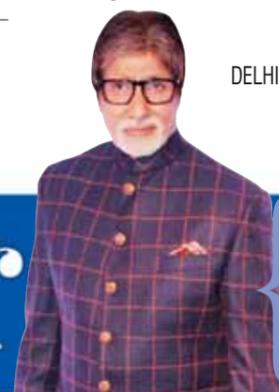


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**BIG B UNVEILS  
FIRST LOOK  
OF JHUND  
13 VIVACITY**

## Nadda takes up BJP reins

### New chief first task is to galvanise party in Delhi polls next month

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP working president Jagat Prakash Nadda on Monday took over the reins of the party from Amit Shah and is faced with several tough electoral and organisational challenges in the days ahead.

Nadda's first task will be to galvanise the party to take on Kejriwal-led AAP Government in the next month's Delhi Assembly polls. The AAP is seen as a clear favourite and Nadda would require all his skills to make it an even contest. His other challenges are Assembly elections of Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, all scheduled within one year or so.

The reverses faced by the party in Jharkhand and loss of power in a big State, like Maharashtra, have made Nadda's task all the more difficult. Nadda would be required to revamp party organisation in several States and also step up the BJP's pro-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) campaign across the country.

Enjoying the confidence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah, the new head of the BJP is largely expected to continue with the course it took under Shah with Modi laying out the broader agenda.

Considered an affable and accessible politician, Nadda strikes good rapport with all top party leaders and is seen as seasoned organisation man.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with newly elected BJP national president JP Nadda at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. Veteran party leader LK Advani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are also seen

Nadda, with parental roots in Bihar, was associated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) from his college days before joining the youth wing of the BJP and rising through its ranks.

Nadda has also served as a Minister in the BJP Governments in Himachal

Pradesh, his home State, and at the Centre. He has also been in charge of his party's campaigns in a number of States, including in Uttar Pradesh, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Nadda was unanimously elected as BJP president in party headquarters here at a function in the presence of

Shah and all top Central leaders, Ministers and Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States. The PM, who later joined party leaders in felicitating Nadda, said he is sure that the party will scale newer heights during his presidency. The PM also praised Shah for his contribution, describing

him as "an outstanding karyakarta (worker)". "I do not think words can do justice to the rich contribution of Shah as the BJP president. During his presidency, the BJP got opportunities to serve in several parts of India," Modi said in a series of tweets.

Continued on Page 4

## SAD won't contest polls in Delhi

### Cites differences with BJP on CAA, NRC; offered less seats: Sources

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Citing differences on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizen (NRC), BJP's old ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Badal, on Monday announced that the party will not contest Delhi Assembly polls. However, well placed sources in the BJP said that the SAD wanted to contest elections on six seats whereas they were offered three seats.

SAD was also not very keen to contest on BJP's 'lotus symbol' as it wanted to contest on its own party symbol of 'weighing scale'. BJP leaders tried to convince SAD leadership to let its candidate contest on its symbol as they have won while going with this symbol during past elections. SAD president was not very keen to forego his party's identity and decided not to field its candidates on the seats being offered by the BJP.

Importantly, the SAD will keep its alliance with the BJP



intact and remain in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Incidentally, SAD leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the sitting MLA from Rajouri Garden Assembly constituency who had won on BJP symbol said, "SAD and BJP have an old relationship but SAD's stand has been quite clear on CAA and NRC. The SAD president has welcomed the CAA which was supposed to include people from all religions but we never demanded that any one religion should be excluded from the list."

Continued on Page 4

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### CAPSULE

#### IMF CUTS INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST TO 4.8%

**Davos:** The IMF on Monday lowered India's economic growth estimate for the current fiscal to 4.8 per cent and listed the country's much lower-than-expected GDP numbers as the single biggest drag on its global growth forecast for 2 years.

#### PM: PARTIES REJECTED BY PEOPLE SPREADING LIES

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hit out at Opposition parties, saying those rejected by people in elections have been left with few weapons and were spreading confusion and lies. Without naming his rivals, Modi also targeted the "echo system" backing them.

## Relief for 12K homebuyers as SC allows Centre to run Unitech management

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a respite to over 12,000 hassled homebuyers of Unitech Ltd, the Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Centre to take total management control of the embattled realty firm and appoint a new board of nominee directors.

The top court approved the name of retired Haryana cadre IAS officer Yudvir Singh Malik as chairman and managing director (CMD) of the new board and directed that the existing board of directors of the company would stand superseded.

It also refused to appoint Unitech Group founder Ramesh Chandra, as a member of the new board saying that it would not be appropriate at this stage.

A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah asked the new board to submit its report in two months on the resolution framework of the company.

It also approved the names of members of the board which include AK Mittal, ex-CMD of National Buildings



Construction Corporation (NBCC); Renu Sud Karnad, Chairman of HDFC Credila Finance Service Pvt Ltd; Jitu Virwani, CMD of Embassy Group; and Niranjana Hiranandani, Managing Director of Mumbai-based Hiranandani Group.

"The idea of a professional board is to allow them to take control of the company and complete the pending projects in the interest of homebuyers," the bench said and indicated that the court would stop monitoring the Unitech matter once everything falls in place.

Continued on Page 4

## Brajesh, 18 convicted in Bihar's shelter home case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court Monday convicted key accused Brajesh Thakur and 18 others for sexually assaulting several girls in a shelter home run by him in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

Additional Sessions Judge Saurabh Kulshreshtha convicted Thakur, who once unsuccessfully contested assembly polls on Bihar People's Party (BPP) ticket, for several offences including the aggravated penetrative sexual assault under section 6 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and offences of rape and gang rape under the Indian Penal code (IPC).

In its bulky judgement running into 1,546 pages, the court also convicted Thakur for the offences under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 324 (causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and abetment under IPC, section 21 (failure to report commission of an offence) of the POCSO Act section 75 (cruelty to child) of Juvenile Justice Act.

Continued on Page 4

## Apex court junks Nirbhaya convict's juvenility excuse

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the plea of Pawan Kumar Gupta, a death row convict in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case, to be declared a juvenile at the time of the commission of offence.

A bench comprising justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bushan and A S Bopanna said there was no ground to interfere with the Delhi High court order that rejected Pawan's plea. The trial court had also rejected Pawan's claim of being a juvenile.

Advocate A P Singh, appearing for Pawan, said as per his school leaving certificate he was a minor at the time of the offence and none of the courts, including trial court and High Court, ever considered his documents.

But, solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for Delhi police, said that his claim of juvenility was considered at each and every judicial forum and it will be a travesty of justice if the convict is allowed to raise the claim of juvenility repeatedly and at this point of time.



He said the convict was 19 years old at the time of offence and there is a certified copy of his birth certificate as well as school leaving certificate which was taken on record by each and every judicial forum.

Pawan had moved the apex court on Friday. He had also sought a direction restraining

the authorities from executing the death penalty, scheduled for February 1.

A Delhi court on Friday issued fresh death warrants for February 1 against the four — Vinay Sharma (26), Akshay Kumar Singh (31), Mukesh Kumar Singh (32) and Pawan (25) — in the case.



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who missed filing his nomination due to the delay in rally, will file it on Tuesday.

Kejriwal said he will file his nomination on Tuesday. "I was supposed to file my nomination today but the office closes at 3 pm. I was asked to go in between and file the nomination but I said how can I leave people at the road show and go? I will go to file nomination tomorrow with my family," he said.

Thousands of AAP supporters gathered in Central Delhi on Monday to take part in Kejriwal's mega roadshow called 'Walk With Kejriwal' which was to be followed by him filing his nomination but was postponed till Tuesday owing to the delay in the rally.

The rally started at Valmiki Mandir near RK Ashram Marg metro station to the Hanuman Mandir near Connaught Place traversing around 2.2 kilometres in over two hours and dancing to the tunes of the party's anthem - 'Acche Beete Paanch Saal, Lage Raho Kejriwal'.

# Climate change to impact India's GDP, reveals report

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Climate change hazards could impact India's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) in a "non-linear" way by 2030, a McKinsey Global Institute report has maintained. Extreme heat wave and humid conditions could potentially cause a reduction in the GDP between 2.5 and 4.5 per cent, the report stated as it highlighted the unrecognised non-linear aspects of climate change.

The report attributed the GDP reduction to lethal heat wave that would drastically bring down working hours and lead to decline in labour productivity by as much as 15 per cent during days by 2030. The report further estimated by 2050, both the intensity and exposure to lethal

heat waves, as well as the impact on outdoor work could continue to increase in a non-linear way.

"The number of people living in areas with some likelihood of experiencing a lethal heat wave could rise from zero today to 250 million to 360 million by 2030, with a 9 per cent annual probability of occurring, and to 700 million to 1.2 billion by 2050 with a 14 per cent annual probability of occurring (under an RCP (Representative Concentration Pathway) 8.5 scenario and not factoring in air conditioner penetration). Knock-on impacts from climate hazards could affect employment, incomes, and connected sectors," the report stated.

The report warns that societies and systems most at risk



are close to physical and biological thresholds. "Once thresholds are breached, impacts could be non-linear," it stated.

The report estimates that addressing some of the risk of lethal heat waves by 2030, using air conditioning, could cost up to \$110 billion. "India

will need to adapt through capacity and knowledge building, investment in adaptive technology and infrastructure, and supporting the economy's

transition away from outdoor work," the report stated.

The report finds that all 105 countries examined could experience an increase in at least one type of risk to their stock of human, physical and natural capital by 2030. The share of annual outdoor working hours lost due to extreme heat and humidity in exposed regions would double from 10 per cent today to 15 to 20 per cent by 2050.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), July 2019 was the hottest July ever in recorded Indian meteorological history and 65.12 per cent of India's population was exposed to temperatures of over 40 deg C between May and June, 2019, the most widespread over four years. In 2016, 59.32 per cent

of India's population faced a heat wave, the number rose to 61.4 per cent in 2017 and fell to 52.94 per cent in 2018. "Global temperature records were broken during the summer of 2019, with the July temperature 1.2 deg C above the pre-industrial era," it said.

A study by Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar says India will see a four-fold rise in heat waves if global temperature rise is restricted to 1.5 degree Celsius by the turn of this century. "If the world fails to contain global temperature rise, India could see an eight-fold rise in heat waves," it said.

The Lancet report 2019 has stated 153 billion hours of labour were lost globally in 2017 due to heat, an increase of 62 billion hours relative to year 2000. Between 2000 and

2017, the report says, labour hours lost in agriculture rose from about 40,000 million hours in 2000 to about 60,000 million hours in 2017. "Similar trends, although of smaller magnitude, affect the industrial and service sectors, where the effect of climatic conditions is reduced due to less physically strenuous work condition," it states.

"Overall, India lost nearly 75,000 million hours of labour in 2017, relative to about 43,000 million hours in 2000, an increase of over 30,000 million hours over two decades. For a developing economy like India, this represents a substantial impact on individual, household and national budgets, necessitating urgent national and regional adaptation plans," the report said.

# Cultivators expect bumper apple yield due to snowfall this season

AFZAL FAUJI ■ NAINITAL

The winter has been good in Uttarakhand this year with snowfall and rain being experienced over an extended period in considerable quantities even in areas where it was not experienced for some years now.

One such place is Nainital, where some of the regions received snowfall after a gap of about 15 years. This has brought smiles on the faces of farmers, especially those involved in horticulture and fruit cultivation. The orchard owners are now busy preparing their orchards for a better yield.

The snowfall experienced on December 13, 14 last year



An apple orchard in Nainital days after snowfall in the recent past. Pioneer photo

and on January 8 and later this year is being considered beneficial for the apple cultivation carried out in Mukteshwar, Ramgarh and Dhanachuli areas of the Nainital district.

According to cultivators, due to the snowfall this season, the production of apples this year will be more. Apple is a crop which requires considerable care and attention.

The apple tastes sweeter and also has better form if the tree experiences cold temperatures for about three months. Apart from the apples, the snowfall experienced this season is expected to bring better yield in Nainital's fruit belts

where peaches, apricots and kiwi are also cultivated.

It is after a gap of about 15 years that snowfall was experienced in some of the regions of Nainital. Mukteshwar and Ramgarh received about one foot of snow which also eliminated the pests. On the other hand, when the snowfall is less, it has a detrimental effect on the apple crop. Not only apples, the snowfall is considered good for other crops and vegetables too. After snowfall, moisture remains in the soil for many days.

Apart from Nainital, other areas, including Harshil, Ranikhet, Munsyari, Chakrata, Tehri, Dhanaulti and Joshimath, and received good snowfall this season. The snow-



fall is expected to benefit the apple production the most because now the trees will be less susceptible to disease and will also flower on time.

Cultivator Jagat Singh said if there is no hail, there will be a bumper crop of apple and other crops.

Another horticulturist of

the area, Harendra Singh Bisht said that the snowfall in this region will prove quite beneficial to the apples. While cultivators were not being able to benefit from the climate for some time now, the snowfall this season will ensure that the apple trees remain free of disease and produce better quality fruit.

## Acharya Balkrishna receives Champions of Change Award

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Yoga guru Swami Ramdev's aide, Acharya Balkrishna was awarded the Champions of Change Award by former President Pranab Mukherjee at the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy in New Delhi on Monday for the preservation, promotion and health services rendered through Ayurveda by Patanjali. Acharya Balkrishna was selected for this award by the jury comprising former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court KG Balakrishnan and former Supreme Court Judge Gyan Sudha Mishra.

Receiving the award, Balkrishna said, "We are happy that Patanjali Yogpeeth, led by Swami Ramdev, with the tireless efforts of many karmayogis, dedicated volunteers and teachers, has revived and established the tradition of yoga and Ayurveda of our sages. Great effort has been made. This has been possible only with the cooperation and efforts of all those involved in this initiative. It is said that today any honour or award received in the name of Yoga-Ayurveda, is the result of the greatness of those sages and the hard work and effort of Patanjali's hard-working brothers and sisters, dedicated volunteers and teachers. I also dedicate this honor to all of you. We feel proud that god has given



us the opportunity to become instruments in this great work." Balkrishna has made a significant contribution in reviving Ayurveda. Whether it is the subject of research in Ayurveda

or the collection and publication of ancient manuscripts or the identification and classification of medicinal Ayurvedic plants, he is said to have played a role in all these efforts.

At the same time, the work of conservation of manuscripts and their publication is also being guided by him. There are 3.6 lakh species of plants all over the world, but complete

count of medicinal plants is not yet available. Balkrishna did research and created a checklist according to which there are around 62,000 medicinal plants in the world.

## Police nab 4 accused or armed robbery



PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Police arrested four persons and recovered all the items they had robbed from a home more than a fortnight ago. Addressing the media, Haridwar senior superintendent of police Senthil Avoodai Krishnaraj S informed that on December 31, Vandana Mohan, a resident of Yadavpuri in Ramnagar informed the Gangnahar Kotwali that four unidentified armed men had barged into their house and held the family hostage.

The men robbed cash and gold jewellery from the home before leaving. In this regard, Kotwali police registered a case against unknown accused under IPC sections 342/392

and started investigation.

The team identified the accused through CCTV footage. On a tip off from an informant while conducting a check near the Rahimpur gate, Rais Ahmed from Ghaziabad, Ayub from Meerut, Azaruddin from Meerut and Anis Ahmed from Ghaziabad were caught by the police. One of the accused, Salim Saifi from Meerut managed to escape. In the police interrogation, the accused confessed to having carried out the armed robbery at Yadavpuri in Ramnagar. The main accused had come to pay obeisance at Piran Kaliyar and committed the crime while returning from there. The police recovered six gold coins, various golden ornaments,

three pistols and a mobile phone from the accused. They also said that they had carried out similar crimes in Aligarh and Bareilly.

Salim, Azaruddin and Ayub used to carry out robberies by first posing as crime branch officials. Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh and Bareilly police have also been informed in this regard. Several serious crime cases are registered against the accused Rais Ahmed, Azaruddin and Ayub. Efforts are being made to arrest the absconding accused Salim.

The Garhwal inspector general announced a reward of Rs 5,000 and SSP announced an award of Rs 2,500 to the police team.

## Mayor inaugurates Gau Sadan in Selaqui

City's stray cattle to be housed in new facility

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' inaugurated the Gau Sadan of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun at Selaqui on Monday. This facility will be used to shelter stray cattle of the city.

The stray cattle are a big issue in the city that not only hamper smooth flow of traffic but also end up sustaining injuries in accidents and even die due to consumption of plastic while foraging garbage dumps for food. The issue was also raised by many councillors



in the last board meeting of the MCD. However, till now the MCD only had one Kanji House for sheltering stray cattle.

This Kanji House in Kedarapuram area has the capacity for holding about 70-75 cattle at a time whereas the population of stray cattle in the city is estimated to be in the thousands. Last year, the MCD officials had visited Mathura in Uttar Pradesh to study the model of the Gau Sadan there.

## HJM opposes film shooting in Haridwar

Production house & authorities state shooting permitted, nothing objectionable

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Shooting of the movie Haseen Dillruba, which casts Taapsee Pannu and Vikrant Messi began recently in Haridwar. However, it has elicited opposition from some persons here. The Hindu Jagran Manch has alleged that the film title does not match the sacred spirit of Haridwar.

On Monday, a delegation of the Hindu Jagran Manch met city magistrate Jagdish Lal and submitted a memorandum asking that the shooting of the film be stopped in Haridwar. The Hindu Jagran Manch district president Manish Chauhan told this correspondent that the film title and poster is vulgar. The production house is stating that the movie is a murder mystery. If it is so, the movie can be shot elsewhere too out of Haridwar. Chauhan says that the group had submitted a memorandum to the city magistrate, adding that if the authorities do not take

any action then the Hindu Jagran Manch will take some action.

