICI	1415.00	1435.15	1396.00	1407.95	-6.85
SILIFE	999.00	1009.80	985.25	993.10	-6.60
CONCOR	557.90	560.55	552.35	554.40	-4.05
NMDC	130.10	131.35	129.15	129.55	-1.05
MCDOWELL-N	585.50	585.90	579.55	580.20	-4.65
PETRONET	274.95	276.25	270.40	273.30	-2.85
PFC	123.00	123.40	121.60	122.10	-1.25
SRTANSFIN	1099.50	1111.95	1084.65	1087.10	-12.05
IBULHSFIN	306.40	311.00	303.15	303.80	-3.70
NIACL	250.40	246.00	242.40	243.30	-3.00
GICRE	290.40	264.15	256.20	257.30	-3.80
ICICIRULI	490.10	492.70	480.00	481.95	-10.25
MOTHERSUMI	143.20	143.20	139.25	140.05	-3.20
IDEA	5.40	5.40	4.65	4.45	-1.55

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	TVSMOTOR	782.85	786.75	775.60	778.30
DRREDDY	2943.05								

# US PRESIDENT impeachment

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Senate opened the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump with quiet ceremony Thursday — senators standing at their desks to swear an oath of “impartial justice” as jurors, House prosecutors formally reciting the charges and Chief Justice John Roberts presiding.

The trial, only the third such undertaking in American history, is unfolding at the start of the election year, a time of deep political division in the nation. Four of the senators sitting in judgment on Trump are running for the Democratic Party's nomination to challenge him in the fall.

“Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye!” intoned the Senate's sergeant at arms, calling the



proceedings to order just past noon. Senators filled the chamber, an unusual sight in itself, sitting silently under strict rules that prohibit talking or cellphones, for a trial that will test not only Trump's presi-

street from the Supreme Court to the Capitol.

He has long insisted judges are not politicians and is expected to serve as a referee for the proceedings. Senators rose quickly when he appeared in his plain black robe.

“Will all senators now stand, and remain standing, and raise their right hand,” Roberts said. “Do you solemnly swear that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of Donald John Trump, president of the United States, now pending, you will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws, so help you God?” The senators responded they would, and then they lined up to sign an oath book.

Trump faces two charges after the House voted to

impeach him last month. One, that he abused his presidential power by pressuring Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, using military aid to the country as leverage. Trump is also charged with obstructing Congress' ensuing probe.

The President insists he did nothing wrong, and he dismissed the trial anew on Thursday at the White House, “It's totally partisan. It's a hoax.”

Eventual acquittal is expected in the Republican-controlled Senate. However, new revelations are mounting about Trump's actions toward Ukraine. The Government Accountability Office said Thursday that the White House violated federal law in withholding the security assistance to Ukraine, which shares a border with hostile Russia.

At the same time, an indicted associate of Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, Lev Parnas, has turned over to prosecutors new documents linking the president to the shadow foreign policy being run by Giuliani.

The developments applied fresh pressure to senators to call more witnesses for the trial, a main source of contention that is still to be resolved. The White House has instructed officials not to comply with subpoenas from Congress requesting witnesses or other information. “What is the president hiding? What is he afraid of?” asked Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

“The gravity of these charges is self-evident,” he said. “The House of Representatives has accused the president of trying to shake down a foreign leader for personal gain.” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the new information from Parnas demands an investigation, which she doesn't expect from Trump's attorney general.

“This is an example of all of the president's henchmen, and I hope that the senators do not become part of the president's henchmen.”

Before the swearing-in, House Democrats prosecuting the case stood before the Senate and Rep. Adam Schiff of the Intelligence Committee formally read the articles of impeachment.

Seven lawmakers, led by Schiff and Rep. Jerrold Nadler of the Judiciary Committee, made the solemn walk across the Capitol for a second day.

# Trump's trial begins at start of election yr

# GLOBE TROTTING

## PUTIN TO ATTEND LIBYA PEACE CONFERENCE

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin will take part in a peace conference on Libya in Germany on Sunday, as world powers step up efforts to find a lasting ceasefire. Ahead of the peace conference Libya's military strongman Khalifa Haftar, who Moscow is accused of supporting in Libya's conflict, thanked Putin for his peace efforts, the Kremlin said.

## RUSSIA'S FM SLAMS 'AGGRESSIVE' US POLICIES

Moscow: Russia's foreign policy chief on Friday blamed what he described as “aggressive” US policies for growing global tensions, noting Washington's reluctance to extend a key nuclear arms pact. Sergey Lavrov, who serves as acting foreign minister in the wake of Wednesday's resignation of the Russian Cabinet, said this week's meeting of top U.S. and Russian diplomats on strategic stability didn't achieve any immediate results, adding that “dialogue is continuing.” Russia-US relations have been at post-Cold War lows since Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea.

## US WARSHIP SAILS THROUGH TAIWAN STRAIT

Taipei: A US warship has sailed through the Taiwan Strait, mainland and Taipei officials said Friday, the first such passage since the island resoundingly rejected its independence-leaning president. The warship was on a “routine mission” on Thursday, Taiwan's defence ministry said, as it traversed the stretch of water that divides the self-ruling island from the authoritarian Chinese mainland.

## 'MORE THAN 9L PEOPLE SPEAK IN HINDI IN US'

Washington: More than nine lakh people speak Hindi in the US, a top Indian diplomat has said, as the Indian Embassy here conducts free Hindi classes for Americans and foreign nationals. Happy to note that Hindi is spoken and taught widely in the US, Amit Kumar, Charge d' Affairs, Indian Embassy here, said in his remarks during the 'Vishva Hindi Divas' celebrations at the Indian Embassy. He also said Hindi is taught in many schools in the US.

## CHINA BIRTH RATE HITS LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 1949

Beijing: China's birth rate dropped last year to its lowest level since the Communist country was founded in 1949, adding to concerns that an ageing society and shrinking workforce will pile pressure on a slowing economy.

# Ukraine PM offers to resign after leaked recording

AFP ■ KIEV

Ukraine's Prime Minister offered his resignation on Friday after audio was leaked of him questioning President Volodymyr Zelensky's grasp of economics, in the first major political test for the inexperienced leader.

It was unclear whether Zelensky would accept Oleksiy Goncharuk's offer, which came after a recording emerged of him reportedly saying the president had a “primitive understanding” of the economy.

Zelensky, a comedian with no previous political experience, came to power after a landslide election win last year and his “Servant of the People” party later won a strong majority in parliament.

He has been embroiled in the US impeachment process and faced tough talks with Russian President Vladimir

Putin, but had so far managed to avoid any significant domestic political problems.

The audio recording was leaked on social media on Wednesday and reportedly came from an informal December meeting between ministers and senior officials from the National Bank.

According to local media reports, the participants discussed how to explain recent economic developments to Zelensky. “Zelensky has a very primitive understanding of economic processes, or rather a simple understanding,” Goncharuk reportedly said on the recording, adding that he himself was an economic “ignoramus.”

After initially denying reports he would step down, Goncharuk announced on his official Facebook page on Friday that he had offered to resign.

# Iran's top leader strikes defiant tone amid month of turmoil

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader lashed out at Western countries as he led Friday prayers in Tehran for the first time in eight years, dismissing “American clowns” who he said pretend to support the Iranian nation but want to stick their “poisoned dagger” into its back.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei used his rare appearance at the weekly prayers to deliver a fiery address in which he insisted Iran would not bow to US pressure after months of crushing sanctions and a series of recent crises — from the killing of a top Iranian general to the accidental shooting down of a Ukrainian passenger plane.

Khamenei said the mass funerals for General Qasem Soleimani, who was killed in a US airstrike earlier this month, show that the Iranian people support the Islamic Republic despite its recent trials.

He said the “cowardly” hit on Soleimani had taken out the



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, centre, leads the Friday prayers at Imam Khomeini Grand Mosque in Tehran on Friday.

most effective commander in the battle against the Islamic State group.

In response to Soleimani's killing, Iran launched a barrage of ballistic missiles targeting US troops in Iraq, without causing serious injuries. Khamenei said the strike had dealt a “blow to America's image” as a superpower. In the part of his sermon delivered in Arabic, he said the “real punishment” would be in forcing the US to withdraw from the Middle

East.

After the missile strike, as Iran's Revolutionary Guard braced for an American counterattack that never came, it mistakenly shot down a Ukrainian jetliner shortly after takeoff from Tehran's international airport, killing all 176 passengers on board, mostly Iranians.

Authorities concealed their role in the tragedy for three days, initially blaming the crash on a technical problem. When

it came, their admission of responsibility triggered days of street protests, which security forces dispersed with live ammunition and tear gas.

## 'Bitter plane tragedy should not cloud Soleimani's sacrifice'

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader called the accidental downing of a Ukrainian airliner a “bitter” tragedy on Friday but said it should not overshadow the “sacrifice” of a top commander killed in a US drone strike.

“The plane crash was a bitter accident, it burned through our heart,” Khamenei said. “But some tried to... Portray it in a way to forget the great martyrdom and sacrifice” of Major General Qasem Soleimani, the head of the foreign operations arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

“Our enemies were as happy about the plane crash as we were sad... Happy that they found something to question the Guards, the armed forces, the system.”

## Rouhani: Iran wants dialogue, working to 'prevent war'

Tehran: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Friday he wants to avoid war after Tehran and Washington appeared on the brink of direct military confrontation in early January for the second time in less than a year. Ahead of parliamentary elections on February 21 — predicted to be a challenge for Rouhani's camp — and amid high tensions between Tehran and the West over Iran's nuclear programme, the president said dialogue with the world was still “possible”.

“The Government is working daily to prevent military confrontation or war,” Rouhani said in a televised speech. The region seemed on the brink of new conflict earlier in January after the US killed top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in a drone strike in Baghdad, prompting Iran to retaliate against US military targets in Iraq with a volley of missiles days later. AFP

## Xi vows ties with Myanmar to new level as China eyes opening into Indian Ocean

PTI ■ NAY PYI TAW

President Xi Jinping on Friday vowed to take China's ties with Myanmar to a “new level” during his maiden visit, which aims at boosting the Communist giant's investments in mammoth infrastructure projects, including a USD 1.3-billion port deal that will provide Beijing a stepping stone to the Indian Ocean.

On his arrival in Myanmar, the first by a Chinese leader in 19 years, President Xi received a royal welcome with two fighter jets escorting his plane after it entered the country's airspace. As his plane touched down in Nay Pyi Taw, children presented him flowers before he was whisked off to a greeting party, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Huge portraits of the Chinese President and banners celebrating the China-Myanmar friendship and cooperation were put up along Xi's route from the airport to downtown.

According to Xinhua, Xi told Myanmar leaders that he was convinced that his visit will “take the bilateral ties to a new level and into a new era”.

China, which for decades has maintained close ties with Myanmar military even when the Myanmar State Counsellor, Suu Kyi, was incarcerated for years, has again become an important ally to fend off global isolation of Nay Pyi Taw in the wake of the Rohingya crisis.

## Once-submerged island ready for Rohingya: B'desh

AP ■ DHAKA

A Bangladeshi island regularly submerged by monsoon rains is ready to house 100,000 Rohingya refugees, but no date has been announced to relocate people from the crowded and squalid camps where they've lived for years, officials said Thursday.

Flood protection embankments, houses, hospitals and mosques have been built on Bhasan Char, or floating island, in the Bay of Bengal, officials said.

“Bhasan Char is ready for habitation. Everything has been put in place,” Bangladesh refugee, relief and repatriation commissioner Mahub Alam Talukder told The Associated Press.

The island is built to accommodate 100,000 people, just a fraction of the million Rohingya Muslims who have fled waves of violent persecution in their native Myanmar.

About 700,000 people came after August 2017, when the military in Buddhist-majority Myanmar began a harsh crackdown against Rohingya in response to an attack by insurgents. Global rights groups and the UN called the campaign ethnic cleansing involving rapes, killings and torching of thousands of homes.

Foreign media have not been permitted to visit the island. Saleh Noman, a Bangladeshi freelance journalist who recently visited, described a community emerging there.

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE					
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	DIVISION, PATNAHABAD	1466/10-A DATED: 31/12/2019	Postponed on Technical Ground and further Opening of tender on dated 27.01.2020	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	senfatelabaddac@gmail.com
2	HPGCL, PANCHKULA	11/CF/PLG/WY/SP/271/VOL-II DATED 29.10.2019	The due date of bid submission is extended up to 29.01.2020 till 13.00 hrs and opening of Part-I (Technical-commercial Bid) shall be on 31.01.2020 at 13.00 hrs. (Please check department website for further details)	www.hpgcl.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-5022439 rajesh_verma@hpgcl.org.in ce@hpgcl.org.in
3	HVPNL PANCHKULA	10/CCD-274 DATED 20.12.2019	The last date of online bid submission is extended up to 24.01.2020	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in https://www.hvpnl.org.in	0172-2583786 rc@hvpnl.org.in
4	HPGCL, PANCHKULA	TENDER ID - 2019_HRC_110592_1 TENDER REFERENCE NO. 249/CORRIGENDUM - 1 DATED 13.12.2019 CORRIGENDUM - 2 DATED 20.12.2019 CORRIGENDUM - 3 DATED 10.12.2019 CORRIGENDUM - 4 DATED 04.01.2020 TENDER ID - 2019_HRC_110592_1	Clarifications regarding bidding documents. (Please check department website for further details).	www.hpgcl.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-5022439 ce@hpgcl.org.in nimanshu_dutta@hpgcl.org.in
5	HPGCL, PANCHKULA	TENDER REFERENCE NO. 249/CORRIGENDUM - 1 DATED 13.12.2019 CORRIGENDUM - 2 DATED 20.12.2019 & CORRIGENDUM - 3 DATED 30.12.2019	Clarifications regarding bidding documents. (Please check department website for further details).	www.hpgcl.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-5022439 ce@hpgcl.org.in nimanshu_dutta@hpgcl.org.in
6	CAD DIVISION, HISAR	NO. 13-49/10-A DATED 01/01/2020	Postponed on Technical Ground and further Opening of tender on dated 24.01/2020	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	senhisarcad@gmail.com

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**  
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI - 110001

OA No. 587/18 Date: 06.01.2020

UCO BANK APPLICANT

MS. AARTI MALHOTRA & ORS. Versus RESPONDENT

TO, DEFENDANT

3. MISNIVAS PROMOTERS PVT. LTD.  
Plot No. 9F & 9G, KH No. 171, 2nd Floor 2A, Street No. 3, Wazirabad Extension, Wazirabad, Delhi-84

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.19,38,246/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Six Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 20.02.2020 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of this Tribunal,  
SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI

**Government of Maharashtra**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Construction Division (Special Project) Nagpur**

E-Mail:- constdivnagpur.ee@mahapwd.com Telephone No 0712-2562976

E-Tender Notice No. 56 Year 2019-20

**Subject:- Hybrid Annuity Mode, Upgradation of Roads Under Public Works Circle, Nagpur**

The Government of Maharashtra had entrusted to the Authority the development, maintenance and management of State Highways and Major District Roads of State of Maharashtra. The authority had resolved to augment the existing roads in the State of Maharashtra by improvement thereof (The "Project") on "Hybrid Annuity" basis and has decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of (a Private Entity) as the Bidder to whom the project may be awarded.

Brief particulars of the projects are as follows:-

Sr. No	Hybrid Annuity Mode Package No.	Name of work	Length (in Km.)	Estimated Cost (in Rs./Crore)
1	Package No.161,162	A) Construction of Kamplae-Ghorpad-Dhargaoon-Kapsi- Tarodi-Kheddi-Adka-Shioni Chikhali-Zarap-Varmbha-SH 341 Road (Under Annuity Length 39.00 KM.) Dist. Nagpur. B) Construction of S.H.341 Ajni-Lihgaon-Kadoli-Sawali-Umri-Wadoda-Asalwada-Kesori-Bhamewada-Chafegadi Road (Under Annuity Length 38.00 KM.) in Tah. Kamptee Dist. Nagpur.	77.00	Rs. 117.65 Crore

Tender Download: As per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>  
Tender pre -Bid Meeting :As per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>  
E-Tender Opening:- Online Time Table will be applicable and it will be Final.