According to Atul Painuli, director of the Impression Line Production, the movie Haseen Dillruba is a murder mystery. There is no vulgarity in the movie. The Chief Minister and State Government are encouraging shooting of films in the state. He further said that the government had officially allowed the production house to shoot the movie in the state. Stating that there is nothing illegal or objectionable in shooting the movie here, he said that such a protest will send the wrong kind of message to the film industry in Mumbai. One film project provides employment to many and results in income generation for the locals too, he added.

Meanwhile, the superintendent of police (City) Kamesh Upadhyay said that if the production house has valid permission to shoot the movie, there is no point in trying to stop the same. If any-



one has any objections, one should express the same through the valid official process. No one will be allowed to disturb law and order on this issue, he stressed.

The city magistrate Jagdish Lal told this correspondent that permission for filming the movie here had been granted from the state government level. The local administration can only maintain the law and order while ensuring that the film shooting gets conducted properly, he added.

## Locals protest at UEPPCB against Sheeshambada plant



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Residents of Sheeshambada area protested at Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board (UEPPCB) regional office against the solid waste management and recycling plant which has been operating for five months without No Objection Certificate (NOC).

The protesters entered gheraoed the UEPPCB regional officer and questioned him about how the corporation was still dumping garbage at the plant which was functioning without an NOC for months now.

They also told regional officer Amit Pokhriyal that they are suffering for the past three years due to the mismanagement of the waste management plant in the area and they will not leave unless they are assured in writing that NOC will not be renewed for the plant.

The regional officer did not provide any such assurance but on their insistence, he gave them a copy of the plant's inspection report prepared by the UEPPCB.

The report states that dur-

ing the inspection there was no arrangement for the leachate generated from landfill site which was flowing through the drain from one side of the site and getting accumulated on the other side during rain.

There was no storage facility for the different kinds of waste material and all were decanted together. It is also mentioned in the report that Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) was not operational during the inspection and had not been operating since last 15 days as per the project in charge.

The issue of foul-smell is also mentioned in the report.

One of the protesters Sunny Sundriyal alleged, "Every department is involved in this mess. How the MCD is still running the plant even after such a clear report is questionable."

Geeta Devi, one of the residents of Sheeshambada said, "I protested near solid waste management and recycling plant for one week and I have got skin allergy all over the body. It is not just me, other women have also developed skin allergies. Moreover, our kids are getting sick every week too, we cannot keep visiting the doctor regularly because of this plant. Is

this waste management plant more important than human lives?"

Usha Chetri, one of the protesters said, "The noise of machine never stops at the plant. It is always working which makes it difficult for children to focus on their studies or get proper sleep. Every type of garbage is dumped whether it is wet, dry or dead animals like cows, dogs, cats in our neighbourhood due to which we can't even open our windows."

"Initially we were told that there would be one layer of waste and one layer of soil which will help in the decomposition of garbage without any issue, but everything is dumped together due to which the whole area smells horrible. Even the guests have stopped coming to our house due to the unbearable stench that lingers there day and night," added Rajesh Sharma.

Municipal Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey had recently rejected the claims of the protesting locals. According to him, there is no foul smell and disease-causing germs on the site. Enzymes are sprayed six times a day to sterilise the place.

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# Pritam to announce his new team soon

## PCC president and Leader of Opp are in Delhi to discuss new PCC

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The much speculated and delayed Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) is expected to be released in a day or two. The PCC president Pritam Singh left for New Delhi on Monday where he would meet senior party leaders and discuss the shape of his new team.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) Indira Hridayesh is also in Delhi and it is learnt that the PCC would be declared soon. While talking to the media-persons in Dehradun recently the PCC president, Pritam Singh had claimed that the PCC would be declared soon and he would visit Delhi to have discussion on it.

Prior to her departure to New Delhi, LoP Indira Hridayesh too had expressed similar sentiments.

According to the sources the duo of Pritam Singh and Indira Hridayesh would camp in national Capital for three days during which they would hold



After a long wait of more than two-and-half years, Pritam Singh had suspended the old PCC last month. It was expected that he would declare new PCC shortly after suspension of old one but internal squabbles of the State unit of the Congress party has ensured delay

**According to the sources the duo of Pritam Singh and Indira Hridayesh would camp in national Capital for three days during which they would hold elaborate discussion on the shape, size and the office-bearers with senior Congress leader and general secretary of All India Congress Committee, KC Venugopal in Delhi**

elaborate discussion on the shape, size and the office-bearers with senior Congress leader and general secretary of All India Congress Committee (AICC), KC Venugopal in Delhi. After a long wait of more

than two-and-half years, Pritam Singh had suspended the old PCC last month. It was expected that he would declare new PCC shortly after suspension of old one but internal squabbles of the State unit of

## Cong leaders to campaign in Delhi Assembly elections

**Dehradun:** In view of substantial population of voters of Uttarakhand origin in Delhi, the Congress would send many of its leaders to campaign in support of party candidates in the forthcoming Assembly election of Delhi.

Though the duties of the party leaders are not officially declared it is learnt that the Delhi unit of the party has sought services of many senior

the Congress party has ensured delay.

It is clear that apart from maintaining regional balance in his team, Pritam Singh would have to deal with the intense pressure of the camps headed by former Chief Minister Harish Rawat and former PCC chief Kishore Upadhyaya for

leaders of Uttarakhand in the Assembly elections.

The voting for Delhi assembly would be held on February 8.

According to a rough estimate there 25 lakh voters of Uttarakhand origin in Delhi and all parties vie for their voters.

The BJP on the other hand had finalised duties of its leaders for Delhi election. **PNS**

accommodating their supporters in the new PCC.

The PCC president has teamed up with LoP Indira Hridayesh to create a formidable camp in the Congress party. It remains to be seen how leaders of these different camps are accommodated in the new PCC.



Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat greets JP Nadda after his unopposed election to the post of the BJP national president in New Delhi on Monday  
Pioneer photo

## GDMC to hold recruitment drive on many faculty positions

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

To fill the vacant faculty positions, the administration of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) would soon hold walk-in interviews. Fifteen percent of faculty positions in the medical college are vacant at present.

The Principal of the college, Dr Ashutosh Sayana said that some of the faculty members have left the college recently as there were vacancies in other medical colleges and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

He said college which had a deficiency of 30 percent last year in the faculty positions has brought down the deficiency to 15 per cent.

The department pays a fixed salary of Rs 1.43 Lakh to Professor while the Associate Professor gets a salary of Rs 1.23 Lakh per month. The salary of Assistant Professor is fixed at Rs 95,000 a month. Similarly the SR is employed on a salary of Rs 65,000 while the pay of JR is Rs 47,000.

Apart from salary, the staff members are also provided accommodation by the Government. It is pertinent to mention here that the GDMC is planning to start Post Graduate (PG) courses in many



Govt. Doon Medical College

disciplines.

The college has applied to start PG courses in Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Community Medicine and Pathology to start with. Recently a team of Medical Council of India (MCI) had inspected facilities at the college and associated hospital for PG course.

During the visit the team had sought details about the faculty members of the college. On the report submitted by

these teams, the MCI would recommend initiation of the PG courses in the college to the union ministry of medical health and family welfare.

Most recent of the three government medical colleges of Uttarakhand, the GDMC got permission to start MBBS classes in the year 2016 after it got Letter of Permission (LoP) by Ministry of health and family welfare, government of India on the basis of MCI report.

The college at present has

15% of faculty positions in medical college are vacant at present

## RESTORATION OF OLD PENSION SCHEME

### Primary teachers hold massive protest in Doon Teachers resolve to continue their agitation till benefit of OPS is extended to them

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In support of their demand for restoration of old pension scheme (OPS), the Prathmik Shikshak Sangh (PSS) organised a massive protest here on Monday.

On the day, thousands of teachers from all parts of the state congregated at the protest site near parade ground and resolved to continue their agitation till the Government restores the facility of the OPS.

On the call given by its parent organisation, the Akhil Bharatiya Prathmik Shikshak Sangh, the teachers belonging to PSS had taken one day mass leave to attend the protest at parade ground.

Addressing the teachers, the president of PSS, Digvijay Singh said that the teachers of the state are on a path of protracted agitation the issue of OPS and their other demands but the Government is paying no heed to the justified demands.

He said the representatives of associations from all states would organise a relay hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi from February 21 to 27.

It is worth mentioning here that the employees recruited



- Addressing the teachers, the president of PSS, Digvijay Singh said that the teachers of the state are on a path of protracted agitation the issue of OPS and their other demands but the Government is paying no heed to the justified demands
- It is worth mentioning here that the employees recruited after the year 2004 are listed under the New Pension Scheme (NPS) under which a fixed contribution from their salary every month is deposited to create a corpus (fund)
- The employees get the interest generated from their corpus as pension on retirement which is not fixed as it was in OPS

after the year 2004 are listed under the New Pension Scheme (NPS) under which a fixed contribution from their salary every month is deposited to create a corpus (fund).

The employees get the interest generated from their corpus as pension on retirement which is not fixed as it was in OPS.

The employees organisations are claiming that they would get meagre pensions under the NPS which would not be able sustain them after

retirement.

They are demanding that the government should restore the OPS for them. In response to a question about restoration of OPS in state assembly recently, the officiating parliamentary affairs minister, Madan Kaushik had informed that the state has 1.40 lakh employees who are under OPS while 80,000 employees are under NPS.

The PSS is also demanding that the state government should remove the disparities

in the sixth pay commission and the recommendations of the VII pay commission should be implemented uniformly for all the teachers in the country.

The association also wants that all teachers working in capacities such as Para teachers, contractual teachers, Shiksha Mitras should be regularised. The PSS also wants that the anti teacher provisions from the National Education Policy should be removed and efforts to strengthen primary education in the country should be initiated.

## Alleged rape & murder case lodged against 2, including constable

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Police have registered a case of alleged rape and murder against two accused including one police constable in the case wherein a woman was found dead in a hotel room in Haridwar on Sunday.

The woman, 35-year-old Anu Tyagi from Dehradun was found dead in the room of a hotel at Ranipur Mod. After her body was found, it was ascertained that the hotel room had been booked by police constable Deepak Chauhan.

According to the information provided by official sources, the woman found dead in the hotel was a beautician and had come to Haridwar regarding her work.

Police have registered a case of rape and murder against constable Deepak Chauhan and an unidentified person. According to police, the hotel room in which the woman's body was found had been booked by constable Deepak Chauhan.

Taking this matter seriously, a case has been registered against Chauhan and another person on the directions of the Haridwar SSP Senthil Avoodai Krishnaraj S.

Also, instructions have been given to SP City, Kamlesh Upadhyay to investigate the case. In the case, hotel manager Anil Verma said that two policemen had come from the Mayapur post on Saturday evening and had informed that a guest of the CO would be

**According to the information provided by official sources, the woman found dead in the hotel was a beautician and had come to Haridwar regarding her work**

coming to the hotel for which they had asked for a room to be booked.

The manager had asked the constable for a slip stating so but Chauhan didn't give it then and said that it would be delivered to the hotel later.

The guests- a man and a woman came to the hotel at 8 PM on Saturday and were given a room.

When the manager asked for the woman's ID, the man accompanying her had said that he is from the police. Considering this, the hotel manager gave him a room.

When the door was knocked the next morning, there was no response from the inside. After this, the hotel staff called the police who broke open the door and found the body of the woman on the bed.

SP city, Kamlesh Upadhyay said that a case has been registered with Kotwali inspector Praveen Koshiyari as the investigation officer.

The viscera of the woman has been preserved while the post mortem report is still awaited. The exact cause of death is expected to be ascertained in the post mortem report.

## Work in mission mode to improve Governance Index ranking: CS

**Dehradun:** Uttarakhand is ranked second among Himalayan and hill states and 10th in the all India governance index. Work will have to be undertaken in the mission mode to improve this ranking further, said chief secretary Utpal Kumar Singh.

Referring to the state's tourism potential, Singh stressed on the need for special focus on cleanliness of main roads and tourist destinations.

The government is also according priority to waste disposal and facilitating modern toilets. He remarked that innovative works had been started in agriculture, education and

health sectors. District magistrates and chief development officers can play a vital role in this. Innovative projects should be uploaded on the CSR portal while best practices in the districts should also be made available online, said the chief secretary. Secretaries R Meenakshi Sundaram, Nitesh Jha, Sowjanya, Arvind Singh Hyanki along with Nainital district magistrate Savin Bansal and his Rudraprayag counterpart Mangesh Ghildiyal expressed their views on ease of living.

In the second session, additional chief secretary Om Prakash spoke on various aspects of technical education. Special focus needs to be laid at the district administration level for development in the sphere

of technical education, he said. Industry principal secretary Manisha Panwar stressed on the need for laying special focus on local traditional crafts for livelihood. Value addition to local products and facilitating a market for the same is among the government's priorities. Principal secretary Anand Bardhan said that district magistrates should also inspect higher education institutions. District specific skill development programmes should be conducted in the institutions, for which the assistance of the district administration is also needed, he said.

In the final session, the power secretary Radhika Jha said that quality power supply, encouraging green energy and ensuring swift redressal

of public grievances are among the government's priorities. Monitoring at the district level is essential for this purpose.

Referring to measures being taken for doubling the income of farmers, additional chief secretary Om Prakash stressed that both farm-based and non farm-based schemes will have to be implemented effectively. He also pointed to the need for developing markets for the local produce. There is also need to work on risk management to facilitate crop insurance and minimise loss to the farmers. Focus on the micro plan, integrated model village and skill development in agriculture sector is also needed to double income of farmers, he added. **PNS**

## Ex-CM extends support to Anganwadi workers

**Dehradun:** Former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat came in support of Anganwadi workers protesting in support of their demands here on Monday.

Rawat said, "Anganwadi workers are the pillars of rural development, especially in projects related to child nutrition, child education, and women empowerment that revolve around these women. Their workload has been increased consistently by the government. We had started the process of increasing their allowance including few holidays that was discontinued by the current government. These women are struggling for so many days, even during the night and the rain but the Chief Minister could not find the time to meet them. When I found out about this, I decided to meet the Anganwadi workers. Though they didn't call me, I came on my own", he added. **PNS**

## Snowfall/avalanche warning issued for 4 districts

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The district magistrates of four mountainous districts of the state have been asked to observe precautions considering the possibility of snowfall and avalanche.

The Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) executive director Piyooch Rautela has written to the district magistrates of Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Pithoragarh regarding this.

Rautela informed that according to the forecast issued by the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) on Monday evening, there is a possibility of snowfall and avalanche in some of the high altitude regions of the State from Monday till the evening of Tuesday.

The possibility of snowfall/avalanche has been forecast

(danger level III) especially for Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Pithoragarh districts. In case of heavy snowfall in these regions, there could be the risk of avalanche too. Considering this, the locals should observe some basic precautions. They should stay informed about snowfall/avalanche in their nearby areas.

In case of avalanche/snowfall, people should avoid travelling to areas with snow and travel only if absolutely necessary.

Further, during snowfall, people should not allow too much snow to accumulate on the roofs of their homes, temporary shelters and cow sheds. Those staying temporarily in areas with heavy snowfall should shift to lower altitudes for some days.

Extreme care should be observed in areas known to be avalanche zones.

Meanwhile, the State meteorological centre has forecast partly to generally cloudy across the state today with possibility of light rainfall/snowfall at a few places especially in the mountains. Dehradun is forecast to experience partly clear sky with possibility of light rain/thunderstorm in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures in Dehradun are expected to be 17 degrees Celsius and seven degrees Celsius respectively.

On Monday, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various places in the state were 17.8 degrees Celsius and 5.9 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 14.8 degrees Celsius and 6.2 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, nine degrees Celsius and -0.3 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 10 degrees Celsius and one degree Celsius respectively in New Tehri.





Students walk on a snow-covered road as they leave for their homes from school in Keylong district, Himachal Pradesh, on Monday

PTI

## Birthplace rightful demand of Kashmiri Pandits, says Naidu

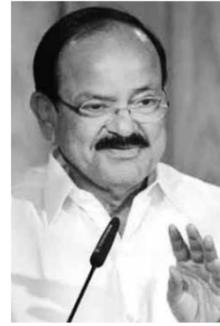
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday said it is quite natural for the Kashmiri Pandits to expect the governments and society to understand their sufferings and take steps for their rehabilitation.

He said it is the duty of the country as a whole and the Kashmiri people in particular to see that the "sons of the soil, who were driven out due to killings and terror instigated by India's neighbour, are provided safety and security upon their return."

In a series of tweets, Naidu said it is the rightful demand of the Kashmiri Pandits and other displaced persons that they should be facilitated to return to their place of birth.

"I feel that it is quite natural for the Kashmiri Pandits to expect the governments and society to understand their



sufferings and take steps for their rehabilitation," he said.

The displaced Kashmiri pandits across the world commemorated January 19 as "holocaust day" to mark the exodus of over 70,000 pandit families from the Valley due to killings and terror by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in 1990.

## Paswan defends CAA, NPR but feels protesters have a right to express themselves

PTI ■ PATNA

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Monday sought to dispel misgivings about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Population Register but underscored that the Constitution guaranteed "right to freedom of expression" which ought to be respected while dealing with protests.