1. All information of e-tendering is available on the following websites / Notes Board  
a) <http://www.mahapwd.com> (Informatory Notice) b) <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

2. The complete bid document can be viewed/ downloaded from a e-procurement portal as per online schedule and Bid must be submitted online only.

3. The e-procurement portal is given <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

4. E-Tender Schedule is per online tender schedule.

5. Online Schedule will be applicable and Final

6. Note:- a) Bid submitted through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, Proof of online payment of Cost of Bid Document, Power of Attorney and joint bidding agreement etc. as specified in Clause 2.11.2 of the RFP shall be submitted physically by the bidder as per online schedule please note that the Public Works Department reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

b) Other terms and conditions are detailed in online e-tender form. Right to reject any or all online bid of work, without assigning any reasons thereof, is reserved with department.

Outward No 130 /Tender/Dt. 10/01/2020

Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Construction Division (S.P.)  
Civil Lines Nagpur 440001

Sd/-  
(Satish Ambhore)  
Executive Engineer,  
Construction Division (S.P.)  
Nagpur

DGRPR/2019/2020/4529

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Sl.No.;** Tender No.; Name of the work; Tender value (₹); Cost of tender document (₹); Earnest money (₹); Period of completion (in months); [01]; Engg/41/2019-20; Providing colour coated sheet in Indoor Stadium; 27,27,510.30; 3,000.00; 54,600.00; 06 months [02]; Engg/42/2019-20; Making iron fencing wall in front of Environment Park at Chittaranjan; 14,48,509.65; 2,000.00; 29,000.00; 06 months [03]; Engg/43/2019-20; Diversion of water pipeline (loading line) from 'Y' bridge to Fatehpur OH tank; 95,36,070.80; 5,000.00; 1,90,700.00; 12 months [04]; Engg/44/2019-20; Renovation of Staff Quarters (D/S) at Jhlpahari (2nd phase); 38,57,331.45; 3,000.00; 77,200.00; 09 months [05]; Engg/45/2019-20; Construction of pucca drain along the boundary wall side of railway track to avoid water logging on track inside workshop.; 15,34,161.10; 2,000.00; 30,700.00; 04 months [06]; Engg/46/2019-20; Construction of Motor Cycle stand (50m x 7m) each near TO Gate, TM Gate & RK Gate.; 12,50,031.33; 2,000.00; 25,000.00; 06 months [07]; Engg/47/2019-20; Replacement of damaged slab over trench/ drain inside workshop.; 16,51,187.38; 2,000.00; 33,000.00; 06 months [08]; Engg/48/2019-20; Providing, fixing boulder pitching at upstream side of Fatehpur dam and providing proper spillway at Chittaranjan.; 19,85,320.83; 2,000.00; 39,700.00; 09 months [09]; Engg/49/2019-20; Providing additional 100 nos. Fire hydrant in fabricating and bogie shop formerly DLCF including office etc. at DKAE.; 30,86,845.39; 3,000.00; 61,700.00; 06 months. NOTE: (i) Date of closing-20.02.2020 at 13.00 hrs. (ii) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website: [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) & [www.cw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.cw.indianrailways.gov.in) (iii) [05]; Engg/45/2019-20; Construction of pucca drain along the boundary wall side of railway track to avoid water logging on track inside

9136640202. Divisional Engineer CLW/Chittaranjan RDS-289

Like us on: [www.facebook.com/cwrailways](https://www.facebook.com/cwrailways)

**NOTICE**  
**RELAXO FOOTWEARS LIMITED**  
(Regd. Office: Aggarwal City Square, Plot No. 10, Mangalam Place, District Centre, Rohini Sector - 3, Delhi-110085)

This is to inform to the general public that Original Share Certificates for 4000 shares in Folio No. RNE0001787 bearing Certificate Nos. 100187 and 103347 and Distinctive Nos. 192900 to 194985 and 9014296 to 6014495 respectively issued by Relaxo Footwears Limited in the name of Late Kamia Devi have been lost/misplaced and an application has been made by the successor Mr. Ram Lal Arora for the issuance of duplicate Share Certificates in respect of these shares.

Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares or objection to the issuance of duplicate Share Certificate shall lodge such claim or objection with the Company at its Registered Office within 7 (Seven) days from the publication of this notice or else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate Share Certificates in favour of the successor without any further delay.

Place: Delhi Date: 17.01.2020 By: Ram Lal Arora

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**CONSTRUCTION RELATED WORKS AT VADDODARA DIVISION**

Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vaddodara-390 004, invites E-tender as per the details given below: E-Tender No.: Dy.CE/CW/BRCC/CTD-Dhar/111 Name of the work: Construction of Station building, Service building, Platforms, platform wall, water tank staging, RCC overhead tank, sump, approach road, fencing, cover sheds, water supply arrangements, pump house, toilet blocks, water huts etc. with other ancillary works on new line project of CTD-DHAR section in connection with Construction of New BG line between Chhotaudapur-Dhar. Approx cost work: 3629.70 lakhs. EMD: 11964900/-

Availability of online Tender for bidding: From 21.01.2020 at 11.00 Hrs. To 04.02.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. Note-1) Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit: [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) 2) Opening of price Bid will be advised later on, after Technical suitability of the Bidders. Manual offers will not be considered.

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PUBLIC NOTICE / TENDER NOTICE							
Sr No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/ NT/ BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE/ TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL	TENDER REF. NO. / TENDER NO.
1	Chief Technology Officer	Appointment of an agency to Design, Develop and maintain an application for meter reading bill distribution and spot billing of Consumers for Haryana Discoms.	Closing date 03.02.2020 (upto 13:00 Hrs) Opening date 04.02.2020 (at 15:00 Hrs.)	2,00,000/-	etenders.hry.nic.in	9317554907 sprojects@ubnvn.org.in	29/MRBC/ Projects/2020

RO NO. 79941N Dt. 17-01-2020

SHORT CIRCUITS



**MALLIKA SHERAWAT**

The stay on hanging of Nirbhaya convicts is demoralising. No one can imagine what her parents must be going through. Earlier, for saying this, media said I'm tarnishing our country's image. But I love my country, which is why I draw attention to this issue. Nothing can be more important than women.



**JUHI CHAWLA**

I recall he (son) had mentioned to me that 500 million animals have been killed in the Australian bushfires and asked me 'What are you doing about it?' I said I'm helping plant trees in our country in the Cauvery Calling project. That was it. A day later he said 'I've sent 300 pounds from my pocket money. I hope it goes to right place.'



**RASIKA DUGAL**

I am the happiest when I am working and there is no better way to celebrate my birthday than doing what I love the most. *Delhi Crime* is a project which has been special in many ways. It makes me very happy to start the second season right after my birthday.



**IMTIAZ ALI**

I don't know what the relevance of love is, but I feel everything in the universe somehow moves because of it. If a man and a woman are in love, it is through it that the universe is moving around. I want to explore these things more. It's not easy to explain the knowledge of love that you had when you are young.

**EMMA WATSON**

Our closets impact the planet more than you can imagine, which is why I am proud to partner with ThredUP to launch new Fashion Footprint Calculator. They've created an easy-to-use tool. I'm so excited to help people discover the carbon impact of wardrobes and how many pounds of CO2 it produces.



ENCOUNTER 30 MINUTES

RHYTHM IS A DANCER

Indian contemporary choreographer ASTAD DEBOO talks about how his travels across the world have shaped his unique artform. By TEAM VIVA

◆ You were born in the same year as India. How have you seen it change?

Yes, 1947. But by the time I came back to India to introduce a new dance form, there was a lot of resentment in government cultural institutions, Ministry of Culture and even from classical gurus. As if what I did was perfidy. Not that people themselves weren't receptive to my experimental workshops, they were afraid that their gurus would get upset. I won't take any names but there were a lot of cases. It was my determination and perseverance that kept me going and I am grateful to the media as they spoke about my work.

Still the peer criticism was all around. A very established dancer once said that if somebody works once in a year, it is obvious that everyone will talk about it considering the big names did 30 to 40 shows in a year. Yet I derived much of my thematic strength from the many interpretations of Krishna or Shiva. In the beginning, few people in the audience and the ones who came were writers or musicians. Slowly, word got around. The best form of publicity is word-of-mouth. Everybody went happy and I stuck to my guns. In those early days, I spent six months here and six overseas. Though I have studied kathak and kathakali, there is not one complete *tukda* in the Indian classical style in my work. But I am using the technique.