Paswan also claimed that it was at his instance that the Union Home Ministry agreed to "amend" the NPR forms wherein columns like those pertaining to places of birth of parents had triggered fears that the exercise might be a precursor to the National Register of Citizens (NRC). "Even I do not know my date of birth. Do I cease to become a citizen on that account? I had told the Home Ministry that these things will cause confusion. Now the Ministry has amended the forms," he told reporters here.

Notably, the Union Home Ministry had recently stated that people could "skip

the aforementioned columns after a request to the effect was made by many states, not ruled by the BJP, that these be "dropped". The Union Minister, who holds Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution System portfolio, however sought to allay fears that people not possessing required documents could lose their citizenship and Muslims whom the CAA allegedly discriminates against would suffer the most.

"No Government can dare to snatch away any persons citizenship. It will lead to an upheaval. Any regime which seeks to do so will be torn apart by the media. This is simply not possible", he said. However, he added "we owe our rise in politics to the 1974 students' movement. Now, students, the youth have their own sentiments. We cannot do much about that. But it is true that the police often goes overboard in enforcing rule of law", said Paswan, who is the founder of Lok Janshakti Party an NDA constituent

## Davinder Singh's DGP's commendation medal, certificate forfeited

**Jammu:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday forfeited the DGP's commendation medal and certificate given to suspended DSP Davinder Singh, who has been arrested for helping terrorists travel out of J&K, five days after he lost his Sher-e-Kashmir Police Medal for Gallantry.

An order issued by the Director General of Police Dilbag Singh announced the forfeiture of DGP's commendation medal and certificate which was awarded the now

disgraced officer on December 31, 1998. "Consequent upon the arrest of Davinder Singh, DySP on January 11, while trying to assist terrorists to travel outside J&K and recovery of arms and ammunition, which amounts to disloyalty and conduct that has brought the force into disrepute, the DGP commendation medal along with certificate awarded to him on December 31, 1998 is hereby forfeited," the order read.

On January 15, the Jammu and Kashmir administration forfeited the Sher-e-Kashmir

Police Medal for Gallantry awarded to Davinder Singh in 2018.

Police had arrested Singh at Mir Bazar in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district along with Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists Naveed Baba and Alaf, besides a lawyer who was operating as an overground worker for terror outfits.

Searches were carried out at Singh's residence in Srinagar, right next to the Army's XV corps headquarters at Badami Bagh cantonment, PTI

## 'Develop Hindu religious sites in Kartarpur for tourism, economy'

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

The Hindus in Pakistan's northwest province have asked the Government to replicate the Kartarpur corridor example by developing their over 200 religious sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, asserting that it will promote tourism and help put the country's ailing economy on a sound footing.

In November, Pakistan and India separately inaugurated the historic Kartarpur corridor on their sides of the border to facilitate the visa-

free entry of Indian Sikh pilgrims to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak Dev. The corridor provides the shortest route for Indian Sikh pilgrims to the revered Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur area of Pakistan's Narowal district, where Guru Nanak spent last 18 years of his life.

Leader of Hindu Community Peshawar Haroon Sarab Dyal said on Sunday that in view of the positive impact of the Kartarpur corridor, the

**Hindus in Pakistan's northwest province have asked the Government to replicate the Kartarpur corridor example by developing their over 200 religious sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, asserting that it will promote tourism and help put the country's ailing economy on a sound footing**

provincial and federal governments should also develop the religious sites of Hindus in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It will promote religious tourism and put Pakistan's economy on track, he said.

Dyal said if the government agreed to develop Hindus' religious sites, they would attract many pilgrims from the across the world.

There are over 65 religious sites in Swabi district, and 154 in Nowshera district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), he said.

The KPK has one of the world's largest Shivalinghams and is home to 12 panths of the Sanatana dharama,

including Gorakhnath and Bholaynath, he said.

Kali Bari Mandir in Dera Ismail Khan district too has a great importance in Hindu religion, Dyal said.

The followers of the Hindu religion have swelled to over one billion in the world and to woo them to the province will be a boon to Pakistan's economy, he added.

According to the Pakistan Hindu Council, there are around 8 million Hindus living in Pakistan, comprising 4 per cent of the Pakistani population.

# SAD won't contest polls in Delhi

From Page 1

"BJP leadership wanted us to reconsider this stand, so, we decided to not fight these polls instead of changing our stand," Sirsa added.

Sirsa who was accompanied by Harmeet Singh Kalka, president, Delhi unit of the SAD said that they have

opted out as they refused to change their stand on including Muslims in the CAA. "Our party's stand was questioned by the alliance partner - BJP," Sirsa said.

"We were questioned on SAD leadership's stand on CAA and told in meetings that this was not the BJP stand. Our stand is clear that country cannot be

divided on the basis of religion, the party was asked to reconsider the stand on including our Muslim brothers in the CAA. The Akali Dal does not favour the NRC also," Sirsa said.

Pertinently, Delhi has over 10 lakh sikh voters and SAD contested elections in Delhi from the four Sikh dominat-

ed Assembly seats which are - Hari Nagar, Rajouri Garden, Tilak Nagar and Kalkaji. Notably, SAD fought Assembly elections in 2015 while in 2017 Sirsa fought by-election from the Rajouri Garden seat which he lost to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Jarnail Singh.

## Brajesh, 18 convicted in Bihar's shelter home case

From Page 1

The court fixed January 28 for hearing arguments on quantum of sentence. The offences entail a maximum punishment of life imprisonment. It however acquitted one Vikki in the case for the want of evidence. One of the female accused Rosy Rani, former assistant director of child protection unit in Muzaffarpur, was convicted for the offences under section 21(1) (failure to report commission of an offence) of the POCSO Act.

Since the maximum punishment for the offence was six months, which she had already undergone, she was granted bail by the court.

Dillip Kumar Verma, former chairman of Child Welfare

Committee (CWC) of Muzaffarpur, child protection officer of District Child Protection Unit Ravi Roshan, member of CWC Vikas Kumar and other accused Vijay Kumar Tiwari, Guddu Patel, Kishan Kumar and Ramanuj Thakur were convicted for the offences of aggravated penetrative sexual assault under POCSO Act, criminal conspiracy, rape, gang rape, causing hurt, abetment to rape under IPC and POCSO Act, and section 75 of the JJ Act.

Two of the accused -- Rama Shankar Singh and Dr Ashwani-- were held guilty for the offences of criminal conspiracy and abetment to rape. Rama was also convicted under sections 323 of IPC, 75 of JJ Act and 21 of POCSO Act.

Female accused -- Shaista Praveen, Indu Kumari, Minu Devi, Manju Devi, Chanda Devi, Neha Kumari, Hema Masih, Kiran Kumari -- were held guilty for criminal conspiracy, abetment to rape, cruelty to child and failure to

report commission of an offence. After the pronouncement of the judgement, one of the convicts Ravi broke down in the courtroom.

"I have not done any of the crimes told by you. I have not committed such shameful acts on the girls. You are sending me to jail. I will commit suicide," he told the judge.

The judge asked his counsel to console him. Following this, some female convicts also started crying to which the judge sternly directed the investigating officer and the jail authorities to take them outside and console them.

Advocates P K Dubey and Nishaank Mattoo, appearing for Thakur, told reporters that they will challenge the verdict in the higher court. Advocate Gyanendra Mishra, representing Dillip, too said there was no evidence against the accused and he will challenge the judgement in the higher court.

The court had recorded the statement of 69 witnesses lead by the CBI, represented by

Public Prosecutor Amit Jindal.

It had recorded the statement of 44 girls who were physically and sexually assaulted at the shelter home, of which around 13 were mentally disabled. It had examined 20 defence witnesses, said advocate Dheeraj Kumar, appearing for some of the accused.

The trial was held on a day-to-day basis and was completed within six months as per the Supreme Court's directions.

The court had on March 30, 2019, framed charges against the accused, including Thakur.

It had held trial for the offences of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, drugging of minors, criminal intimidation among other charges.

Thakur and employees of his shelter home, as well as Bihar department of social welfare officials were charged with criminal conspiracy, neglect of duty and failure to report assault on the girls. The charges also included offence of cruelty to child under their

authority, punishable under the Juvenile Justice Act.

The court had reserved order on September 30, 2019 after final arguments by the CBI counsel and 20 accused in the case in which former Bihar Social Welfare Minister and the then JD(U) leader Manju Verma also faced flak as allegations surfaced that Thakur had links with her husband.

She had resigned from her post on August 8, 2018.

The case was transferred on February 7, 2019 from a local court in Muzaffarpur in Bihar to a POCSO court at Saket district court complex in Delhi on the apex court's directions.

The matter had come to light on May 26, 2018 after Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) submitted a report to the Bihar government highlighting the alleged sexual abuse of minor girls in the shelter home for the first time. The report had been submitted to the Bihar Social Welfare Department by TISS in February that year. PTI

## Relief for 12K homebuyers as SC allows Centre to run Unitech management

From Page 1

The top court ordered that existing management board of Unitech would stand superseded with the new board of directors taking charge.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for existing management of Unitech, said that Ramesh Chandra and an accountant should be allowed to be appointed on the new board of the company as it would be of immense help to the homebuyers due to his experience.

The Bench however refused to agree with the contention and said that to avoid any misunderstanding, it would not be appropriate to appoint any member of the existing board on the new one.

Unitech promoters Sanjay Chandra and his brother Ajay Chandra are currently lodged in Tihar jail for allegedly siphoning off homebuyers' money.

The top court granted two-month moratorium to the new board and granted it immunity from any legal proceedings against the company's management saying the proceedings initiated against the firm, subsequent to any court order would also stand suspended till further orders. It said however that investigating agencies probing irregularities in the company would continue their

work. The top court said that it will appoint a retired apex court judge to monitor the preparation of resolution framework by the new Board.

It said the committee headed by Justice S N Dhingra, which was appointed to sell the company's assets and use the money in completion of pending projects, would continue to work till the new board comes up with a resolution framework.

The Bench clarified that the newly constituted board can take any commercial decision in the interest of homebuyers and with regard to any pending projects. The top court also directed the present management of the company, forensic auditors, asset reconstruction companies, banks and financial institutions and state governments to extend cooperation to the new board.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, said the new board taking control of Unitech management is a mix of talent and would help in speedy completion of the stalled projects.

He said the Centre will not infuse any funds for completion of pending projects of the company and the court should ensure a period of calm and direct a moratorium on litigations for 12 months.

It said, that the idea of board of independent directors is to professionalise the management of the company. On December 18, last year, the top court had asked the Centre if it

was agreeable to revisit its 2017 proposal as there is urgent need for the projects of Unitech Ltd. To be taken up by a specialised agency, so as to ensure completion in a time bound schedule in the interest of the home buyers.

In 2017, the Centre had moved the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking suspension of the current directors and taking of control of the management of Unitech Ltd but had later withdrawn the proposal after a stay on its move from the apex court. In 2018, the apex court had directed a forensic audit of Unitech Ltd and its sister concerns and subsidiaries by Samir Paranjpe, Partner, Forensic and Investigation Services in M/s Grant Thornton India.

The forensic auditors have also submitted their report which said that Unitech Ltd received around Rs 14,270 crore from 29,800 homebuyers mostly between 2006-2014 and around Rs 1,805 crore from six financial institutions for the construction of 74 projects.

The audit revealed that around Rs 5,063 crore of homebuyers' money and around Rs 763 crore of fund received from financial institutions were not utilised by the company and high value investments were made off-shore tax-haven countries between 2007-2010. The top court ordered investigation into the omission and commission of promoters of Unitech Ltd under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). PTI

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# Nadda takes up...

From Page 1

Wishing Nadda very best for his tenure, the PM said, "Nadda is a dedicated and disciplined karyakarta who has worked for years to strengthen the party at the grassroots. His affable nature is also known to all."

"Be it as a young party karyakarta, MLA, Minister in Himachal Pradesh or organisational duties at the Centre, MP and Union Minister, Nadda has added value to any responsibility he has held," Modi added.

BJP leader Radha Mohan Singh, who was the in-charge of the organisational election process, made the announcement of Nadda's election as the party's 11th president after he emerged as the only nominee in the fray.

Modi later arrived at the party headquarters to felicitate the elected president at a

ceremony that was attended by members of the BJP Parliamentary Board, its high-end body, and veterans like LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi.

Earlier, Shah was joined by senior party leaders, including Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadhkari, besides several functionaries from State units in filing nominations in support of Nadda.

BJP Chief Ministers, like Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh and Vijay Rupani of Gujarat, were also at the party headquarters.

Nadda's elevation was on expected lines since his appointment as the BJP working president last June after Shah joined the Modi Government as the Home Minister. The BJP has traditionally abided by the norm of 'one party one post'.

BJP leaders hailed the appointment, expressing confidence that the party would achieve new successes under his leadership.

Shah congratulated Nadda and expressed confidence that under the new BJP president and the guidance of Modi, the party will scale new heights of success and grow from strength to strength. Wishing Nadda a successful tenure, Rajnath Singh said, "I am confident the party will achieve new glory and success under his leadership. Known for his organisational experience Naddaji has always been an asset to the party."

Gadhkari said the elevation of Nadda, who started as a common party worker and rose through its ranks, shows that the BJP was an organisation of workers unlike parties run by dynasties.

# New president is...

From Page 1

However, his big test would be the next year's assembly polls in West Bengal, a state where the BJP has never tasted power but has emerged as a strong challenger to Mamata Banerjee-headed TMC.

Despite its overwhelming win in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP has suffered several defeats in state polls since 2018 and its governments have been unable to come to power, except in Haryana where it had to join hands with JJP to form government.

The 59-year-old Nadda, who holds a degree in law, brings decades of experience during which he served at key party posts, headed its election campaign in a host of states -- from Bihar to Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Punjab among others --

and also worked as a minister in BJP governments in his home state of Himachal Pradesh.

He was also a Cabinet minister in the first Modi government.

The Brahmin leader is considered within the party an epitome of political correctness with his manners unfailingly polite in public and his attacks on rivals never triggering any unseemly controversy.

However, party insiders say Nadda can be very firm in his handling of organisational affairs and electoral challenges but makes it a point to not make any public fuss about them.

He is also a man of detail as party leaders recall that he spent months in Uttar Pradesh, a state he was made in-charge of during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, meeting

every religious leader of consequence and holding long meetings with party leaders and allies to take on the formidable challenge posed by the SP-BSP alliance.

Nadda hails from Himachal Pradesh but was born and raised in Bihar where his father was a professor in Patna University.

He joined the ABVP, the RSS' student wing, there and was active in the anti-Emergency stir headed, his colleagues say.

On his return to his home state, he was elected as student union president of the Himachal University.

He became president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, the BJP's youth wing, in 1991. Incidentally, Shah was also a BJYM office bearer that time.

It was a sign of the trust he always had of the party

leadership that he became the leader of the opposition in Himachal in 1993 after being elected an MLA for the first time.

When the BJP stormed to power in 1998 in the state, he became a minister. He was a minister again in 2010 when he resigned to become the party's national general secretary when Nitin Gadhkari was its president.

He enjoyed warm relations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the latter was for long in-charge of the party's affairs in Himachal.

Nadda was elected to Rajya Sabha in 2012 and made a member of the party's parliamentary board in 2014 when Shah took over as its president. His steady rise through the organisation continued when Modi and Shah chose him to be its working president last year.

# PM interacts with students at 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A technology-free room in the house and keeping oneself away from gadgets for some time everyday were the two big takeaways for the students from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' on Monday.

Modi used examples from cricket to the Chandrayaan 2 mission besides experiences of his personal life to reach out to the students, teachers and parents on a range of issues, including exam stress and time management.

Through the third edition of the programme in the national Capital, while Modi asked the examinees not to get demotivated by temporary setbacks, he also urged over 10 crore audiences across 28 countries not to become slaves of technology.

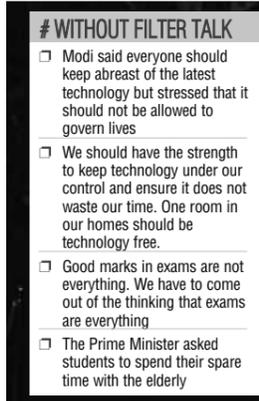
smart phones, computers and televisions daily for some time besides a technology-free room.

"Good marks in exams are not everything. We have to come out of the thinking that exams are everything," Modi said.

In the event organised by HRD Ministry for which preparations went on for a month, was telecast and streamed live, Modi said everyone should keep abreast of the latest technology but stressed that it should not be allowed to govern lives.

"Technological trends are changing quickly. It is essential to stay updated with these trends. Fear of technology is not good. Technology is a friend. Mere knowledge of technology isn't enough. Its application is as important," he said.

"We should have the strength to keep technology under our control and ensure it does not waste our time. One room in our homes should be technology free. Whoever enters will not carry any gad-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during an interactive session — 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020' with school and college students at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi



gets," he said. The Prime Minister asked students to spend their spare time with the elderly.

The Prime Minister appealed to students to not be

demotivated if they face temporary setbacks and take failures in their stride. "We can add enthusiasm to every aspect of life. A temporary setback doesn't mean success is not

waiting. In fact, a setback may mean the best is yet to come. Motivation, demotivation are very common. Everyone goes through these feelings," he said. "In this regard, I can never

forget my visit to ISRO during Chandrayaan and the time spent with our hardworking scientists. I was told I shouldn't attend Chandrayaan landing as there was no guarantee of success but I needed to be there," he added, recalling the failed landing of the Chandrayaan-2 mission's Vikram lander.

The PM sought to speak to the students in their own language and said his conversations with them will be "hashtag without filter".