Earlier I was a solo dancer and very energetic. But doing a slow movement and being in sync is more difficult than doing something fast. When I collaborate with somebody, something sparks during the process that I have never tried before. Because you need someone to trigger that. I worked with Bahauddin Dagar recently. We were talking. And he is a great artist. He said, "It is not just your show but our show. You are not accompanying me. We are working together to create something good."

◆ Talking about Jose Limon technique and the way it seems to defy gravity, how difficult is it to perfect, especially when you are using it in conjunction with Martha Graham?

I took these classes when I was already 24. When you are young, your body is supple. I imbibed only those things which my body could accept. So I cannot claim perfection in them. All that experience of how these school's practitioners worked with their bodies and their breath control influenced me deeply. This was a whole new teaching process. I studied a lot of dance forms and ended up using a lot of Balinese movements in my work. Then there is the Japanese *butoh*. All this experience has enriched me as an individual. When I start creating, I figure out which of my inspirations work or not.

◆ Mukhabhinay is an important part of your dance technique...

*Mukhabhinay* is something that is ingrained in me as I learnt it for 16 years. It comes naturally. *Abhinay* is used a lot but not all the time.

◆ You hitchhiked to the US. What made you do that? How have your travels contributed to your art?

I left the country in 1969 on a cargo ship with goats, sheep and other workers who would get off at Dubai or Bahrain. Eventually the voyage ended at Khorramshah in Iran. Till then I had had studied Indian classical dance, beginning with kathak. And then my father put the brakes. After all, he had at least let a Parsi person take dancing lessons in the first place. I then took up economics at Bombay University. Destiny called again as it was at this point of time that I watched an American dance company perform in the city. A new dimension of dancers as a collective using a defined space opened up before me. Nothing like that existed in India and my father didn't have the means to invest in my passion. The spirit of adventure was there and I just set off.

I hadn't considered hitch-hiking as rare because it was a part of the youth culture then. Nobody thought anything about travelling with strangers. But then there were robberies and murders, too. My magic trail took me from Iran, through Turkey, Greece, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Germany... till I took the ferry across to Dover. And then hitchhiked to London.

There was so much of living colour and monuments that I could have written a journal like the famous travellers have documented in history. A friend's daughter said she was so much in awe of my experience. But now many young people are doing it. But in a much different form. It is more hiking rather than hitchhiking.

I also wanted to study the piano but my father refused, saying if at all I wanted to master music, I could only play Indian classical instruments. Those days, it was hard and frus-



trating to be accepted as a liberal artiste but I had the support and blessings of my parents. I could come back to a happy home and that was a big blessing. Even today, many boys find it hard to rationalise their choice as performers. My father, on the other hand, said, "I am sorry we do not have enough connections to help you out" Had it been an unhappy home, I would not have been able to handle the rejections which I faced constantly.

My original plan was to go to the US but my papers were not in order. I travelled the world and explored different cultures for seven and a half years instead. I travelled to Canada and hitchhiked from Montreal to Vancouver. Then went east, crossed the ocean, went to Japan and stayed there for a year. I just hitchhiked, studied, absorbed and learnt. I went to Australia and New Zealand on a cheap budget. I looked at each day as a gift of meeting people. I stayed in a youth hostel picking up tips to survive.

◆ Is that why you connect to young people from varied backgrounds? You've also worked with hearing-impaired children and those from the Salaam Baalak Trust...

I worked with children of Salaam Baalak Trust and the drummers of Manipur. They wait for me to take them out, they are survivors and they have the instinct to explore.

I have worked with the deaf after I came across a friend who was working with a deaf theatre company in Kolkata. I was frustrated that I couldn't get enough dancers to do a workshop and then I thought why not try something new? I was not trained to work with them but learnt on the job. After a three-week workshop, it was possible to create an entire experience with them able to express themselves. I learnt so much from them like lip-reading and sign language. I use myself as a catalyst and then mentor and nurture them. They get confidence and become role models. All these kids were excited because they got a sense of achievement as they saw their photos. There was a sense of pride. I am not doing it for my glorification, am doing it so that I can demonstrate what can be done with hard work and perseverance.

◆ What keeps you young? While dancers half your age follow the set patterns, you keep extending your boundaries. Add to it Kathak and Kathakali.

I keep pushing myself physically and also picking up projects through which I can create awareness. I have been working for 14 years in Manipur. And Kathakali was always a group performance. Earlier, it was the martial arts and now it is the drummers. They just did their own demonstration. It wasn't really a full performance but it was all very fragmented. However, I brought them into my work while keeping their tradition intact. I still feel tradition is very important and it gives you grounding.

When something has a strong foundation, only then it can grow. One should be open to absorbing and looking at things with an open eye. In my new routine, two new boys who haven't worked with me before have been trained in *chhau*. It was a whole new process and experience for them since they had to sustain that position. But they have been open to it, because then you feel like you are wasting your time and also that of the person who wants you to be a part of the project.

◆ Your choice of venues have been eclectic to say the least, for instance, The Great Wall of China, amid artefacts in a museum and more...

People are used to watching a performance in a theatre. But when I select a space, it has to speak to me. For example, at Triveni I will have people sitting around me in an open air amphitheatre and I will perform within them. Some performances work better in an enclosed environment.

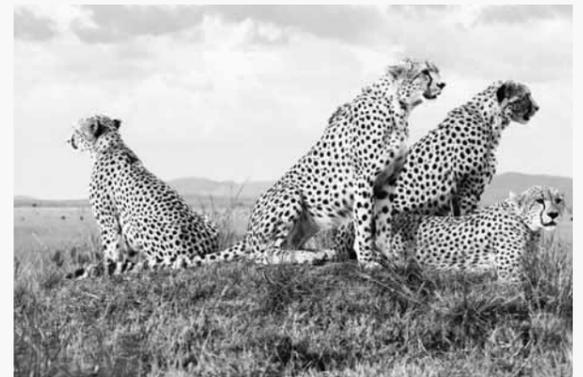
◆ What is your credo?

My movements must hypnotise you. I must be able to push my body and not do just what people do. I am doing a lot of work with my back. A lot of movement that involves just holding back and not falling. That becomes a new form of movement.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

**'I hadn't considered hitch-hiking as rare because it was a part of the youth culture initially. Nobody thought anything about travelling with strangers. And then there were robberies and murders, too. But my magic trail took me from Iran, through Turkey, Greece, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Germany and finally to Dover'**

STUDIO CHAT 15 MINUTES



It's a wild wild world

Wildlife photographer VIKRAM POTDAR says that the places with civilisations look more or less similar but nature is always different in different parts of the world. By TEAM VIVA

□ Share with us your insights on witnessing the wildlife across seven continents.

My insight in witnessing the world across seven continents is that if you visit any European city, you will find that the interiors of the city is similar to Helsinki or Berlin or Frankfurt, even Vienna, the inner city has cobblestone streets, Roman Gothic architecture and town halls. And if you go to the newly developed cities, you see glass facade, aluminum composite panel and contemporary styled buildings. But if you visit the flora and fauna, the forest and the countryside, those are unique. So I have found that the places with civilisations look more or less similar. But nature is always different in different parts of the world.

□ What has been your biggest takeaway from your journey around the world?

I have witnessed and observed habitat loss and melting of ice in polar regions. So the best way to preserve this natural wealth is to leave it alone. If we leave the nature as it is, it will certainly take its own course. That is the best way to preserve the wildlife.

□ How relevant do you find Sony BBC Earth's show *Seven Worlds, One Planet*?

I have earlier highlighted the similarity in urban areas and uniqueness in forests and jungles. So the variety of nature is a binding thread in all the seven worlds, or rather, I would say, wildlife binds all the continents together. This show on Sony BBC Earth aptly named as *Seven Worlds, One Planet* does justice to the natural wealth, surroundings, flora and fauna around us.

□ How has climate change affected the natural world around each of the continent?

The climate change has affected natural world quite a lot over the last 40 years, almost 30 to 40 per cent of bird and mammal population is wiped out. It is further going down due to the constant pressure on the habitats and natural resources. So the climate change effects are at an alarming rate.

□ What drove you to the world of wildlife? Tell us about your very first experience as a wildlife photographer?

Since childhood, I was very much fond of nature. But I seldom took out time to pursue my hobby as I was busy with nature of living, jobs, marriage and settlement. So I never really cared about my passion and what I really wanted to do. I was engrossed in daily chores of life. It was in 2006 when I visited Nagarhole National Park in South India, where I witnessed wild animals



— deers, elephants, Indian gaurs for the first time. That's when I realised that this is my destiny. This is what I wanted to do. And thereby wildlife photography started actually.

□ Have you watched any shows on Sony BBC Earth? If given an opportunity, would you be interested in being a part of any locally produced show?

I don't watch television much, but yes if opportunity is given, I would like to be a part of the show.

□ Can you share any memorable stories from any of the continents? Some anecdotes or incident you remember.

I went to Churchill in Northern Canada, Manitoba province to photograph polar bear mother and cub in the Dane. The temperature was minus 40 degree celsius. As I come from the tropical climate area, it was really difficult for me to stay in such a cold weather. But somehow, I managed by wearing six layers of heavy clothing and two layers of hand gloves. Even photography was quite a challenge there.

□ What do you think makes for a perfect wildlife shot?

Well, the taste of each photographer varies, but according to me, the best wildlife shot is the one which depicts the habitat. Over the years my signature style of photography has transformed into habitat sort, it means that the animal will be small in the frame. Suppose I'm shooting a tiger in the forest of Tadoba, then maybe 90 per cent of the frame will be the forest and 10 per cent will be tiger. So it will show the habitat of the Tiger. I don't like shooting tight frames, and portraits of animals which shows nothing but the animal. I like to show the habitat, the animal and the trees of the surrounding. So the best ever wildlife photography image is one depicts habitat and has some story in it.

(*Seven Worlds, One Planet* premieres on January 20, 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES

# LIGHTS, CAMERA, TRAVEL

ZAREEN KHAN's TV debut show, *Jeep Bollywood Trails*, is your chance at reliving Bollywood blockbusters through the locales they were shot at. By CHAHAK MITTAL



Did you feel like going on a trekking trip to Manali after watching *Yeh Jawaani Hai Diwani*? Or going on a family vacation to Kolkata after watching *Piku*? Or perhaps taking a trip to Leh Ladakh and visit the famous Pangong Lake after watching *3 Idiots*? Bollywood films have also been about their exotic shooting locations as much as they have been about their actors and dreamy plots. Remember the Swarovski Kristallwelten in Wattens, Austria, in *Chal Mere Bhai* where Salman Khan and Karishma Kapoor take a short detour? Also, Indian tourists flocking to Switzerland after watching the 1995 blockbuster *DDLJ (Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge)* is yet another example of how people have associated their aspirations with film locales. However, ever heard of the background stories of what went into the making of the film at such spots?

Actor Zareen Khan, who is set to make her small screen debut, will bring all such locations under one roof and meet the Bollywood directors of the films that have been shot there in AXN's *Jeep Bollywood Trails*. Hosting the show, she will travel across the length and breadth of India in a Jeep revisiting the exact locations where films like *3 Idiots*, *Jab We Met*, *Dhadak* and more were shot.

"I am so excited for the show to go on air since it's my TV debut and I have been a passionate traveller. I am going to relive the iconic locations featured in blockbuster films. It would be a delight for the audience to see

**"WE ARE SHOWCASING HOW BOLLYWOOD DIRECTORS HAVE TAKEN INSPIRATION FROM THE RICH HISTORY, CULTURE, PEOPLE AND NATURAL LANDSCAPES TO MAKE INDIAN DESTINATIONS WORTH A VISIT. THE FILMS HAVE IN A WAY GIVEN A SPECIAL IDENTITY TO THESE PLACES AS WELL"**

how film directors think of a certain location and make them part of their stories. It's exciting for me to weave together these stories for the audience. What more could I have asked for?" she says and laughs.

Discussing more about the show has to offer, she tells us that the series begins with her driving to Ladakh to revisit the Chail Palace, the Druk School and Pangong Lake, where *3 Idiots* was extensively shot. It features a discussion between her and director Rajkumar Hirani who talks about his early life and his love for mountains which inspired him to pick Ladakh as one of the locations for the film.

She adds, "From eating their favourite to going to their favourite spots in that city, the directors explore a lot more than just the film background in the show. And we are doing it all on wheels, while driving. I drive all over the country and when you are doing that, you get an even better experience of the location you're in."

The other locations and directors covered in the series are Manali for *Jab We Met* featuring Imtiaz Ali, Shimla for *Bang Bang* featuring Siddharth Anand, Varanasi for *Raanjhanaa* featuring Anand L Rai and Udaipur for *Dhadak* featuring Shashank Khaitan.

In a way, the show also aims at reviving the essence of a particular film through the location it was shot at. However, since old time classics have been a huge mirror to tourists making their way to such locations, shouldn't they have been included too? These are all recent contemporary films, Zareen agrees. She says, "Of course, but this is what the makers of the show decided as of now. But I am also sure that once it clicks with the audience, they are going to look into the past. Maybe when we get into the second season of the show, then they might choose some classics. Currently, we are aiming at

showcasing how these Bollywood directors have taken inspiration from the rich history, culture, people and natural landscapes to make all these destinations worth a visit. These films have in a way given a special identity to these places as well."

Travelling with a crew comes with its own challenges. On one hand, where Ladakh is about adventure and thrill, Udaipur, on the other, is more about history, heritage and culture. So how challenging it was to get accustomed to different places, varying in temperatures as well as ethnicity? Zareen says, "I think challenges double up for people when they are not frequent travellers. And if somebody who hasn't explored much was made a part of this show, s/he would have faced a lot of difficulty. But I have been an avid traveller and I am very well aware how different places have different joys to offer. And I just cherish that rather than looking at it as a challenge."

However, there was one time when it all seemed too difficult for Zareen.

She shares an anecdote, "When you are travelling to different places, there are so many things happening on the go. I remember that in Ladakh, it was a very challenging drive. We hadn't realised that while driving up the hill pass, we'll have to be really prepared for it. None of us were, neither with clothes nor with the vehicles. Of course, Jeep was head on but other cars weren't.

The more they went up, the more they started slipping back since the roads were on a slope and there was snow. Even though you have known that it's a difficult terrain, driving and experiencing it yourself makes you believe it. It was very difficult. We were freezing and almost exhausted while driving up the slopes for three hours. But then, finally, the moment we reached the Pangong Lake, we forgot all about it. It was worth all the hassle! And I think that's the beauty of travelling."

(The show will air every Saturday at 8 pm from January 25 on AXN.)



CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES

## The strangers' secrets

Actor CHRIS HEMSWORTH says that through his role in *Bad Times at the El Royale*, he wanted to highlight toxic masculinity in the world. Hence, there was something sexist about the character addicted to power and control. By TEAM VIVA

Set in the year 1969, *Bad Times at the El Royale*, revolves around the seven strangers and their seven secrets in search of their own identity or either running away from something. Each living in their own universe ends up to El Royale hotel near the California-Nevada border that carries a dark past. A series of events unfold at the hotel, the strangers become acquaintances by sharing their shady secrets. What happens next is robbery, surveillance, death, revenge, defiance, and survival.

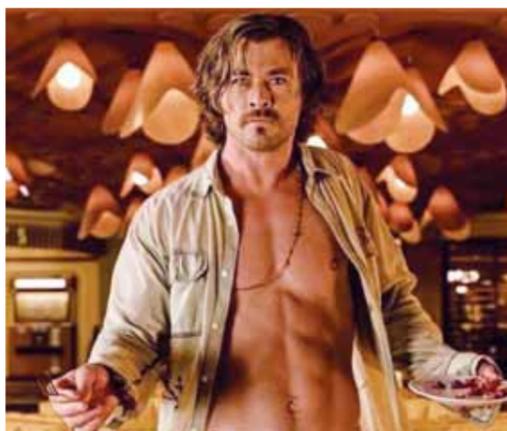
Chris Hemsworth views on his experience of working in this neo-noir thriller:

♦ **How did you land up with this role?**

I have known Drew Goddard from *The Cabin in the Woods*. We worked together years ago. One day when I contacted him, this film was in process. As I got to know about it, I immediately rang him and said, 'why you haven't offered this film to me?' I then read the script and right away said yes, lets go and never looked back. This was an opportunity for me to work with him again.