During the freewheeling course, the PM also asked students to remember the India-Australia test series in 2001 to emphasise his message about positive thinking. "Our cricket team was facing setbacks. The mood was not very good. But in those moments can we ever forget what Rahul Dravid and V V S Laxman did? They turned the match around. Similarly, who can forget Anil Kumble bowling with an injury. This is the power of motivation and positive thinking," he said to the much inter-

est of the youngsters at the jam-packed Talkatora Stadium.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of taking on extra-curricular activities and said there is a growing tendency among parents to push their children into activities considered "glamorous" which they can discuss in their conversations with their friends. "Parents should instead take time out to find out what their children want to do," he said.

Asserting that children should be "pursued not pressured into studies", he recommended that students read his book "Exam Warriors" to get over the stress of appearing for exams. He urged students to be confident about their own preparation.

Students who got to ask questions to the Prime Minister were short-listed on the basis of essays submitted on five subjects — Gratitude is Great, Your Future Depends on Your Aspirations, Examining Exams, Our Duties, Your Take, and Balance is Beneficial.

## INSHORT

**ED ARRESTS NRI BUSINESSMAN C C THAMPI**  
New Delhi: The ED has arrested NRI businessman C C Thampi, being probed for alleged forex violations of over ₹1,000 crore and other charges, under the anti-money laundering law. The central agency has been probing Thampi in a case of purchase of property in Kerala in alleged contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). A show cause notice of over Rs 1,000 crore was slapped by the ED against him in 2017.

**SONIA MOURNS DEMISE OF SHAMSHER SURJEWALA**  
New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday condoled the demise of veteran party leader from Haryana Shamsheer Singh Surjewala, father of party's chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala. In her condolence letter to Vidya, the wife of Surjewala, Sonia said the departed leader's legacy will continue to guide those dedicated to serving their communities. Surjewala passed away in Delhi on Monday following prolonged illness. He was 87.

**PM, NEPAL PREMIER TO JOINTLY OPEN PROJECTS**  
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli will on Tuesday jointly inaugurate the second integrated check post at Jogbani-Biratnagar, built with Indian assistance to facilitate trade and people's movement between the two nations. Both the prime ministers will also witness the remarkable progress in Indian-assisted post-earthquake housing reconstruction projects in Nepal, the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet.

**EC ADJOURNS KC (M) DISPUTE HEARING TO FEB 5**  
New Delhi: The Election Commission on Monday extended its order to temporarily freeze the 'two leaves' symbol of the Kerala Congress (M) to February 5 in the dispute between the two factions claiming ownership of the party.

**AWARD GIVEN TO MARIAM SHEIKH**  
New Delhi: Dr. Mariam Sheikh, former Vice-President, Amity University Dubai was awarded, the "Life-Time Achievement Award for Women in Non-Profit" by Dr. DS Chauhan, Former President, Association of Indian Universities at the International Inspirational Women Awards (IIWA) 2020. She was amongst 81 other women achievers that were recognized for their contributions towards the society. Also present on the occasion was Asha Sharma, Mayor, Ghaziabad, Dr. Balvinder Shukla, Vice-Chancellor, Amity University.

**ABP UNVEILS NEW SEASON OF 'PRADHANMANTRI'**  
New Delhi: ABP News has unveiled the second season of its highly-acclaimed show, Pradhanmantri. Season II will be hosted by the internationally acclaimed director, producer, and actor, Shekhar Kapur, oblivious about.

**JASPAL SONI, LOIS DRAKE'S BOOK RELEASED**  
New Delhi: Writers Jaspal Soni and Lois Drake's new book titled "You Are Kalki Avatar To The Rescue" released by BlueRose Publishers on Monday. This book is also available at Amazon bookstore. The book also describes about the powers of Kalki, Reality of the universe and the hands of Kalki in its divine existence. The captivating story is about how six ordinary people from different religious backgrounds find ways to make a difference through a common spiritual thread.

**ASI E-GOVERNANCE AWARDED WITH CSI**  
New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India's e-governance system has been awarded with Computer Society of India's (CSI) - Special Interest Group (SIG) 'Award of Excellence' under the category Projects-Central Government in recognition of #DigitalIndia initiative by the ASI at Computer Society of India's Annual Convention 2020 held at Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

## Centre rejigs senior officials, appoints 31 at joint secy level

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday approved a major bureaucratic reshuffle posting 31 officers as joint secretaries including Rajeev Singh Thakur and Shantanu in the newly-created department of military affairs.

Thakur, a 1995 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, will have a tenure till December 3, 2022. Shantanu, a 1997 batch Tripura cadre IAS officer, has been appointed to the post till March 27, 2024, an order issued by the personnel ministry said.

The Government had last month created the department of military affairs, which is headed by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat.

Odisha cadre IAS officer Vishal Gagan will be joint secretary, department of defence for a tenure of five years, it said.

Ashutosh Agnihotri has been appointed joint secretary in home ministry. Jammu and Kashmir cadre IAS officer Ashok Kumar Parmar will be advisor, inter-state council secretariat under the Home Ministry.

Bharat H Khera has been appointed joint secretary in Cabinet Secretariat. Vimalendra Anand Patwardhan, an officer of Indian Audit and Accounts Service, has been named as joint secretary and financial adviser in ministry of civil aviation, and IAS officer Nagaraju Maddirala will be joint secre-

tary in the coal ministry.

S Suresh Kumar and Puneet Agarwal have been appointed as joint secretaries in department of commerce and department of defence production respectively.

Vineet Mathur, a 1994 batch officer of Indian Postal Service, will be JS, department of consumer affairs and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer Sanjukta Mudgal has been appointed as joint secretary in culture ministry.

IAS officer Tanmay Kumar has been appointed joint secretary in the power ministry. Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer Hari Ranjan Rao will be joint secretary, department of telecommunications for five years.

## IN A FIRST AT R-DAY PARADE

# Women CRPF bikers to display daredevilry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Women daredevilry will be on full display on Rajpath this Republic Day, as an all-women bikers' contingent of the CRPF will make its debut and showcase its nail-biting stunts.

The 65-member team of women will display its acrobatic skills on 350 cc Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycles towards the end of the over 90-minute-long parade.

It will be the first time that the women bikers will perform in the Republic Day parade. This squad was raised in 2014 to involve women in the entire spectrum of roles performed by the Force.

The contingent will be led by Inspector Seema Nag, who is



deployed with the Rapid Action Force (RAF), a special anti-riots combat unit of the CRPF.

The Central Reserve Police Force is the world's largest paramilitary force with about 3.25 lakh personnel in its ranks.

The members of the squad have been specially chosen from various combat units of the Force and are in the age group of 25 to 30, officials said.

This contingent had earlier

performed at the birth anniversary celebrations of country's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31 last year at Kevadia in Gujarat, an event that saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance.

In 1986, the CRPF had raised the first armed women's battalion in the Asia region. Presently, the CRPF has six Mahila Battalions (6,000 personnel).

The all-women bikers contingent is slated to perform as many as nine acts of daring bike riding and conclude by forming a human pyramid on multiple motorcycles and is expected to fly the tricolor and the CRPF flag on the top.

At the 2018 Republic Day parade, a women bikers contingent of the Border Security Force (BSF) had debuted on the occasion that year.

In 2015, women marching contingents of Army, Navy and Air Force had debuted in the national parade. According to tradition, the BSF and the Army's bike-borne daredevils end the Republic Day parade every alternate year riding their roaring bikes. This year, the opportunity has been given to the CRPF women personnel, officials said.

## Yechury slams Govt on economy slowdown

Says it not just 'mismanagement' but 'destruction of lives'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing slowdown in economy, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Monday slammed the Government saying this was not just "mismanagement" but "destruction of lives". Reacting to reports that the Government's tax collection is likely to fall short of its estimate by Rs 2.5 lakh crore or 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2019-20, Yechury said that the Centre will be made accountable.

"This is not mere mismanagement of the economy. It is the destruction of lives and livelihoods of millions of Indians, while Modi's rich cronies continue to benefit and fund the BJP. The people on the streets have taken note, accountability will be fixed," he tweeted.

Quoting an Oxfam study which said that India's richest one per cent hold more than four-times the wealth held by 953 million people who make up for the bottom 70 per cent of the country's population, while the total wealth of all Indian billionaires is more than the full-year budget, Yechury said that this is the reason

Prime Minister Narendra Modi doesn't want people to know who funds the BJP.

"The whole electoral bond scheme is opaque and points to a collusion between the BJP and those who have become richer as a majority of Indians become poorer," he claimed.

## POLNET 2.0 armed with multi-media facility launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Monday inaugurated revamped police communication services — POLNET 2.0. The new platform is armed with a robust multi-media facility and is a captive satellite-based network that provides video, audio and data connectivity across the country,

especially in times of disasters when regular communication either gets jammed or crashes.

"The operationalisation of POLNET 2.0 is a big achievement for the country and the DCPW is to be complimented for rendering this task. This system will work in any weather," Rai said while launching the facility at Vigyan Bhawan here. The Directorate of

Coordination Police Wireless (DCPW) that operates POLNET or the police network services in the country has brought out an enhanced communication platform for police and security forces to communicate better during law and order problems and disasters, including linkup from remote border and coastal areas. The DCPW was set up in 1946 and it was placed under the

Ministry of Home Affairs in 1950 with the primary mandate of coordination between state and central police and security agencies for radio communication and frequency allocation. It has been operating POLNET since 2006.

The new platform is named POLNET 2.0 and for the first time it will provide video-conferencing facility to four entities

sitting at different locations in the country with Internet-enabled multimedia services,

a senior official said. From its control room in Delhi, it can host 40 people talking at one point of time, the official added. POLNET 2.0 will also have a phone calling facility for personnel of police and paramilitary forces deployed in remote areas to talk to their families.

## Modi extracts wealth from poor, gives it to capitalist friend: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi extracts wealth from India's poor and gives it to his "crony capitalist friends" and the big power brokers he is dependent on.

Rahul Gandhi's attack on the prime minister came over an Oxfam report which claimed that India's richest 1 per cent hold more than four-times the wealth held by 953 million people who make up for the bottom 70 per cent of the country's population.

"Modi extracts wealth from India's poor and gives it to his crony capitalist friends & the big power brokers he's dependent on. 1% of India's super rich, now own 4 times more wealth than 1 billion of India's

poor," the former Congress president said in a tweet.

The total wealth of all Indian billionaires is more than the full-year budget, said the study titled 'Time to Care' which was tagged by Rahul Gandhi Oxfam also said the world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 per cent of the planet's population.

The Gandhi scion has often used the term 'crony capitalism' to attack Modi. He first used the term post demonetization when he alleged that Prime Minister's demonetisation decision was a "huge scam" and its objective was to rob from the common people of India to benefit his crony capitalist friends. He again used the same terminology during the Rafale scam controversy.

## Doctors want standardised pharma marketing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the controversy over Alpha firms allegedly 'bribing' medical professionals, the Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH), a network of doctors from across the country has demanded that the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) framed five years ago be made mandatory.

"Presently, even after five years the code remains voluntary. This is despite the fact that several medical organisations have demanded this repeatedly from the Government. The global experience also shows that voluntary code does not work," said Dr GS Grewal, one of the ADEH members and former president- Punjab Medical



Council, Ludhiana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as published in a section of the media has warned pharmaceutical companies not to indulge in unethical practices and stop giving freebies to the doctors with a purpose to procure business. However, that any such deliberations occurred in the meeting with the Prime Minister has been

denied by the pharmaceutical companies, said Dr Grewal. He alleged that the companies spend crores of rupees through associations by sponsoring the medical conferences. "They spend huge amount on travel, accommodation and other expenditures on the doctors for lavish arrangements of the conferences."

As per the clause 7.2 of the UCPMP "companies or their associations/representatives shall not extend any hospitality like hotel accommodation to healthcare practitioners and their family members under any pretext."

The implied meaning of this is that even extending benefits to the doctors through associations is unethical. But this is being flouted with impunity, alleged Dr Arun Mitra, ENT specialist and former Chairperson, Ethics Committee of the PMC, Ludhiana.

It is also equally important that the freebies from the pharmaceutical companies be made taxable. These were taxable earlier but the decision was reversed later by the Pune Bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, said the doctor.

# Study reveals Sepsis linked to 1-in-5 deaths worldwide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Though preventable and treatable, sepsis — a life threatening complication of an infection — claimed about 11 million lives worldwide in 2017, almost twice as high as previously estimated.

According to a study published in the latest edition of The Lancet, among the victims are a disproportionately high number of children in poor areas. Sepsis is caused by the body's defense system (immune system) working overtime to fight infection. The large number of chemicals released into the blood during

this process triggers widespread inflammation.

Blood clotting during sepsis reduces blood flow to limbs and internal organs.

This deprives them of nutrients and oxygen. In severe cases, one or more organs may fail.

India too is facing tremendous sepsis burden. At least, 34 per cent of sepsis patients died in the intensive care unit (ICU) in 2016, as per another study.

The Lancet study, which is led by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and University of Washington schools of medicine, revealed 48.9 million global cases of

sepsis in 2017 and 11 million deaths, representing 1 in 5 deaths worldwide.

The large majority of sepsis cases — 85 per cent in 2017 — occurred in low- or middle-income countries, higher among females than males. By age, the incidence of sepsis peaks in early childhood, with more than 40 per cent of all cases occurring in children under 5.

"I've worked in rural Uganda, and sepsis is what we saw every single day. Watching a baby die of a disease that could have been prevented with basic public health measures really sticks with you," said lead author Kristina E



Rudd, assistant professor in Pitt's Department of Critical Care Medicine.

For their analysis, Rudd and colleagues leveraged the Global Burden of Disease Study, a comprehensive epidemiological analysis coordinated by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

The study findings are unprecedented as they represent mortality both in and out of the hospital.

"We are alarmed to find sepsis deaths are much higher than previously estimated, especially as the condition is

both preventable and treatable," said senior author Mohsen Naghavi, professor of health metrics sciences at IHME at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

"We need renewed focus on sepsis prevention among newborns and on tackling antimicrobial resistance, an important driver of the condition."

The study authors analyzed annual sepsis incidence and mortality trends from 1990 through 2017 and found rates are improving.

In 1990, there were an estimated 60.2 million sepsis cases and 15.7 million deaths; by 2017, incidence had

dropped by 19 per cent to 48.9 million cases and deaths by 30 per cent to 11.0 million.

"So what is the solution? Well, to start with its basic public health infrastructure. Vaccines, making sure everyone has access to a toilet and clean drinking water, adequate nutrition for children and maternal health care would address a lot of these cases," said Rudd.

The research was funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Institutes of Health Pitt, the British Columbia Children's Hospital Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the Fleming Fund.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

# No explanation can satisfy me, says Ker Guv

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan said on Monday that he was not satisfied with the explanation given by the Chief Secretary on the Left Government moving the Supreme Court against the Citizenship law without informing him.

"No explanation can satisfy me," the Governor told reporters here this evening.

"My view is approval is

needed. They have gone to the Supreme Court without informing me. That is an unlawful act. Not legally correct. Hence it is neither a clash of egos or personal differences," he said.

Chief Secretary Tom Jose met the Governor on Monday, a day after the latter sought a report from the Left government over moving the apex court against the Citizenship Amendment Act without informing him.

# Mamata to pass anti-CAA resolution in House

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After Kerala and Punjab it is Bengal's turn to pass resolution rejecting the Citizenship Amendment Act. Accusing the BJP of playing a "dangerous game" by forcibly imposing CAA and National Population Register Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said the Trinamool Congress too will pass a resolution against the CAA soon. The move is a sharp departure from the stand taken by her Government a few days ago.

Moments before leaving for North Bengal where he subsequently told an audience that her Government would never allow either CAA or NPR to take place in Bengal, Banerjee said "the NPR is a very dangerous game ... it is National Citizenship Register in dis-

guise and is being pushed through in the name of NPR. We condemn the Centre's move for NPR."

Accusing BJP for trying to squeeze out absurd information from the citizens in the name of NPR so as to use it against them in future Banerjee said CAA, NRC and NPR are multiple sides of the same act adding her Government would soon pass a resolution rejecting CAA.

"We passed a resolution against NRC and CAB—which was only a bill then—a few months ago. Now as it has become a law will pass a resolution against CAA and demand its withdrawal," Banerjee said adding the resolution will be passed within 4-5 days.

The Left and the Congress immediately lashed out at the



Chief Minister for "making volte-face too often." Opposition Leader Abdul Mannan and Left Legislature Party Leader Sujan Chakrabarty said: "only a few days we had brought the proposal in the State Assembly but the government stopped the Congress and the Left from bringing a resolution against the CAA like Kerala and Punjab ... now finding that the

public opinion is going against her she has hurriedly decided to pass the resolution."

On NPR Banerjee said, "I have come to know from media reports that they are demanding absurd information about the parents of a person in the NPR format. There is a column seeking information about parents, their birth place and birth certificate. How can anyone provide such information..."

"They say that the column is optional. Have you seen any blank column in the mark sheet when you appear for an examination. This is a mischievous column. I want to know that if this column is not mandatory then why they have put it there? Again where is a

guarantee that if you do not provide the information your name will not be marked for future reference in NRC or things like that? We have passed a resolution against NPR and request all the States including the BJP-ruled states of the North East to follow suit."

State BJP leader JP Majumdar said such resolutions are of little value in the face of a parliamentary law.