♦ **How was your experience working in the *Bad Times at the El Royale*?**

Before signing up for this film, I had a detailed look at the script. The idea of a neo-noir thriller film with such a storyline made me readily agree for a role. The whole shooting sequence went like bliss and was enjoyable due to the immense hard work put in by the entire team. The script is one of the best things I have ever read, the cast was incredible. I heard great things about the script and saw amazing work by the



cast. Everybody was in an integral place in this puzzle. Even if one person did not drop the ball or did not show up, it seemed as if there was something missing on the sets. I am very happy that everyone just put in so much for their roles. It is one of the most collaborated and enjoyable film set I have ever been on.

♦ **Tell us about your character and its challenges.**

I felt everything very different from what I have done before. Surprisingly, the role was easy may be due to such an amazing script. It signalled that you can't go anywhere else but on this terrain you got to roll the dice and take that kind of risk. Yes, it was very satisfying. Billy Lee, my character is a coke leader who is manipulative, and charismatic, which is kind of essential for the script. There had to be a sense of humour but also true set of manip-

♦ **What time is the film set in?**

The film is set in a hotel, where seven strangers have seven secrets, all searching for something, maybe an answer or object, trying to find who they are and what is their place in the world. But at the same time, they all collide which pretty much ends as a chaotic situation at the El Royale. The film is a beautiful shot with amazing soundtrack.

(The film is set to be previewed on Sunday, January 19 on Star Movies.)

American singer Gloria Gaynor sees the hand of god in every aspect of her life, particularly when it comes to the tune that may be the most famous disco song ever created.

She recalls when she first was presented with *I Will Survive*, it was intended to be the B-side of another song, meaning it wasn't the one that was promoted to be a hit. She clearly remembers calling it a stupid decision, and lobbied for *I Will Survive* to get top billing, which won over the songwriters of the now classic song. "I've always believed that god told them, 'Look, sit down, write a song, hold onto it, I'm going to send you somebody,'" she said. "Another divine appointment... it was meant to be the core of my purpose," she added.

Gaynor won her first and only Grammy for *I Will Survive* in 1980. Now, 40 years later, she has a chance to add two more trophies to her collection, thanks to her first gospel album *Testimony*, which is nominated for best roots gospel album, and *Talking About Jesus*, which is up for best gospel performance. She's giddy to get back in the Grammy mix.

"I'm waiting to see the fashions, of course, everybody all dressed and looking wonderful and feeling good and happy and all of that," she said of the January 26 ceremony, "and hoping, of course, that I win at least one Grammy. It will be awesome if I could win them both."

Gaynor shared recently about her nominations, persevering in the music industry despite health challenges and her divine connection to her most famous song.

♦ **What made you want to do a gospel album?**

I just wanted to share the love and the knowledge of Christ through my music. I felt that that was what I was called to do.

♦ **This album comprises of new material, some which you co-wrote; even the song *Amazing Grace* is a new tune. What made you decide to go that route?**

Well, I feel I've always been a bit innovative. I mean, if somebody writes a song that I want to sing and

## 'Well with my soul'

Singer GLORIA GAYNOR says that she always leaves the stage hoping that the audience has had as good a time as she did



♦ **This song has endured for so long, but have you ever been frustrated that this was your biggest song?**

At first I thought that this is a double-edged sword. People think I'm not able to sing anything else except *I Will Survive*. They don't want to hear anything else... I'm not sick of the song, but I wish they would recognise that I could do something else, that I've recorded so many other great songs. And then when I came to the understanding that it was the core of my purpose, I kind of settled in and was okay with it. As the song says, *It is well with my soul*.

♦ **You've faced a lot physically, with several back surgeries. How are you doing today?**

I've had five back surgeries and each one has stopped me for a minute... The last one threatened to stop me for good... With a lot of prayer and faith, we found a doctor in California who did this wonderful surgery, two surgeries on me, two totaling 18 hours and put 12 rods in my back. And now I'm pain free... I'm still performing. I do better on stage and in everyday life. That is why I give credit to god and the audience because the love that comes from them really sustains me during that period of time when I'm on stage. And it's just a wonderful time for me. I always leave the stage hoping that the audience has had as good a time as I did.

♦ **Could you see yourself making more dance music?**

Well, the only dance music I'm planning is music on which you can dance like David danced, dance unto the Lord.

they've put something in it with bad grammar, I can't sing it. I just have to fix it. I just do it. And I wasn't trying to fix *Amazing Grace* except that I was trying to make it fit into my life. And the more it is about my story than the original, the better it is. That's why we went that way with it.

♦ **What has it been like to not only have the Grammy nominations but also have this type of success?**

Well, I did an album some time ago and felt that I kind of ran out ahead of god. And, when you do that, you find yourself out there by yourself. So it didn't do well at all. And then when this album happened, it was successful and was quickly received by people. They were writing to me that they not only

enjoyed the music, but that the songs were ministering to them... this was my purpose to do through the music. So I felt like I was right this time. This is God's timing and I'm on point.

♦ **What has *I Will Survive* meant to you over the years?**

At first it was something that I was singing for other people. And then as time went on, different things happened to me and it became my mantra as well. And through the death of my mother, my siblings, through my divorce, I mean, when I did my divorce, I did a marathon version... So the song has really meant a lot to me as well as to other people. I fully understand because I've experienced what the song can do for you.

# India launch Olympic bid with pro opener

## Manpreet led side host the Netherlands in FIH pro league game today

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Olympics-bound Indian men's hockey team will kick-start its preparations for the quadrennial showpiece when it debuts in the FIH Pro League against world No.3 the Netherlands here on Saturday.

After having missed the first edition of the event, India will take on the 2019 Pro League and European Bronze medal winners, the Netherlands, in two matches in their opening tie at the Kalinga Stadium here. The second match will be played on Sunday.

With all the top teams of the world in fray, the home-and-away Pro League will be ideal preparation for world No 5 India ahead of the Summer Games later this year.

After the Dutch side, India will host world champions Belgium on February 8 and 9 followed by two more home fixtures against Australia on February 22 and 23.

The Indian team will then leave for the away games in Germany (April 25 and 26) and Great Britain (May 2 and 3).

India will return to play on home soil on May 23 and 24 against New Zealand before travelling to Argentina to play on June 5 and 6.

The Manpreet Singh-led side will play the last leg of the Pro League round-robin matches in Spain on June 13 and 14.

India's head coach Graham Reid will be aware of the challenges that await his team in the Pro League opener.

Having served as a former assistant coach to the Dutch, Reid knows exactly what to expect from Netherlands in the double header.

The matches will also provide India a chance to avenge their heart-breaking 1-2 loss in the quarterfinal of the 2018 World Cup.

A look at the previous 10 meetings between the two teams reveals



Manpreet Singh in a file picture

Manpreet Singh/Twitter

that there is little to choose between them.

The Netherlands have won five of those meetings, with India victorious on four occasions and one match ending in a draw.

Reid too insisted that they are looking at the Pro League outings as a platform for Olympic preparation.

"It will be important to start strong and sharp in the Pro League with our first three encounters against the top three teams in the world," Reid has said.

"We will be focussing on getting our structures right and honing our set plays as preparation for our Olympic campaign."

The Indians would also benefit by their familiarity with the Kalinga Stadium turf, having trained and played numerous matches here.

It is the same venue where the eight-time Olympic champions qualified for the 2020 Games after thrashing Russia 11-3 on aggregate in the two-leg FIH Qualifiers in November last year.

"The matches against India are a very important opener. Playing against India at their home ground is challenging no doubt but it is also very exciting because we love playing in Bhubaneswar," Netherlands coach Max Caldas said.

Caldas too is looking at the Pro League as preparation for Olympics.

"The players and combinations we wanted to test were experimented during the previous edition of Pro League. This edition we will have our most competitive team as this will be the stepping-stone for us to be the best at Tokyo," he said.

India will field a full-strength team which will witness the return of midfielders Chinglensana Singh and Sumit, who were out with injuries.

Chinglensana was on the sidelines with an ankle fracture since the National Championship last year, while Sumit suffered a wrist injury in June during the FIH Men's Series Final.



Sania Mirza in action during Hobart International Hobart International/Twitter

# Sania storms into Hobart final

PTI ■ HOBART

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza cruised into the women's doubles final of the Hobart International with her Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok here on Friday.

Sania and Kichenok sailed past the Slovenian-Czech pair of Tamara Zidansek and Marie Bouzkova 7-6 (3) 6-2 in the semifinal contest that lasted one hour and 24 minutes.

The fifth-seeded Indo-Ukrainian combination will lock horns with second seeds Shuai Peng and Shuai Zhang of China. The Chinese pair got a walkover after Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens and Alison Van Uytvanck conceded the other semifinal match because of injury.

While Sania and Kichenok had to fight hard in the opening set, the second set was a cakewalk for the combination.

The first set was a tough contest between the two pairs, bringing the tie-breaker into the equation after it was level at 6-6.

In the tie-breaker, Sania and Kichenok upped their game by a few notches to out-

smart their opponents and take the lead.

The second set was a no contest as Saina and Kichenok broke their opponents thrice - in the second, sixth and eighth game - to easily pocket the set and a place in the summit clash.

Saina and Kichenok got 11 break chances out of which they converted four, while their opponents utilised two out of the five break chances that came their way.

The 33-year-old Sania is returning to WTA circuit after two years. During her time away from the game, she battled injury breakdowns before taking a formal break in April 2018 to give birth to her son Izhaan. She is married to Pakistani cricketer Shoab Malik.

Before the ongoing event, Sania last played at China Open in October 2017.

A trailblazer in Indian tennis, Sania is a former world No.1 in doubles and has six Grand Slam titles to her credit.

She retired from the singles competition in 2013 after becoming the most successful Indian woman tennis player.

# Title most imp goal for Salah



Mo Salah celebrates with Sadio Mane after scoring Liverpool/Twitter

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Mohamed Salah says Liverpool's focus is solely on ending a 30-year wait to win the Premier League title, rather than doing so by going the whole season unbeaten.

Jurgen Klopp's men have dropped just two points in 21 games to set a new record for Europe's top five leagues of 61 points from a possible 63 to start the campaign.

That has propelled the European champions into a

14-point lead over title holders Manchester City with a game in hand, but Salah insists the Reds are still taking their title challenge one game at a time ahead of Manchester United's visit to Anfield on Sunday.

"We don't think about being unbeaten until the end of the season. If we do that, it would be great, but at the end of the day we just want to win the Premier League. That's the most important thing," Salah told Premier League

Productions. "Unbeaten or not, it's not necessary - we want to win the Premier League."

Liverpool could move a massive 30 points clear of United with victory on Sunday, but the Red Devils are the only side to take points off them this season after a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford in October.

Salah missed that match through injury and is keen to make up for lost time in the clash between English football's two most successful sides.

# Harry replaces Young as captain

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has confirmed Harry Maguire as Manchester United's new captain less than six months after his \$80 million (\$104 million) move from Leicester.

Maguire will take over as skipper from Ashley Young, who is expected to complete his move to Inter Milan on Friday.

The England international, 26, has led the side in games when Young has been absent and was an obvious choice for the role having played in every Premier League match this season.

"Harry has been wearing the captain's armband and he will keep wearing it," said Solskjaer, whose side take on runaway leaders Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday. "He's come in and been a leader in the group. I have not been surprised

but I've been impressed by his leadership skills."

"He is part of a group that we've had that have been leading this young group," added Solskjaer.

"Ashley has been of course, Marcus (Rashford) is a young lad but he has been involved, David (de Gea) and Harry, so Harry will keep on wearing the armband now."

Young, who moved to Old Trafford in 2011, will link up at the San Siro with former United teammates Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez.

"Ashley has been a good servant for the club, he's been captain, he's won trophies, the league, various cups," said Solskjaer.

"But we've got players coming through and when Ashley's head and mindset was, I want to try this, why not do it now?"

"We need to win, we need to carry on in our way - the way we've been doing since the beginning of the season and since last year," added the Egyptian.

"Of course we know it's big for the fans, for the city and for us. But at the end of the day, we play the game to win."

# Yastremska downs Sabalenka for finals place

AFP ■ ADELAIDE

Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska defeated her third top 20 opponent in a row to make the Adelaide International finals with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win over Aryna Sabalenka on Friday.

The 19-year-old's blitzed world number 20 Donna Vekic

in the quarter-finals of the Memorial Drive tournament a day after 18th-ranked Angelique Kerber retired from their match with back pain from a set down.

Yastremska, ranked 24th, will play for the fourth title of her career on Saturday against either Australian world number one Ashleigh Barty or American Danielle Collins.

"I'm pretty happy, this new season is off to a good start," Yastremska said after defeating Sabalenka of Belarus for their third match in as many meetings.

"I'm just doing my job on court, playing my game. I do what I can on court."

"I feel confidence heading to the Australian Open." Yastremska broke once per set while losing her own service once in the 106-minute showdown.

She finished on a third match point in the tiebreaker as Sabalenka hit the net on a return.

Yastremska claimed two WTA trophies last season at Strasbourg and Hua Hin, Thailand.

# Prajesh out of Australian Open



Prajesh Gunneswaran plays a return shot AFP

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India's top-ranked player Prajesh Gunneswaran failed to make the main draw of the Australian Open men's singles event after going down in straight sets to Ernests Gulbis of Latvia in the final round of the qualifiers here on Friday.

Prajesh, ranked 122nd in the world and seeded 17th in the qualifiers, lost 6-7 (2) 2-6 to Gulbis in his final round qualifying match. Prajesh had earlier defeated local wildcard Harry Bourchier and Germany's Yannick Hanfmann.

It was a close first set which went into tie-break, where Prajesh faltered to hand early advantage to his opponent.

In the second set, Gulbis broke Prajesh in the first and third games to race to a 3-0 lead.

From there on, the Indian found it tough as Gulbis held his serve to close out the contest that lasted for one hour and 20 minutes.

With Prajesh's ouster, India's campaign in the singles ended in the qualifiers.

Earlier, Sumit Nagal suffered a straight-set loss to Mohamed Safwat of Egypt to crash out in the first round of the qualifiers on Thursday.

AFP ■ BERLIN

# Klinsmann back to hurt Bayern

Jurgen Klinsmann is planning a party if Hertha Berlin beat his former employers Bayern Munich on Sunday despite doubts about the validity of his coaching licence, as the Bundesliga resumes this weekend after a four-week break.

Since taking charge in November, the 55-year-old former Germany and US national team coach has pulled Hertha up from the relegation places to mid-table with 10 points from a possible 12 going into their clash with third-placed Bayern at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

However Klinsmann, who led both the US and Germany at World Cup finals, has been left red-faced after it emerged his coaching licence, held since 2000, may no longer be valid and the relevant paperwork is at the family home in California.

"It's just been a bit of a chance for the media to let off a bit of steam," Klinsmann told Sky as questions over his licence became a hot topic in the German media.



Hertha BSC Berlin head coach Jurgen Klinsmann attends a news conference AP

"No one has ever approached me about a licence in 20 years - whether as coach of Germany, the USA or Bayern. Now they have looked

into it and it's expired." The matter remains unresolved but Klinsmann insists he has sent the necessary paperwork to the German FA and that there is

no problem at all."

He has a point to prove against Bayern, who sacked him in 2009 after just nine months and 43 games in charge.

Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski has recovered from recent groin surgery and will look to pick up where he left off after scoring 19 goals in the first 17 games.

The defending champions trail leaders RB Leipzig by four points and are without wingers Kingsley Coman (knee) and Serge Gnabry, who injured his Achilles tendon during a training camp in Qatar.

Bayern suffered a shock 2-0 defeat when they last travelled to Hertha in September 2018 and Klinsmann said a repeat result would spark a party in the capital.

"We have nothing to lose," he said. "Let's take a point - brilliant! Let's take three, then we'll have a party. 'We'll go in there with the

confidence of four games without defeat.'" One to watch: Erling Braut Haaland

Borussia Dortmund made the league's standout signing during the winter break when they paid Red Bull Salzburg 20 million euros (\$22m) for the 19-year-old Norway striker.

Haaland attracted attention last September when, aged 19 years and 58 days, he became the third youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick in a 6-2 victory over Genk, finishing with eight goals in six group games.

"I don't think we've had that kind of striker since Robert Lewandowski," Dortmund captain Marco Reus told Sky.