In a public meeting at Darjeeling, she said, "Even I will not be able to provide these documents," adding how the other parties were acting hypocritically by making loud comments in the media against the CAA but joining the meeting in Delhi on NPR.

When asked as to whether she would like to call a meeting of opposition leaders in order to unite them Banerjee

said she might invite the Chief Ministers particularly of the north-eastern States to take a decision on the issue.

"I have no problem in hosting a meeting of the Chief Ministers in Kolkata if they are interested to join it," she said appealing to all the Chief Ministers and Governments of the North East like Tripura, Assam and elsewhere to oppose, CAA, NRC and NPR.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Chandra Bose on Monday wondered whether imposing any law on the people without their consent was the right way of doing things. The grand nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose said, "you cannot impose a law. You cannot threaten the people to follow some law. This is not fare in democracy."



Protesters display placards and raise slogans during a rally against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizenship (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR), in Karad on Monday

# Missionary school principals, church priests rally against it

Kolkata: Principals of missionary schools and church priests on Monday took out a rally to register their protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens.

The participants walked a 1.5-km distance from St Paul's Cathedral to the Gandhi statue in the city, holding placards that read "No division among people", "We are all children of Jesus" and "No CAA". They also chanted hymns in English and Bengali.

"We only wanted to drive home the message that all are equal and we should not discriminate between religions and communities," said the principal of a renowned missionary school. The Kolkata diocese of the Church of North India (CNI) also urged other protestant churches to join the rally.

"This was the first time the CNI, Kolkata Diocese, convened such a large anti-CAA rally here. We chose two points for the march — St Paul's Cathedral, that is part of the heritage of the city, and the statue of Mahatma, an apostle of non-violence and harmony," a spokesman said.



Muslim women stage a protest against CAA and NRC near Ghanatagar in old city area of Lucknow on Monday

# Seers to 'clear confusion' over citizenship law: VHP

Allahabad: The Vishva Hindu Parishad on Monday said seers will travel to villages to dispel the "confusion" being created over the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The decision was taken at a meeting here of the VHP "margdarshak mandal". Mandal member Akhileshwaranand told reporters that the "sadhus" will go from village to village and tell people, especially Muslims, that the new law does not take away anyone's citizenship.

He said the seers also expressed happiness over the abrogation of the special status of Jammu & Kashmir

and thanked the Union Government for "removing hurdles" in the way of national unity.

On the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Akhileshwaranand said the VHP will declare a date after the Centre sets up the trust for that.

In a landmark judgment on November 9 last year, the Supreme Court had directed the Centre to set up a trust in three months to formulate a scheme for the construction of a Ram temple at the site where the Babri mosque was demolished.

He said the mosque was demolished.

# Akhilesh pitches for caste census; criticises NRC, NPR

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday called the Centre's plans on NPR and NRC "anti-poor" and pitched for conducting a caste census. Yadav has made the suggestion in the past as well. His demand now comes days after the Odisha Cabinet adopted a resolution seeking revelation of caste details in the next Census.

Referring to an earlier Census, he said, "We all wanted a caste census but the Congress did not let that happen and the numbers did not come out."

He said the Census is going to take place again. "But again we are

not going to be counted."

"The reason is that the day the caste census takes place, the Hindu-Muslim conflict will come to an end," he said without elaborating. He added that once this happens "nobody will be upset with Yadav brothers". Yadav was addressing party workers at an event here to welcome new members to the SP. They included leaders at the block panchayat level and those who had fought elections in the past.

Criticising the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, he claimed it had created a rift in that state.

Lakhs of people in Assam had

found themselves excluded from the NRC at the end of the exercise to weed out illegal migrants. The SP chief claimed that the NRC and the recently enacted Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) are "anti-poor". In an apparent reference to the recent criticism of the NRC and the National Population Register (NPR), he said the poor will find it difficult to get their date of birth certificates.

"Earlier there were no calendars and the birthdays of most people in villages were based on festivals," he said. He compared this to the inconvenience people went through when the Narendra Modi govern-

ment demonetised high-value currency notes.

"The BJP created a rift between the rich and poor through demonetisation. All of us stood in queues. Tell me how many farmers benefited. And the dream that corruption and terrorism will be eradicated, what happened to it?" he said.

Hitting out at the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh, the former chief minister claimed that the state has now become "number one in cybercrime, crime against women and children, bad quality midday meals, fake encounters, unemployment and farmer suicides."



Protesters hold placards during a rally against CAA and NRC, in Kolkata on Monday

# Assam's prominent personalities write to CJI

Guwahati: Ten prominent personalities of Assam, including Sahitya Akademi awardees Hiren Gohain and Homen Borgohain and eminent filmmaker Jahnua Barua, have written to Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde urging him to deliberate on the prevailing "public outrage and anger in the country".

The letter, made available to the media on Monday, stated that the Government has characterised the ongoing protests across in the country as being organised by "mischievous elements" whereas the "reaction of thousands of people has earned the sympathy of all right thinking sections of the society".

"It is quite possible that there may have been certain excesses, as mentioned in some press reports, and these are to be deplored but the public discontent and unrest can hardly be dismissed as wilful violence, as is being currently done by the Government," the letter said.

Signatories to the letter include Sahitya Akademi awardee Nagen Saikia, scientist Dinesh Chandra Goswami, former Gauhati University vice chancellor Gajendra Nath Talukdar and ex-principals of Cotton College and Gauhati Medical College, Udayaditya Bharali and N N Barman respectively.

"The younger generation as admitted by all impartial observers is particularly aggrieved and agitated by certain issues that have cast a dark shadow on their lives.

"In Assam, the threat of unchecked migration from neighbouring countries like Bangladesh had been compared by the Supreme Court to a silent invasion and the NRC for Assam was expeditiously prepared under the monitoring of the highest Court," it said. The letter said that at this juncture, granting citizenship to a large number of foreigners will put immense pressure on scant resources of the state and its native population.

# CDS Rawat says difficult to predict war scenario with Pak

PTI ■ THANJAVUR (TN)

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat on Monday said it was very difficult to predict if a scenario of a war with Pakistan would emerge or not but all the defence services were prepared to take on any challenge.

The top general, who inducted the Sukhoi-30 MKI squadron here, was responding to a question about any possibility of a war emerging between India and Pakistan.

"All the defence services are tasked to be prepared for any option that may emerge.

It is very difficult to predict a scenario. But, we are always prepared for any task that may

be assigned to us," Gen Rawat said.

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) said his new role was aimed at integrating defence systems and the three services (the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force).

It was for this reason the post of CDS was created, he said.

"...We will keep moving towards better integration and jointness," Rawat, who was appointed the country's first Chief of Defence Staff on December 30 last year, added.

On strengthening the Air base here, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria said it will undertake the role of the southern penin-

sula's air defence.

The Indian Air Force commissioned a squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI at the Air Force Station here, the first such base in south India for the high profile fighter jets, seen as a gamechanger in guarding the strategically important Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The "Tigersharks" squadron of Sukhoi 30 MKI jets integrated with the BrahMos cruise missiles was inducted in the presence of the Air Chief and top officials.

The Su-30 MKI is a state-of-the-art all weather multi-role fighter aircraft capable of undertaking varied air defence, ground attack and maritime missions.

# First Su-30 MKI squadron inducted in south India

PTI ■ THANJAVUR

The Indian Air Force on Monday commissioned a squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI at the Air Force Station here, the first such base in south India for the high profile fighter jets, seen as a gamechanger in guarding the strategically important Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The "Tigersharks" squadron of Sukhoi 30 MKI jets integrated with the BrahMos cruise missiles was inducted by Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat in the presence of top officials including Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

The Su-30 MKI is a state-of-the-art all weather fighter aircraft capable of undertaking varied air defence, ground attack and maritime missions. A defence release said with



Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft squadron take off from the Thanjavur airbase during its induction ceremony into the Indian Air Force on Monday

the operationalisation of the 222 Squadron, the air defence capabilities of the IAF, particularly in the Southern Air Command area will be strengthened.

"This would also provide protection to our island territories and sea lines of communication in the Indian Ocean Region. The IOR is increasingly gaining importance and the presence of a fighter squadron will provide security cover to all our strategic and vital assets in the region."

The squadron that was inducted was raised at Ambala in 1969. During the IAF exercise Gagan Shakti-2018, the capabilities of this aircraft were amply demonstrated. Also, it showcased an extended air operational range with the help of air to air refuelling by the IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft.

# 3 Hizbul terrorists killed in Shopian encounter

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In yet another successful joint operation by the security forces, a group of three terrorists headed by a dreaded Hizbul Mujahideen commander Waseem Ahmad Wani along with Adil Bashir, former Special Police Officer of J&K police, who decamped with seven AK-47 rifles and a pistol belonging to security guards of a former PDP MLA, Aijaz Ahmad Mir, were killed in Wachi area of Shopian on Monday.

Since January 1, eight terrorists have been killed in four successful operations in Kashmir valley.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, DGP Dilbagh Singh said, "three terrorists

were gunned down by the security forces in a successful operation in Shopian district on Monday". DGP said, the killed terrorists have been identified as Waseem Ahmad Wani resident of Wurpora Nagbal Shopian, Adil Bashir Sheikh resident of Zainapora Shopian and Hidayatullah Malik resident of Sharadpora Shopian.

DGP said, the killed terrorists as per police records were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen and were wanted by law for their complicity in terror crimes including attack on security establishments and civilian atrocities.

Briefing media persons Dilbagh Singh said, "HM Commander Waseem and Adil

Bashir were both involved in killing of four police personnel and four civilians in the area". He said, a total number of 19 FIRs were registered against Waseem Ahmad Wani.

As per police records, Wani had a history of terror crime records since 2017.

Similarly Adil Bashir as per police records had a history of terror crime records since 2018. He was involved in many terror attacks and civilian atrocities.

He was involved in case FIR No 57/2018 pertaining to the decamping of weapons from Jawahar Nagar area. He was part of groups involved in killing of civilian Nadeem Manzoor at Safnagri, killing of four policemen at guard post in



Army soldiers during an encounter in which top three militant commanders were killed, at Wani in Shopian district of south Kashmir on Monday

Zainapora, killing of 02 civilians Ilyas Khan & Zahid Khan at Chitragram Shopian and

killing of civilian Irfan Hamid Lone of Zainapora for which case FIR No 25/2019 stands

registered. Several other terror crime cases were also registered against him including case FIR numbers 12/2019, 23/2019, 25/2019, 27/2019, 39/2019, 49/2019, 56/2019, 61/2019, 62/2019, 01/2020 of PS Zainapora.

Before joining police ranks in 2017, Adil was a stone-pelter and was having links with terrorists, official sources said.

The third terrorist, Hidayatullah Malik, as per police records was also involved in terror attacks and other crimes in the area.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh-IPS, Monday chaired a meeting to review security arrangements to ensure incident free Republic

day celebrations.

During the meeting IGP directed the officers to carry out intensive foot patrolling and surveillance of the areas in and around the M.A. Stadium Jammu to prevent any terror strike.

On the border management front, IGP stressed upon the DIG JSK Range and district SSP Jammu, to lay joint security check points on all the infiltration routes and also on the roads originating from border and touching national highway. He also stressed on checking of hotels and other lodgements on regular basis, setting up of joint nakas in border areas so that ANE/ASE trying to sneak in the city are intercepted in border area.

## Union Ministers to visit Kashmir as part of Centre's J&K outreach programme

**Aim is to make people aware of the 'positive impact' of abrogation of Article 370**

**Srinagar:** Only five out of 36 Union Ministers will be visiting Kashmir as part of the Centre's outreach programme in the newly-created Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

According to officials, the ministers visiting the Valley over the next four days are Telecommunications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik and minister of state for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy.

Naqvi will kick-start the valley leg of the outreach programme on Tuesday where he will lay the foundation stone for a high school in the Dara area on the outskirts of Srinagar.

He will also lay the foundation stone for the water conservation project at Sarband in the Harwan area of the city.

Reddy will begin his two-day programme of interactions in Ganderbal district on Wednesday, while Prasad will be stationed in Baramulla district for two days starting Thursday.

Naik will be in Srinagar on Thursday, while Pokhriyal will be in the summer capital of the union territory on Friday.

According to the officials, only eight meetings are scheduled to be held in Kashmir over the next four days, while over 50 such meetings and programmes are scheduled in the Jammu division.

The aim of the visits by Ministers is to make people aware of the "positive impact" of abrogation of Article 370, which granted erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir the special status, and share "development initiatives taken by the Government" with them, the officials said.

## AP introduces Bill to give shape to 3 capitals plan

**Amaravati:** The YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Government on Monday introduced a Bill in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly to give shape to its plan of having three capitals for the state, with the executive capital in Visakhapatnam, Legislative capital in Amaravati and judicial capital in Kurnool.

The AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020, also provides for dividing the State into various zones and establishing zonal planning and development boards. The village and (municipal) ward secretariats system that the Government brought in in October last year now gets statutory backing as it has been made part of the new Bill.

Moving the Bill in the

Assembly on the first day of the extended winter session, Finance and Legislative Affairs Minister Buggana Rajendranath said the government decided to enact a new legislation for decentralisation and inclusive development of all regions in the state for ensuring "balanced and inclusive growth" of AP.

"Regional imbalances, absence of equitable growth have caused an acute sense of deprivation among various sections of the state population, leading to disturbances.

"The logical solution would be to lay emphasis on distributed development and decentralised administration to ensure fruits of socio-economic progress are enjoyed



Police stop farmers arriving from various villages to lay siege to the Assembly in protest against the three-capital proposal for State of Andhra Pradesh, at Velagapudi in Guntur district on Monday

equally by people of various regions," the Minister said, quoting the recommendations

of the High-Power Committee of ministers and bureaucrats, which formed the basis of the

new legislation.

The TDP members raised objection to the introduction of the Bill and stormed the Speakers podium. Amid the din, the Government also moved another Bill to repeal the AP Capital Region Development Authority Act, 2014. The Government said it intended to constitute a new Amaravati Metropolitan Region Development Area under the provisions of AP Metropolitan Region and Urban Development Authorities Act, 2016.

The CRDA Act was enacted on December 22, 2014 for the development of the state capital post-bifurcation with a specific area demarcated as the Capital region.

## Jammu IGP reviews security arrangements for R-DAY

**Jammu:** A senior police officer on Monday reviewed security arrangements for the Republic Day celebrations here, stressing for a proper briefing to the security personnel deployed in view of the threat of terror attacks and frequent ceasefire violations by Pakistan.

Jammu zone Inspector General of Police Mukesh Singh also called for effective and coordinated efforts at the grassroots level for a smooth conduct of the main function to be held at M A Stadium, a police spokesman said.

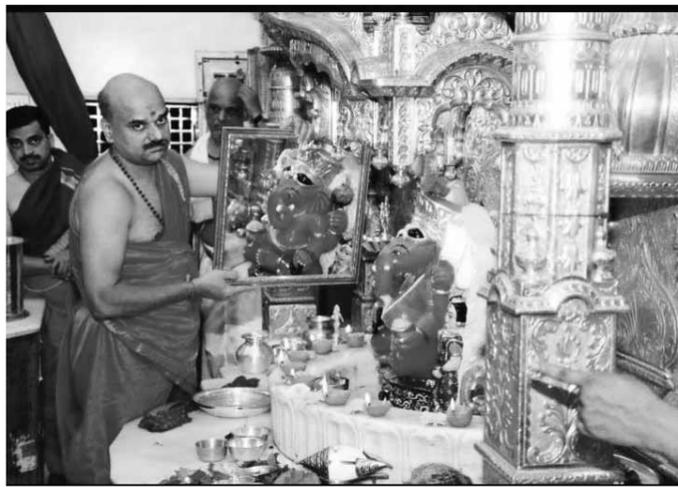
## J&K DGP: No bar on probing past crimes of Davinder Singh

**Srinagar:** Jammu & Kashmir DGP Dilbagh Singh on Monday said there was no bar on investigating past crimes committed by sacked police officer Davinder Singh.

"There is no bar on investigating any complaints against him (Davinder Singh) if we receive a formal complaint," the DGP told reporters. He was responding to a question about reports that the sacked police officer had committed several illegal acts in early years of his career but those acts were overlooked.

A senior police officer posted with the strategic anti-hijacking team at the Srinagar airport, Davinder Singh was arrested along with two terrorists whom he was allegedly ferrying in a car in Kashmir Valley. "You are talking about incidents of long ago. The officers concerned at that time must have looked into it. But there is no bar on investigating if something comes to the fore formally," he said.

## Mumbai's Siddhi Vinayak temple gets new look



Mumbai's famed Siddhi Vinayak temple at Prabhadevi in north-central Mumbai wears gilded look now. Using 35 kilograms of gold worth ₹14 crore donated by an anonymous devotee from New Delhi, the temple authorities have covered the wooden doors with golden leaves and lined up the pillars, dome and interior walls surrounding the presiding deity with pure gold. "The work of refurbishment of temple with gold that lasted for six months has been completed. For the first time in its 220-year history, the temple wears a golden look," says Shree Siddhivinayak Ganapati Temple Trust (SSGTT) chairman and Marathi film actor Aadesh Bandekar



## SAIBABA BIRTHPLACE ROW

### Satisfied with CM's assurance, villagers call off stir

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A fierce controversy over Pathri village in Parbhani district being declared as birthplace of Saibaba blew over on Monday, after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray withdrew his earlier statement and said that Pathri would be developed as a pilgrim centre and not as the birthplace of the 19th century saint.

The people of Shirdi and 30 neighbouring villages — who had on an agitation for the past few days in protest against the chief minister's recent statement that Pathri would be developed as Saibaba's birthplace — called off their indefinite agitation after a delegation of their leaders, Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust (SSST) CEO, local elected representatives met Uddhav, his Cabinet colleagues Ajit Pawar, Congress Balasaheb Thorat and Aditya Thackeray.

At the meeting, Uddhav told the aggrieved villagers that he was withdrawing his earlier statement describing Pathri as the birthplace of Saibaba. He said that Pathri village in Parbhani district of Marathwada region would be developed as pilgrim centre at a cost of ₹100 crore and not as the birthplace of Saibaba.

The people of Shirdi and neighbouring had opposed the chief minister's reference to Pathri as the birthplace of Saibaba so much so that they had observed a total bandh in the temple town on Sunday,



causing considerable inconvenience to thousands of devotees visiting the place for a darshan of the presiding deity at the temple there.

During his meeting with the delegation from Shirdi, the chief minister said: "I do not know if Pathri is the birthplace of Saibaba or not. I am not a researcher. Based on the information that I had received, I had made a mention of Pathri being the birthplace of Saibaba."

"You should have taken me into confidence before resorting to a bandh in Shirdi... Let's not have a controversy over Saibaba's birthplace. The state government will allocate funds to Pathri village as a pilgrim centre. As the Chief Minister, all the people are equal to me. Let's all of us pray before Saibaba," Uddhav told the delegation of villagers that met him. In all, there were 40 representatives in the delegation. The delegates from Shirdi and neighbouring villages told the chief minister that they had no objection whatsoever in Pathri village being developed as a pilgrim centre and not as the birthplace of Saibaba. However there

is evidence to suggest that Saibaba came to Shirdi when he was about 16 years' old in 1858 and he remained there till his death in 1918.

Three months ahead of his death on October 15, 1918, Saibaba told his devotees he would soon be "leaving his mortal body" (dying). By the end of September 1918, he had high fever and stopped eating. As his condition deteriorated, he asked his disciples to recite holy texts to him and continue to meet visitors. On October 15, 1918 which happened to Vijayadashami, he breathed his last.

His mortal remains were interred at "Buti Wada" in Shirdi, after which it has now become place of worship known today as Shree Samadhi Mandir or Shirdi Sai Baba Temple.

The claim that Saibaba was born in Pathri village in Parbhani district of Marathwada region is based on a reference made in the eighth edition of "Sai Charitra" (history of Saibaba), a Hindi publication brought by the Sai Sansthan between 1972 and 76. So far, the Sai Sansthan has brought out 36 editions of "Sai Charitra".

Incidentally, the eighth edition of "Sai Charitra" in which a mention of Saibaba's birthplace has been made has gone missing. The Shirdi temple authorities have ordered an inquiry into the missing publication which can now be considered as an authenticated document.

There is no concrete evidence as to the date or place of birth of Saibaba. However there

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Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) to repay the amount and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.  
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.  
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redress the secured assets.

Name of Borrower/ Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1. Ms. Auto Needs (Proprietorship Firm) At - 97/11, Safe Express Building, (Opp. Fun and Food Village) Kapashera Delhi-110037. Also At:- Ms Auto Needs (Proprietorship) Firm 50/12, Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon Haryana - 122001	Primary Security - Hypothecation Charge over entire current assets and movable fixed assets of the company both present and future.	1. 5-Oct-19	2. 17-Jan-20	Rs. 2,89,29,779/-
2. Mr. Viveek Goel (Proprietor of Ms Auto Needs) S/O - Sh.Mool Chand Goel, R/o - H. No-76, Sector -15, Part -1, Gurgaon Haryana -122001. Also At - Mr. Viveek Goel (Proprietor of Ms Auto Needs) S/O-Sh. Mool Chand Goel, 50/12, Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon Haryana - 122001	All that part and parcel of Free Hold Commercial Property bearing No - 5012,Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon addressing 204 Sq.Yrd. Bounded as under - North- As per the Sale Deed East- As per the Sale Deed South-As per the Sale Deed West-As per the Sale Deed	Twenty Nine Hundred Seventy Nine Only till 31- Aug-19) Plus Interest, incidental expenses and cost.		
3. Mr. Sharad Goel, S/O - Sh. Mool Chand Goel, R/o - H. No - 76-77, Sector- 15, Part -1, Gurgaon Haryana -122001				

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 21-01-2020, Place : Delhi

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

## BJP's new chief

J P Nadda is being considered a proxy for Shah but has organisational strengths of his own. Will he be allowed to rise?



When LK Advani was the BJP president and clearly the more "seen" face of a resurgent Right, having steered the Rathayatra and the temple campaign in Ayodhya, he stepped back and proposed the name of the moderate and avuncular Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the party's prime ministerial candidate. That was in 1995 and Advani's wisdom lay in understanding why governance needed a softer, inclusive and acceptable face and a broader alliance with other parties. He had the foresight to set the foundation upon

which a winning formula could be built. In that sense, the BJP president's post became important in carving out a legitimate space for the Right within the coalition template of the times and ensuring that it emerged as a sound electoral alternative to the Left of Centre Congress-dominated narrative. That was a tough time of building and managing the party, positing all that the Congress was fast-losing — a credible organisational decorum, regular elections, fair processes and an inner-party democracy. To that extent, the party president's post was originally intended to be sacred. The arrival of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah clearly changed all that, the two building the BJP's base not so much by processes but the weight of their persona. While Modi concentrated on building a pan-India image as a trusted leader, deputy Shah took up backroom mathematics and personally weighed in on even the microscopic, unit-level decisions of the party. During his tenure of over five-and-a-half years, Shah's focussed aggression strengthened the BJP's matrix and ensured its political conversion as the party's best ever electoral performance. Barring a few setbacks in State polls, the party has managed to become the single-largest in the Lok Sabha. That gave him more than stature; the cadres held him in awe. And he revelled in the arrogance of that absolutism, pushing most contentious issues in the BJP manifesto as Home Minister in the Government, a man in a hurry to prove his heft in the party than in people's minds. And now that he is the Home Minister, he is duty-bound to honour the party's "one person, one post" formula and has handed over its reins to Jagat Prakash Nadda, a loyalist and a low-key worker of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological anchor that, at this point of time, has complete hold of policies and deliverance, and cares not much about realpolitik. In many ways, therefore, Nadda is being considered a proxy for Shah, who would like to be remembered as the usherer of Right wing legacies and a neo-cultural revolution, one that seeks to overturn liberalism as an imposition and Hindu theocracy as the natural evolution of history — the Ram temple, the abrogation of Article 370 and the review of citizenship based on ancestry. Shah wouldn't want to relinquish this helmsmanship of BJP's transitional moment. The ascension of Nadda, therefore, seems to be about ticking off the right boxes. Besides, it also allows Shah to escape the heat arising from the citizenship row at the moment. Seen as the architect of the otherisation politics in the country and linking the party's agenda to Government policy, the delegation of party responsibilities to Nadda is an attempt to seemingly dilute this autocracy.

Nadda may be following Shah's footsteps but in the end will have to be the media face and explain the BJP's most difficult phase — keeping the faith of the Lok Sabha verdict and presiding over the social unrest over citizenship. The extent of civil society protests proves that it is fast losing hope in the BJP as a "party with a difference." If the States the BJP lost after the general election are any indication, then the people now want it to account for its non-performance on the economy and jobs crisis and subversion of social equilibrium through religious polemics. Nadda, while continuing the existing party's agenda, can do so subtly and use his newness to soothe anxieties through sensible outreach programmes. There are parts to Nadda that the BJP can use smartly to change perceptions before the next round of general elections. A student leader, who has plodded his way up the ranks, he has a grasp on grassroots, having been in-charge of the BJP's Lok Sabha campaign in Uttar Pradesh and the Maharashtra polls. He has to deliver Delhi and Bihar, the former quite a difficult challenge. But going by the speeches of the Modi-Shah duo at his anointment, it seemed the election of the BJP president was another missile aimed at the Congress which is yet to hold the most basic of organisational elections. Nadda may appear to be gifting BJP a "lit" moment but that will have little value if he is a cipher.

## Flying kites

The Government may be testing waters with silly proposals. But this points to a lack of creativity in policy-making



The bureaucrat, who thought about the preposterous suggestion to limit duty-free alcohol purchases to a single bottle, will one day head the entire department. And that frankly is more worrying than the proposal itself because such ideas can come only from the heads of narrow-minded individuals with a puritanical sense of morality. Of course, one is not encouraging alcoholism or smoking. It remains unlikely that the Government will ever go down the route of prohibition, although given some previous illogical decisions taken by it and the

fact that the ruling BJP is an ally of arch-prohibitionist Nitish Kumar, nothing can ever be ruled out. That said, drinkers and smokers are a rich source of funds for the Government and Bihar is still reeling from the after effects of Kumar's bizarre decision. In addition, the Commerce and Industry Ministry led by Piyush Goyal wants to restrict the volume of goods Indians can bring into the country while coming back. The derision that these decisions have been met by is completely justified. But what boggles one's mind is that the Government is looking at such minor issues when it should be thinking about ways and means of reviving the economy. If by thinking it is that Indians will suddenly quit their Scotch whisky and start buying the *shudh desi* molasses-derived liquid that masquerades as "whisky", then one can safely assure the powers that be that it won't happen. Such thinking will only take us back to the command and control economy of Indira Gandhi when smuggling and bootlegging ruled. Ironic then that the BJP is trying to highlight Indira's links with Mumbai's most notorious smuggler of that era, Karim Lala.

The simple fact is that to get the economy going again, the Government needs a whole new thinking, the concept of wealth transfer from the very rich being impractical. The Modi Government, despite such schemes as Digital India and Start-up India, hasn't been able to spur entrepreneurial growth. Job creation is at its lowest and India risks turning its demographic dividend into a time bomb. The greatest advantage this country has is being squandered with a pliant Opposition, which has sought to focus on issues that do not have large-scale appeal. But the Government is more keen on looking at silly minutiae than the bigger picture. At the end of the day, a masterpiece not only has fabulous details but looks appealing overall. This Government is concentrating on trying hard to choose the colour for a dull, monochromatic image of modern India.

# A new lurking danger

The three-day *Ijtema* organised by the Tablighi Jamaat last year points towards a larger trend of home-grown radicalism within the country. Radicalisation of the vulnerable must end



SANDHYA JAIN

Few would have missed the videos of children (under 10 years of age) chanting *azadi* and abusing the Prime Minister and Home Minister for alleged animosity and evil intent towards one community. Since one cannot expect children of such tender age to have knowledge or understanding of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Population Register (NPR), it is safe to conclude that family elders tutored them to express such visceral anger towards the Government.

A dangerous radicalisation of the Muslim community is being fostered — with deliberate intent — the consequences of which are yet to unravel. Barring perhaps Saudi Arabia, it is doubtful if even Islamic countries make girls of such tender age wear full *abaya* (head and neck covering). Certainly, it has not been seen in India before. This points to deep indoctrination of every family within a targeted area and does not bode well for the future.

On the one hand, it will intensify the ghetto mentality within the community. On the other, it will make other citizens wary of dealing with those who wish to leave or avoid the ghetto. This is a double-edged sword that can only harm the Muslim community in the long and short run.

Doubtless, a powerful section of the community is behind the radicalisation agenda, for reasons unknown. The first indication of this phenomenon came during the three-day *Ijtema* (religious gathering) organised by Tablighi Jamaat (November 30 to December 2, 2018), when 15 lakh Muslims gathered at Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, though permission was given for only two lakh people. Many guests came from abroad.

The proceedings of this gathering are not known. It attracted national attention when some cows were killed in a village on the road to Bulandshahr. Police inspector Subodh Kumar Singh died in the violence that followed but managed to contain the situation within the affected village. The *Ijtema* concluded peacefully but analysts said such a large gathering should not have been permitted in such a sensitive State and by such an orthodox body. Tablighi Jamaat exhorts Muslims to strictly follow practices adhered to during the lifetime of the Prophet, especially in matters of dress and ritual. All traces of non-Islamic (syncretic) behaviour are to be erased.

This converges with a larger trend of home-grown radicalism within the country. After the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and the Indian Mujahideen (IM) were banned, the Kerala-based Popular Front of India (PFI) emerged as the successor militant body and spread to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.



Experts expect the Islamic State (IS) to formally tie up with the PFI to entrench itself in India and reach Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Sri Lanka has already been radicalised by people who visited southern India before the Easter blasts in 2019. Several youth from Kerala have travelled to Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to join the IS; others have been caught doing online propaganda for it. Intelligence agencies are aware that the IS is attracting youth in India and in May 2019, it announced a new "Wilayah of Hind" (Hind Province) without specifying its geographical limits.

The Counterterrorism Group (CTG) Analysis & Intelligence Report (November 2019) states that after being driven out of Syria and the Middle East, the IS asked its leaders to move to South-east Asia as almost every country in this region has deep ties to the Middle East. Its focus is on female domestic workers in Hong Kong and Singapore, who are vulnerable on various counts; Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines are next.

Female migrant workers are chosen because of their low (but stable) incomes, familiarity with English and wide network of international connections. Typically, they earn around \$1.00 to \$1.50 per hour and are often in need of financial help, for which they agree to join the Caliphate. English-speaking workers help

“MIGRANT WORKERS ARE EASY TO MANIPULATE AS THEY ARE POORLY EDUCATED, LIVE IN AN ALIEN ENVIRONMENT AND ARE LONELY. THE RECRUITER CONTACTS THE MOST VULNERABLE AND OFFERS A SECURE, ROMANTIC, AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP. SOON THE MIGRANT IS INVITED FOR TRAINING VIA ONLINE CHAT ROOMS”

the IS reach other demographics and regions. They help it acquire resources and intelligence from areas its members normally don't frequent.

Migrant workers are easy to manipulate as they are poorly educated, live in an alien environment and are lonely. Radicalisation usually begins after a traumatic event such as divorce, financial hardship or culture shock. The recruiter contacts the most vulnerable and offers a secure, romantic, and loving relationship; soon the migrant is invited for training via online chat rooms. Often migrants are recruited by fellow workers at a prayer group or social gathering on their day off. Some workers have been known to reach out to militants; they are quickly inducted into radical groups and groomed to become militants.

In a survey of radicalised domestic workers, the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC) found that at least 50 Indonesian women working overseas as maids, nannies and caretakers for the elderly were radicalised by the IS and its affiliates. A study between 2013 and 2018 found that around 800 domestic workers from South-east Asia tried to enter Syria or Iraq to join the IS after being radicalised abroad. This shows the efficacy of the IS' recruitment methods. IPAC has asked Governments to create mandatory training modules to educate migrant workers about the

signs of exploitation and to help exploited victims.

In September 2019, Singapore arrested three Indonesian women domestic workers who promoted the IS online in their spare time, donated money to militants overseas and became so committed that at least one was ready to die as a suicide bomber in Syria. One Indonesian maid revealed that she listened to Salafi podcasts while working and an Indonesian butcher she met online encouraged her to go to Syria to join the IS. However, the Singapore authorities discovered her plans and deported her back to Indonesia in 2017.

Zachary Abuza, expert on IS in South-east Asia at the National War College, Washington, says the real stuff happens in dedicated chat rooms on encrypted apps — from bomb designs to active coordination. The female recruits serve as financiers, recruiters and coordinators; they collect funds from radicalised maids and send them to domestic *jihadist* groups. India is sitting on a tinderbox. When elementary school children chant obnoxious slogans against the nation and its top leadership, the masterminds behind the scenes should ponder what poison harvest they will reap from these toxic seeds. *Azadi* cannot hide behind the *tiranga*; India will never submit to further loss of territory.

(The author is a senior journalist)

## SOUNDBITE

This is not mere mismanagement of the economy. It is the destruction of lives and livelihoods of millions of Indians while Modi's rich cronies continue to benefit and fund BJP.

**CPI(M) general secretary**  
—Sitaram Yechury



The world is respectful; there's a lot to do and give. And for the first time, I can think about myself. Let me be a little self-centered and enjoy what I have earned.

**Actor**  
—Kangana Ranaut



We will not take retaliatory action against India over its boycott of palm oil purchases amid a political row between the two nations. We are too small to take action.

**Malaysian Prime Minister**  
—Mahathir Mohamad



Our job is to explain to people that we are right and they are wrong. Just because we have numbers today we can't do terror politics. Let's go to people explaining benefits of CAA.

**WB BJP vice president**  
—Chandra Kumar Bose



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Whose sentence?

Sir — One fails to understand why so many chances are being given to depraved humans indulging in heinous acts. Why do we need to empathise with an undeserving handful of the worst behaved citizens? It is time to change this thinking. There is a worldwide debate on whether the death penalty stands scrutiny. There have been strong arguments for and against. Suffice it to say that our legal system currently allows death penalty to be prescribed only for the rarest of rare cases.

Rather than discussing this aspect, I would like to draw attention to the "sentence" meted out by criminals to innocent citizens for no fault of theirs. The relatives of the accused, sometimes abetted by the local officials, put pressure on the victim to withdraw the case. The victim and her family thus live under fear and dread constantly. Now activists have joined the bandwagon. Instead of focussing on the human rights of the criminals, why do we not vociferously argue about the right to life and liberty of the victim as guaranteed by Article 21 of our

### Nation at the cusp of political extremes

The nation is passing through trying times with the Modi Government at its nadir of popularity. Its reputation as the architect of "modern" India has taken a sound beating. The nation-wide protests over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has doused all intentions of the Modi-Shah duo to usher the country into a "golden" period. Branded as "dictatorial", the BJP's rule has only created a wedge between communities. Every decision of the Government that was flung at the people has been met with "distrust" and "apprehension." A slew of laws that have been passed in recent times have had a debilitating effect on the secular fabric of the country. The ruling dispensation's agenda, which is to alienate the masses, is not difficult to understand.