Head coach Lucien Favre has not said when Haaland will make his debut. Fourth-placed Dortmund hope a deluge of goals by their latest signing will help close the seven-point deficit to RB Leipzig, starting with a win at Augsburg on Saturday.

# Quique era starts in Barca

AFP ■ MADRID

Barcelona's appointment of Quique Setien, a fervent disciple of Johan Cruyff, came the day after Zinedine Zidane won his ninth final out of nine as coach of Real Madrid.

With both teams level on points at the top of La Liga, Spain's closest title race in years will be as much a contest of identity and beliefs as points won and lost.

Real Madrid, the club that defines itself by winning, against Barcelona, where winning is seen as the result of something more profound, a style heralded by Cruyff that has become their footballing philosophy.

Atletico Madrid and Sevilla, both five points behind, are still in touch but playing catch-up.



two years under Ernesto Valverde when pragmatism took a greater hold.

Barca's new coach is not well-known outside of Spain and, at 61, he may be in the twilight years of his career.

"For me this is the pinnacle," he said at his unveiling on Tuesday.

His previous clubs are not illustrious. They include Lugo, Logrones, Las Palmas, Poli Ejido, Racing Santander, Real

Betis and one game in charge of Equatorial Guinea. His list of trophies begins and ends with one Spanish Super Cup in 1985 with Atletico Madrid.

But his work and words up to this point could leave the impression of someone that has been preparing to coach Barcelona his entire life.

"When I was a player, coaches tried to set guidelines for me," Setien, a former Spanish international, told Marca in 2018.

It remains to be seen how Setien's appointment will affect La Liga's title race. Will Real Madrid's players feel their chances are boosted or harmed by Valverde's removal? They are now up against a team with a coach that has never won, or even competed for, a top-flight trophy. But they might feel wary too, of the possibility Barcelona could be released by Setien's attacking beliefs and accelerate.

# INDIA HUNT KANGAROOOS IN RAJKOT

## Top order's show complimented by bowlers help Men in Blue level series



Indian players celebrate the dismissal of Australia's Steve Smith in Rajkot

### K S Bharat named cover for Pant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Andhra Pradesh wicket-keeper-batsman K S Bharat was on Friday called in as back-up for Rishabh Pant, who was ruled out of India's second ODI against Australia due to a concussion.

The 26-year-old Bharat is uncapped and has an experience of 74 first-class matches with 4143 runs. He has a strike rate of over 100 in T20s.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named K S Bharat as the back-up wicket-keeper for the 2nd ODI in Rajkot against Australia," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

"With Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan being a part of the India A side in New Zealand, the selection committee decided to name K S Bharat as back-up wicket-keeper," he added.

The call was taken after Pant flew to Bengaluru to undergo his rehabilitation in the National Cricket Academy.

The wicket-keeper batsman was hit on the helmet while batting in the first ODI in Mumbai and was ruled out of the game in Rajkot on Friday.

"His recovery is being monitored and a call on his availability for the final ODI in Bengaluru will be taken accordingly," the BCCI said.

camp but Kuldeep's ninth over turned out to be a game-changer as he first dismissed wicket-keeper Alex Carey and then had a delivery that bounced extra to have Smith played on. The visitors were all-out for 304 in 49.1 overs.

Kuldeep's final figures of 2 for 65 may not be mind-blowing but did just enough damage to see that the third ODI in Bengaluru doesn't lose context.

Mohammed Shami (3/77 in 10 overs) and Navdeep Saini (2/62 in 10 overs) then bowled some exquisite toe-crushers to put an end to the contest. Jasprit Bumrah (1/32 in 9.1 overs) was economical as ever and his contribution cannot be overlooked.

However on a placid track, Smith, a proverbial thorn in India's flesh was again proving to be dangerous along with

Marnus Labuschagne (44) as they added 96 in quick time. Ravindra Jadeja (2/58 in 10 overs) steady spell and got rid of Labuschagne in nick of time to upset Smith's rhythm after he had hit nine fours and a six off 102 balls.

However this match also brings to fore Rahul's emergence as proper keeper-batsman option for white-ball cricket as his extra runs coming in at No 5, proving to be valuable in the end.

Not to forget his reasonably decent keeping effecting a stumping and also took two catches. More importantly, his keeping down the leg-side was

far better than Rishabh Pant, who is currently recovering from concussion.

Earlier, it was Dhawan, who missed a well-deserved ton by a whisker but laid a solid platform for the aggressive duo of skipper Kohli and Rahul to ensure a commanding total.

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Kuldeep Yadav bowled a game-changing 38th over to complement a KL Rahul blinder as India levelled the series with a comfort-

able 36-run victory over Australia in second ODI here on Friday.

Put into bat, India put up a much-improved batting performance with Rahul's blistering 52-ball-80 taking India to 340

for six after Shikhar Dhawan (96 off 90 balls) and skipper Virat Kohli (78 off 76 balls) laid the foundation.

Australia were in the game till Steven Smith (98) carried the battle back to the enemy

## 'No rustiness as Dhoni looks in complete control'

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has stunned Jharkhand coach Rajiv Kumar with his fluent batting even as the stumper started training for the first time since India's loss in the semi-final of the 2019 World Cup against New Zealand in July last year.

Speaking to IANS, Kumar said that he was expecting a little rustiness from the batsman, but the balls seemed to be hitting the middle of the bat. The coach went on to add that the Chennai Super Kings skipper's preparations have begun for the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League.

"I will be honest... I thought there will be a bit of rustiness as Dhoni has not trained for quite some time. The last time we had spoken, he had said that he would start in January and here you go. He is a man of his words and it came as no surprise that he was out there training with the guys just like any other regular Jharkhand player. But what surprised me most was how he muddled almost every ball, be it in the pacer's net or the spinner's net. He even took throwdowns just like a player going through the batting drills does."

"I haven't had any talks with him with regards to the national team and him donning the India jersey again. But, his preparations for the



MS Dhoni chats with Rishabh Pant

next edition of the IPL has begun and while the senior team will be busy playing the Ranji Trophy game from Sunday, Dhoni will continue training till the time he is in Ranchi," the coach pointed.

Asked if Dhoni did anything specific in the two days that he has trained so far, Kumar said the former skipper spent a lot of time talk-

ing to the bowlers.

"He is such a professional and has been going on spending time with the youngsters, especially the bowlers. He is discussing the line and length that they should target and the ways to fox the opposition batsmen. He has been as vocal as can be expected from a senior player like Dhoni," Kumar said.

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## Hafeez to retire after Twenty20 WC



Mohammad Hafeez in a file picture

AFP ■ LAHORE

Recalled Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez Friday said he will retire from international cricket after the Twenty20 World Cup later this year, vowing to end his career on a positive note.

The 38-year-old was Thursday recalled to Pakistan's Twenty20 series against Bangladesh starting in Lahore from January 24. Hafeez has been one of Pakistan's key players — in all three formats, as a top order batsman and a handy off-spinner — since making his debut during an England tour in 2003.

But his career was dogged by questions over the legality of his bowling action, reported on three occasions

during international matches. He was also banned from bowling for 12 months in 2015.

Hafeez, dubbed the "professor" for his knowledge of the game, said he enjoyed playing for Pakistan.

"It has been a privilege," he told media.

"I want to play the Twenty20 World Cup and then exit from Pakistan's international team."

Hafeez retired from Tests in December 2018 after playing 55 Tests. He was more successful in limited over formats, scoring 6,614 runs and took 139 wickets in 218 one-day internationals.

His last ODI was during the World Cup (50 overs) in England last year, and he has not been selected for that format since then.



## उत्तराखण्ड राज्य सहकारी बैंक लि०, हल्द्वानी

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❖ सरकारी सेवार्त व्यक्तियों के लिये उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के क्रय हेतु ऋण।	❖ किसान विकास पत्र/एन.एस.सी./एफ.डी. के विरुद्ध ऋण।
❖ भवन क्रय एवं निर्माण हेतु ऋण।	❖ व्यवसाय के लिये कैश क्रेडिट ऋण सीमा।
❖ प्राइवेट कार, टैक्सी एवं ट्रक वाहन हेतु ऋण।	❖ कम्प्यूटर कय एवं शिक्षा हेतु ऋण।
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