Nevertheless, one would certainly not want to believe in "hearsay" and rather expect the Government to come clean on its will and intention on issues that matter to the country. By allowing "misinformation" and "rumours" to dwell in the minds of the people, the saffron party is doing a disservice to its own image. The highly-hyped "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" slogan sounds all but hollow now. A massive public mandate does not give any Government the right to push through with its agenda at the cost of public sentiments.

Constitution? Or the human right against cruelty in the Universal Declaration?

It is ironic how those, who brutally violate the rights of another, clamour for their own rights to be protected and are listened to

with a great show of fairness. Those adults, who commit these heinous crimes, know it well that they are punishable with severe sentences.

**Padmini Raghavendra**  
Secunderabad

### Stop interfering

Sir — US President Donald Trump and Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg are both attending the ongoing World



Agreed, every Government is well within its right to frame legislations. But shouldn't they be implemented after proper deliberations? More importantly, after taking the people into confidence? What we see now is that a "popular" Government installed at the Centre is hell-bent to dislodge its predecessor but has earned the wrath of the countrymen for "authoritarianism" and "evasiveness" that has become its "virtue." Will the citizenship imbroglio make the people of the country seek a change of guard at the Centre? In any case, oscillating between the Congress and the BJP is the only answer right now.

**Pachu Menon**  
Margao

Economic Forum (WEF) meet. For sure, Trump will renew his running battle with the young climate campaigner when they join the A-list movers and shakers attending the 50th anniversary of the Davos conclave this week. Thunberg has already made her message clear: Put an end to the fossil fuel "madness." That her missive is aimed at Trump, among others, would be anybody's guess.

Thunberg hogged the lime-light when she began a grassroots campaign at the age of 15 by skipping school every Friday to demonstrate outside the Swedish Parliament. The protests had inspired millions of young people to take action against climate change. Her meteoric rise from an ordinary school-going child to becoming a world-renowned climate campaigner must be appreciated. If Trump and other leaders cannot appreciate her efforts to fight climate change, then we can only pity them. If they can't help her cause, they must at least not throw a spanner in her efforts to fight climate change.

**TK Nandanani**  
Chennai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Centre must not lose the vision

Nobody would like solar and wind power generators also to turn into NPAs with the key parameters being compromised



AMIT KUMAR

The national vision of infrastructure services, which raises the quality of life and ease of living in India to global standards, sets the context of the recently-unveiled National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) for the next five years. Projects in energy, roads, railways, urban, rural and social infrastructure constitute the NIP. Of the ₹102 lakh crore outlay of the NIP, energy takes the lion's share at 24 per cent of the total investment. Within the energy sector, the share of conventional power, renewable and nuclear energy is 48 per cent, 38 per cent and six per cent respectively. About 42 per cent of the projects are already under implementation whereas 19 per cent are under development and 31 per cent are in the conceptual stage. In both the latter categories, key projects are in the renewable energy sector. According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Central and State Governments would have an equal share of 39 per cent each in the NIP. The private sector, on the other hand, would have a 22 per cent share, which the Government expects to increase to 30 per cent by 2025.

Elaborating on the energy sector vision 2025, the NIP Task Force envisages an increase in the total installed capacity from the present 356 GW to 619 GW. Furthermore, it expects the share of thermal power to come down from 66 per cent to 50 per cent while the share of renewables rises from 22 per cent to 39 per cent in 2025. Indeed, renewable energy's share in consumption is envisioned to reach 19 per cent from the present nine per cent. The continued thrust on energy transition is certainly encouraging. Interestingly, unlike the conventional power sector where only six per cent of the NIP is implemented by the private sector, in the renewable energy sector, 100 per cent of implementation would be by the private sector.

Without going into the merits of the projected capacity of 619 GW in a decelerating economy at a time when the existing capacity is either severely underutilised or stressed, the private sector's appetite to reach 241 GW in five years has to be viewed critically. Reasons for slippages in the 12th Five Year Plan outlined in India's National Electricity Plan, 2018 include problems in acquisition of land; issues in timely completion of power evacuation systems plus capacity of the transmission system and issues in availability of adequate finances from banks and financial institutions.

In fact, even now, the challenges pertaining to land availability, transmission infrastructure/connectivity, inordinate payment delays, and discoms' disinclination to sign Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for renewable energy continue to act as roadblocks to the sector's growth. On top of it is the tendency of some discoms to renegotiate the existing PPAs because of an excessive obsession with low tariffs elsewhere, without understanding the dynamics of renewable energy technologies. All these factors ultimately have put a dampener on the sentiments of private players. The spate of tender cancellations or multiple rounds of re-bidding is a testimony to this troubling trend.

This in turn has resulted in a perception of political peril among the renewable energy industry, something that would have been unimaginable earlier. Couple it with the risk-averse approach of financial institutions on one hand and a general lack of appetite for new investments by the private sector on the other, and we have a scenario not exactly conducive to implementation of renewable energy projects.

While several Government initiatives such as reverse auctions and ultra-mega solar parks successfully catapulted this sector to commendable heights, it is time for the Government to provide another push by working proactively to remove already well-recognised bottlenecks. A consistent policy regime with long-term visibility is a prerequisite to encourage private sector investments, whether domestic or foreign. Unfortunately, even at the Central level, lack of clarity on various aspects such as applicable GST and safeguard duty did actually disrupt the pace that the industry had gathered. As electricity is a concurrent subject between the Centre and States it adds another layer of complexity. A conducive policy environment at the Centre alone is not sufficient unless it is backed by an equally supportive State-level policy framework. Discoms being the primary buyers of renewable electricity, whether from large plants or from distributed solar energy, their financial health and willingness to purchase renewable electricity play a crucial role. Curtailment from renewable energy generators, overdue payments and reluctance in adopting solar energy are not only indicators of archaic mindsets but are roadblocks. This reinforces the urgent need for reforms in the power sector — much more fundamental and structural than the ones undertaken so far, backed by strong political will. It is equally important to recognise the risks associated with unviable tariffs. No one would like solar and wind power generators also to turn into NPAs with the key parameters being compromised for the sake of artificially created tariff caps. Against this background, it would be crucial for the Centre to seize the initiative to take along the States, bringing them on board for effective delivery through the infrastructure pipeline.

(The writer is Senior Fellow and Senior Director, TERI)

ALMOST 50 LAKH MUSLIM INFILTRATORS WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND CHASED OUT OF THE COUNTRY IF NEEDED.  
 —WEST BENGAL BJP CHIEF DILIP GHOSH

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE ARE SAFE BECAUSE THEY HAVE MAMATA. WE ARE IN A POSITION TO FIGHT AGAINST NPR AND CAA TO RETAIN THEIR CITIZENSHIP  
 —WEST BENGAL EDUCATION MINISTER PARTHA CHATTERJEE

# Social experiment gone awry

Because of CAA, even the NRC exercise gets debunked. This gives a further jolt to ethnonationalist identities, who take CAA to be a bigger threat than illegal immigration



PRASENJIT BISWAS

Do those among the linguistic and religious minorities of Assam, who have failed the test of citizenship in the recently-concluded updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), become the soft target of the heightened cry for protection of indigenous identity in Assam and North-east India? With the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), one section of those left out of the NRC now gets an opportunity to be citizens, solely on the basis of religion, while another section remains ignored. Does such a contrived outcome make anyone happy in Assam?

Assam's Bengali-origin religious minorities, popularly called *Miyas* or *Bhatiyas* in Brahmaputra Valley and *Bangals* in Barak Valley face the biggest threat of proving their credentials after being left out of the NRC. Those excluded will now have to prepare for a complicated legal battle to prove their citizenship through the Foreigners' Tribunals. These tribunals are supposed to decide the fate of an estimated five lakh presumed illegals and how many would succeed in such a trial is anyone's guess. The tribunals, governed by the Foreigners' Act, 1946, place the 'onus of proof' on the suspect and not on the prosecution, making it difficult for a 'suspect' to get natural justice. As citizenship is considered the most basic right to have or not to have all other rights, the shifting of the 'onus of proof' makes it extremely difficult for anyone to prove credentials. Worse is the case when the tribunals at random *ex parte* declare too many people foreigners. Many of those people have been put in inhumane detention camps in six places, numbering around a thousand, of which 23 have already died in custody.

The protest against the CAA remains silent on this humanitarian crisis and the ignominy of effacing these unfortunate excluded people from public discourse. With the coming of CAA, a section of these excluded people now wait for some redemption, while another section silently prepares for a long and uncertain legal battle that lies ahead. Both the sections, however, face another cultural test of proving their antecedents, which could be satisfied only by accepting the dominant language of the State.

Any democratic movement, such as one currently against the CAA, should have taken into account the plight of these people. But they are looked upon as 'foreigners' and 'illegal immigrants' whose very presence threatens indigenous language and culture. This is how, much of the protesters favour the NRC to weed them out while they reject the CAA. The CAA bears the signature of sheltering 'persecuted religious minorities from three neighbouring countries' and thereby changes the rules of the game with which the NRC was carried out. Because of CAA, even the NRC exercise gets automatically debunked. This gives a further jolt to ethnonationalist identities, who take CAA to be a bigger threat than illegal immigration. The layered and nuanced ideas of citizenship as indigeneity stand in contrast to granting citizenship to a section of illegal immigrants on the basis of religion. In effect, old faultlines between indigenous ethnic identity and non-indigenous Indian citizens is reinvoked, turning both the CAA and NRC exercise as detrimental to the language, land and culture of ethnic groups. The question is no longer just saving the indigenous habitats of North-east from illegals but it is also a question of 'protective discrimination' for the native and the indigenous from non-indigenous Indian citizens. The land policy of the Government of Assam

“ THE FEAR AND ANXIETY SURROUNDING THE NEW ENTRIES RELATING TO FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH IN THE NPR FORMAT AND DROPPING OF ALL MUSLIM FESTIVALS FROM THE LIST OF HOLIDAYS SUGGESTED IN THE NPR CREATE A BIGGER SENSE OF DISCRIMINATION. THE SENSE OF PROTECTION GENERATED OUT OF FEAR OF BEING OUTNUMBERED IN THE NORTH-EAST FEEDS THIS FEAR OF DISCRIMINATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND VICE-VERSA. ALTHOUGH FEAR TRANSMITS EASILY, YET THE CAUSE AND PURPOSE OF ANTI-CAA PROTESTS ALSO REMAIN DIFFERENT BETWEEN THE NORTH-EAST AND THE REST OF INDIA ”



stated clearly why non-indigenous citizens, being settlers cannot buy/own land.

CAA's exclusion of the Sixth Schedule tribal States from its ambit created a sense of heightened anxiety in Assam and Tripura for being forced to accept those non-indigenous settler immigrants who would be legalised by the CAA. The possible demographic impact and squeeze on language and culture has reinvoked the fear of getting outnumbered. To rein in such a majoritarian impact of the CAA, there are rising demands for introduction of an Inner Line Permit (ILP) system to physically restrict the movement of other citizens from outside the State.

In a sense, the CAA meets its toughest resistance from such demands of protective discrimination, as it would further alienate the North-east and its people from the mainstream while ensuring their specific rights. Certainly this would negatively impact economic transaction between the North-east and the rest of India and as a corollary break the idea of seamless economic connections with South and South-east Asian countries, as mooted in the Act East Policy of the Centre.

The governance structure of States in the North-east seemingly is not able to face the implosion of sentiments of ethnic and indigenous groups against the CAA and is also unable to contain the fight against the CAA from relapsing into a full fight against the State and the Government. In an Assam-specific way, a slew of measures like amendment to Article 345, 347 and Article 371B to ensure protection of Ahomias as the State language, culture and identity of the people of Assam has been announced by the State Government to neutralise the anti-CAA protests, but social organisations are not convinced of some measures. They argued that if protective measures had preceded CAA, probably it would not have become such a big

protest. The shift of focus in the protest from illegal immigrants to strict measures of protection in Assam and Tripura not only created an alternative political discourse of pre-colonial identity assertion and securing of homelands, but it also harmed those who are supposed to benefit from the CAA, notably the Hindu Bengalis. This change into community affirmation rigidly redraws several boundaries, creates a reverse discrimination towards the beneficiaries of the CAA by uniting everyone else.

The announcement of the National Population Register (NPR) at the national level and much of the resistance to the idea that the NPR and National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) are the same arose from transmission of Northeastern reactions to the mainland due to greater visibility of protests in the North-east. After the first wave of protests in the North-east, major Indian cities witnessed a stir against the NPR and NRC exercise that are supposed to supplement CAA by separating the infiltrators from persecuted religious minorities. This inherently differentiating tenor of CAA made a nationwide resurgence of demands for a caste census and rejection of any test of citizenship. The dystopic Assam experience occupied much of the national imagination in calling for a boycott of NPR cum NRIC, especially when CAA makes it clear for whom the bell will toll.

The fear and anxiety surrounding the new entries relating to father's birthplace and date of birth in the NPR format and dropping of all Muslim festivals from the list of holidays, as suggested in the NPR, create a bigger sense of discrimination. The sense of protection generated out of fear of being outnumbered in the North-east feeds this fear of discrimination at the national level and vice-versa. Although fear transmits easily, yet the cause and pur-

pose of anti-CAA protests also remain different between North-east and the rest of India. The question of defending the Constitution, an essential part of the pan-Indian discourse of resistance to CAA finds very little speck in the North-east where the it is more about protection from the non-indigenous and the illegals. The convergences and the divergences are both ingenious as they promise to set up new equations and alliances between social identities. The beauty of such disjointed resistance to the CAA is that it gives rise to a new form of federal relations. How the Government manages it will decide the future course of politics in India.

It is also worth noting the debates centering around some of the States opposing implementation of the CAA and their moves by filing cases against it in the Supreme Court. Interestingly enough, Arunachal Pradesh, being a State with ILP is exempted from CAA, yet it has decided to file a petition in the apex court opposing any procedure to grant citizenship to Chakma and Hajong refugees. It is also widely contended that the CAA might lead to exodus of tribal refugees from CAA-exempted tribal States of the North-east to Tripura and Assam, where they can apply for citizenship through CAA. The case of Bengali Hindu refugees in Bodoland Territorial Council of Assam is even more dismal, as they have to move out of areas falling under the council and resettle in a neighbouring district within Assam to become eligible to apply under CAA. While these anomalies continue, the lived reality of 'illegal immigrants' continues to be difficult, as they try to survive through double-edged laws granting benefit and withholding them at the same time.

(The writer is Associate Professor at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and a human rights activist)

# Let religion lead to peace, prosperity

Religious leaders and theologians from across the country should come together to review the different faiths from the perspective of pluralism and social justice



EDUARDO FALEIRO

Religion has emerged as a major source of conflict across the globe. Ideological strife has now given place to the 'clash of civilisations' and it is felt that in the foreseeable future, religion will be a major source of conflict within and among nations. The possibilities of conflict are greater in countries such as India where different cultures and religions meet. However, such clashes can be prevented if appropriate strategies are formulated and implemented at an early stage so as to ensure religious harmony.

The United Nations (UN) designates the first week of February every year as the World Interfaith Harmony Week. All religions lead to the same God and differences among them are not essential. Indeed, the goal of every religion is the same. The spir-

it of the founders of the different religions was the same though rituals differ. All religions proclaim similar principles.

Mahatma Gandhi, who devoted a large part of his life to the study of religion and discussions with religious leaders of all faiths, affirmed that every scripture should be treated equally, that there is no justification for the claim of supremacy of any one religion and that we are all children of the same God. He said, "What is needed is a living friendly contact among the followers of the religions of the world and not a clash among them in the fruitless attempt on the part of each community to show the supremacy of its faith over the rest."

Swami Vivekananda asserted that all religions preach ethics, virtues and good character. Yet, all major religions, instead of uniting people often divide them due to the lack of understanding of the purpose of religion by their followers.

India has the largest number of religions and religious people in the world. In our country, we have millions of Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists. There are also Parsees and Jews. We have eight religions in India, the maximum number of religions and religious people anywhere in the world. Communal har-

mony is essential for peace and stability in the country.

Article 51A of the Constitution affirms that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to promote harmony among the people of the nation transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities. Respect for religious diversity and interfaith dialogue are an essential and urgent need.

Some years ago, I decided to study the issues that affect inter-religious peace and harmony in the country. In this connection, I visited several States and held meetings with leaders and organisations of different religions. I spent the whole of September 2004 in the villages of Odisha, in the districts of Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj, where Graham Staines and his two sons were killed some years earlier.

The purpose of my visit was to study and understand the open confrontation that has existed for long in that State between Christian and Hindu missionaries for conversion and re-conversion (*ghar vapsi*) respectively. I informed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik of what I had observed in those areas and he promised to take necessary action. Mainline Christian theologians see both the Sangh Parivar's Hindutva ideology and Christian campaigns for evangeli-

isation as having a fundamentalist attitude and an aggressive methodology to achieve their respective goals.

Proselytism is opposed on several grounds; it attacks other religious beliefs and practices and asserts that its own religion is the only way to *moksha* (salvation). It is often supported by financial resources and marketing techniques that make local religious activities seem shabby.

The Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) articulates its theological vision thus, "Asia is the womb of the great world religions. All great scriptural religions were born on Asian soil. The Church has to be in constant dialogue with the religions of Asia and to embark on this with great seriousness... There may be more truth about God and life than is made known to us through the Church. As such, Christians who take Jesus Christ's injunction seriously must search for this truth in the various religions of the world."

On the question of proselytism, the FABC says, "A phenomenon which continues to awaken the most resentment among the peoples of Asia is that of proselytism and conversion. In the minds of Asians, the Church's primary objective seems to be to convert as many people as she can so as to

increase her little flock. The Church's expansion is also seen as a Western extension. The increase in the number of Church movements engaged in aggressive evangelisation (understood in the very narrow sense of the word) is certainly a cause for concern for our brothers and sisters of other faiths. Perhaps, it might be good to be reminded of the golden rule which nearly all religions speak of: Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself."

The traditional way of teaching religion puts emphasis on theology and rituals ignoring the social dimension, namely the need for interaction and tolerance among the followers of different religions. Religious leaders and theologians from across the country should come together to review the different religions from the perspective of pluralism and social justice.

The following steps ought to be taken to ensure peace and harmony in India: Organised drives for conversion and reconversion should stop. They violate the Constitution. The Government should promote an agreement among the religious heads of all the major faiths in the country to stop proselytism. Given the positive mindset of theologians belonging to different religions, this is possible.

Combat all forms of expression which incite sectarian hatred and take action against dissemination of such material in the media.

Adequate training and awareness programmes about religion and religious harmony for young leaders at all levels and Government officials, particularly the police and other law enforcement agencies, judges, teachers and social workers must be held.

Introduce inter-religious education in schools as part of the curriculum so as to promote communal harmony.

Assure all victims of religious intolerance adequate support and speedy administrative and judicial remedies.

Provide effective access to all citizens, including religious minorities, to the decision-making process in society.

Counter social exclusion and marginalisation in particular by providing adequate access to all to education, health and employment. Pay specific attention to development of vulnerable groups such as tribals and other weaker sections and those who suffer discrimination on different grounds.

With this we will ensure peace that fosters inclusive development.  
 (The writer is a former Union Minister)

# IMF cuts India's growth forecast to 4.8%

PTI ■ DAVOS

The IMF on Monday lowered India's economic growth estimate for the current fiscal to 4.8 per cent and listed, the country's much lower-than-expected GDP numbers as the single biggest drag on its global growth forecast for two years.

In October, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had pegged India economic growth at 6.1 per cent for 2019.

Listing decline in rural demand growth and an overall credit sluggishness for lowering of India forecasts, IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath however said the growth momentum should improve next year

due to factors like positive impact of corporate tax rate reduction.

"Global growth, estimated at 2.9 per cent in 2019, is projected to increase to 3.3 per cent in 2020 and inch up further to 3.4 per cent in 2021," the IMF said while releasing an update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO).

Compared to the October WEO forecast, the estimate for 2019 and the projection for 2020 represent 0.1 percentage point reductions for each year while that for 2021 is 0.2 percentage point lower.

"A more subdued growth forecast for India... Accounts for the lion's share of the downward revisions," the IMF said ahead of the start of the World



Economic Forum (WEF) annual summit here.

India-born IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said growth in India slowed sharply owing to stress in the non-bank financial sector and weak rural

income growth.

The country's growth is estimated at 4.8 per cent in 2019, projected to improve to 5.8 per cent in 2020 and 6.5 per cent in 2021 (1.2 and 0.9 percentage point lower than in

the October WEO), supported by monetary and fiscal stimulus as well as subdued oil prices, it added.

2019 refers to fiscal year 2019-20.

India's economy grew just 4.5 per cent in July-September 2019 period --- the weakest pace in nearly six years. The Indian government has been taking various measures to bolster growth.

For the emerging market and developing economy group, the IMF said growth is expected to increase to 4.4 per cent in 2020 and 4.6 per cent in 2021 (0.2 percentage point lower for both years than in the October WEO) from an estimated 3.7 per cent in 2019.

"The growth profile for the group reflects a combination of projected recovery from deep downturns for stressed and underperforming emerging market economies and an ongoing structural slowdown in China," it noted.

Gopinath also said the pickup in global growth for 2020 remains highly uncertain as it relies on improved growth outcomes for stressed economies like Argentina, Iran and Turkey, and for underperforming emerging and developing economies such as Brazil, India and Mexico.

Further, the IMF said the balance of risks to the global outlook remains on the downside, but less skewed toward adverse outcomes than in the October WEO.

## Taking earnest attempt to decriminalise

### Companies Law: FM

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the government's earnest attempt was to decriminalise everything that has to do with Companies Law or related acts as part of initiatives towards a \$5 trillion economy.

She said the Government does not want a law that could treat every business house with suspicion.

Delivering the Nani Palkhiwala Memorial lecture on Sunday evening here, Sitharaman said she was impressed with the comments made by TATA Sons Ltd Chairman N Chandrababhan who remarked that the government should treat people and its own citizens.

"My first attempt and also an earnest attempt which continues today is to decriminalise everything to do with Companies law or related laws. The very point Prime Minister

(Narendra Modi) keeps talking," she said.

Sitharaman said in Companies Law, there are a number of sections leading to a criminal approach and penalties of even jail terms.

"I had gone through this with a tooth comb. Decriminalising Companies Law ensuring no other act of Government whether it is Income Tax or your PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) will have such an impact.

We are making sure that aspect will be addressed," she said. Elaborating, she said "we do not want a law which is going to treat every business house with suspicion. That is not the intent of this government at all".

She said it was one of the initiatives the government had planned as part of steps towards taking the country to a USD 5 trillion economy, ensuring trust between the government and businesses.

## Govt begins probe into deposits of unaccounted cash by jewellers during DeMo: Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Armed with information emanating from data analytics, the finance ministry has initiated enquiry into huge amount of cash deposited by jewellers, disproportionate to their known sources of income, during the demonetisation period.

These jewellers under scrutiny have also not reflected such transactions in their return of income for the Assessment Year 2017-18, sources said.

It has been found that huge amount of unaccounted cash was deposited by a number of jewellers during the demonetisation period which they could not explain or justify as sale proceeds and which in one of the case was almost 93,648 per cent of the cash deposited by him vis-a-vis the corresponding period of earlier year, sources said.

## India among top 10 FDI recipients, attracts \$49 bn inflows in 2019, says UN report

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India was among the top 10 recipients of Foreign Direct Investment in 2019, attracting \$49 billion in inflows, a 16 per cent increase from the previous year, driving the FDI growth in South Asia, according to a UN report released on Monday.

The Global Investment Trend Monitor report compiled by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) states that the global foreign direct investment remained flat in 2019 at \$1.39 trillion, a 1 per cent decline from a revised \$1.41 trillion in 2018.

This is against the backdrop of weaker macroeconomic performance and policy uncertainty for investors, including trade tensions, it said.

Developing economies continue to absorb more than half of global FDI flows. South Asia recorded a 10 per cent increase in FDI to \$60 billion and "this growth was driven by India, with a 16 per cent

increase in inflows to an estimated \$49 billion. The majority went into services industries, including information technology," the report said.

India attracted an estimated 49 billion dollars of FDI in 2019, a 16 per cent increase from the 42 billion dollars recorded in 2018, it said.

The FDI flows to developed countries remained at a historically low level, decreasing by a further 6 per cent to an estimated \$643 billion.

The FDI to the European Union (EU) fell by 15 per cent to \$305 billion, while there was zero-growth of flows to United States, which received \$251 billion FDI in 2019, as compared to \$254 billion in 2018, the report said.

Despite this, the United States remained the largest recipient of FDI, followed by China with flows of \$140 billion and Singapore with USD 110 billion. China also saw zero-growth in FDI inflows. Its FDI inflows in 2018 were \$139 billion and stood at \$140 billion in 2019. The FDI in the UK was

down 6 per cent as Brexit unfolded.

The report added that cross-border M&As decreased by 40 per cent in 2019 to USD 490 billion — the lowest level since 2014.

Slowed down by sluggish Eurozone growth and Brexit, European M&A sales halved to \$190 billion. Deals targeting United States companies remained significant — accounting for 31 per cent of total M&As.

The fall in global cross-border M&As sales was deepest in the services sector (a 56 per cent decline to \$207 billion), followed by manufacturing (a 19 per cent decline to \$249 billion) and primary sector (14 per cent decline to \$34 billion), the report said.

In particular, sales of assets related to financial and insurance activities and chemicals fell sharply. The decline in M&A values was driven also by a lower number of megadeals. In 2019, there were 30 megadeals above \$5 billion compared to 39 in 2018, it said.

**RATHI BARS LIMITED**  
CIN: L74899DL1993PLC054781  
Registered Office: A-247, Mohan Co-Operative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044.  
Web: www.rathibars.com, E-mail: rathibars@hotmail.com  
Ph: +91-11-43165400, Fax: +91-11-40597117

### NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT AND E-VOTING

Members are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, the Company has on January 20, 2020, completed the dispatch of Postal Ballot Notice along with the Postal Ballot Form through

1. Email to members (as on 10th January, 2020, being the cutoff date) whose email addresses are registered in the records of the depository participants viz. National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL); and

2. Physical mode, along with the postage prepaid self-addressed Business Reply Envelope to other members who have not registered their email IDs. To seek the approval of members by passing the following resolution by way of Postal Ballot/E-Voting:

1. Special Resolution u/s 180(1)(a) of the Companies Act, 2013 authorizing Board to create charge on assets/undertakings of the Company to secure borrowing.

2. The Company has engaged services of NSDL for providing remote e-voting facility to its members. Further, the Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Ms. Sonali Arora, Practising Company Secretary as the scrutineer for conducting the postal ballot and e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. All the members are informed that:

1. Date of completion of dispatch of Notice of Postal Ballot is Monday, January 20, 2020.

2. The voting through postal ballot and remote e-voting shall commence from Tuesday, 21st January, 2020 at 09.00 a.m. and end on Wednesday, 19th February, 2020 at 5.00 p.m.

3. Members are requested to note that duly completed Postal Ballot Forms should reach the scrutineer not later than Wednesday, 19th February, 2020 at 5.00 p.m. Any response received after this date will be treated as if the same has not been received. Members can opt for only one mode of voting i.e., either by physical ballot or remote e-voting. In case Shareholders cast their votes through both the modes, voting done by remote e-voting shall prevail and votes cast through physical Postal Ballot Form will be treated as invalid.

4. The voting rights of the members shall be reckoned on the equity shares held by them as on the close of business hours on Friday, 10th January, 2020 being the cutoff date for this purpose.

5. In case a member is desirous of obtaining a printed Postal Ballot Form or a duplicate thereof, he/she may send an email to the Company Secretary at rathibars@hotmail.com.

6. For details related to e-voting, please refer to the postal ballot notice. In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Members and remote e-voting user manual for Members available at the dedicated section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no. 1800-222-990.

7. The Postal Ballot Notice and the Postal Ballot Form are available on the company's website www.rathibars.com

The results of the Postal Ballot (including remote e-voting) along with the Scrutinizer report shall be declared on Friday, 21st February, 2020 at the Registered Office of the Company i.e. A-247, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044 and will be posted on the website of the Company www.rathibars.com besides being sent to the Stock Exchange on the said date and also on the website of NSDL. The results will also be displayed at the Registered Office after the declaration of results by the Chairman or any Director of the Company.

By order of the Board  
RATHI BARS LIMITED  
Sd/-  
Amit Kumar Mangla  
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer  
Place : New Delhi  
Date : 21-01-2020

## Sensex slumps 416 pts on profit-booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai: Market benchmarks tumbled from record highs to close deep in the red on Monday as investors booked profits in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, Kotak Bank, HDFC Bank and TCS following their quarterly results.

After hitting a record intraday high of 42,273.87, the 30-share BSE Sensex gave up all gains to settle 416.46 points, or 0.99 per cent, lower at 41,528.91.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty sank 127.80 points, or 1.03 per cent, to 12,224.55. It hit a record intra-day high of 12,430.50 in early session. PTI

## ₹ settles 3 paise down at 71.11 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slipped 3 paise to close at 71.11 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a steady rise in crude oil prices and weakness in domestic equities. Forex traders said the drop in the rupee was largely due to a spurt in crude oil prices following rising tensions in the Middle East and North Africa.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a weak note at 71.07 and fell further to a low of 71.15. It finally settled at 71.11, lower by 3 paise against its previous close.

## ITI to raise ₹1,600 crore for part-debt repayment, working capital needs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State-run electronics and telecom gear manufacturer Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) plans to raise ₹1,600 crore through a follow-on public offer which will be utilised for partial debt repayment as well as to meet working capital requirements.

The issue will open on January 24 and close on January 28. The price band for the offer will be announced on January 22, a top official of the company said.

"A significant part of this issue, around ₹607 crore, will

be utilised for partial repayment of loans while over ₹640 crore would be used to fund our working capital requirements," company's chairman and managing director RM Agarwal told reporters here.

ITI's total outstanding debt as on December 31, 2019, stood at ₹978.38 crore.

The follow-on offer (FPO) comprises a fresh issue of up to 18 crore equity shares and additional issue of up to 18 lakh shares, constituting 1 per cent of the net issue, which would be reserved for employees on a proportionate bases.

## World's 22 richest men have more than all women in Africa: Oxfam

Davos: The number of billionaires has doubled in the past decade and the world's 22 richest men now have more wealth than all the women in Africa, Oxfam said Monday in an appeal to the Davos elite to get serious about inequality.

"Our broken economies are lining the pockets of billionaires and big business at the expense of ordinary men and women. No wonder people are starting to question whether billionaires should even exist,"

Oxfam's India head Amitabh Behar said.

"Women and girls are among those who benefit least from today's economic system," Behar said ahead of the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, where he will represent Oxfam.

"The very top of the economic pyramid sees trillions of dollars of wealth in the hands of a very small group of people, predominantly men," the Oxfam report said. AFP

## BATTLE FOR MIAL Arbitration tribunal restrains Adanis from buying Bidvest stake

Mumbai: In a major setback to the Adani Group's bid to get a hold on Mumbai airport, an arbitration tribunal has restrained it from going ahead with buying out the 13.5 per cent stake of South African partner Bidvest Services in the country's second largest airport.

The tribunal has also asked Bidvest to maintain status quo on its stake but asked GVK, which owns 50.5 per cent in the airport, to compensate it for the

delay by way of paying interest on the agreed share purchase agreement (₹1,248 crore) till the pendency of the case.

It is directed that pending the final disposal of the arbitration proceedings, Bidvest Services or anyone acting for and on behalf of it is restrained from alienating in any manner its 16.20 crore (13.5 per cent) equity shares in Mumbai international airport" the tribunal said. PTI

## BUSINESS CORNER

### FUEL CONSERVATION DRIVE OF PCRA SAKSHAM

New Delhi: 'Saksham',

an annual one-month long fuel conservation mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was launched on 16th January by MM Kutty, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in a function held in Delhi. MM Kutty during his address emphasized the importance of petroleum products for our country and the dire need for actions leading towards fuel conservation. He stressed upon the importance of programs like Saksham wherein general public is involved in various activities. He gave away the prizes to the winners of Essay, quiz and painting competitions for the National Level Competition-2019 which has seen a phenomenal record participation of more than 1.48 crore students from schools of all education boards of the country.



### PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION ON 70 GLORIOUS YR OF CLW

Chittaranjan: The PR

department has

organised a

Photography

Exhibition from 20th

to 26th January 2020

at Technical Training

centre on 70 Glorious

years of CLW. Shri

Praveen Kumar

Mishra, General

Manager visited the

photography

exhibition & also an

Exhibition on CLW along

with senior officers of CLW. The photographs

shot by CLW employees and their wards are put on display in the

photography exhibition. General Manager took keen interest in the

photographs taken by the CLW employees and their wards. Later,

Praveen Kumar Mishra visited the Exhibition on CLW besides the

photography exhibition which was organised from 13th Jan 2020.

General Manager appreciated the efforts of Public Relations deptt for

organising these exhibitions.



### DG, SCOPE BAGS MOST ADMIRER LEADER AWARD

New Delhi: Director

General, SCOPE, Atul

Sobti has been conferred

with the coveted "Most

Admired Leader Award

2020" for his outstanding

contribution as a leader in

developing people and

organisational capability.

The award has been

instituted jointly by the Indian Institute of Public Administration and

Forum for Emotional Intelligence Learning.



### I-T searches

#### premises of Lalit

#### hotels promoter

#### Jyotsna Suri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department

has launched searches at

multiple locations of the Bharat

Hotels group, its associates and

a leading automobile dealer

firm in connection with a tax

evasion probe, officials said on

Monday.

They said about 8 premises linked to Bharat Hotels CMD Jyotsna Suri and some of her associates as well as Jayant Nanda, promoter of Cargo Motors, one of the largest dealers of Tata motors in the country, are being searched in and around the national Capital.

The searches, they said, were launched late on Sunday and are related to a tax evasion probe being conducted by the department.

Transactions of these groups, under the scanner of the department, are related, official sources said.

The Bharat Hotels group owns the chain of Lalit hotels in the country. It runs over a dozen such luxury facilities at present.

Jyotsna Suri has been associated with the Bharat Hotels group since 1989 and took over as the Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD) in 2006, after the death of her husband and hotelier Lalit Suri.

The businesswoman has also been the chairman of industry body FICCI in the past.

### ASCI announces

#### new code for brands

#### to claim awards,

#### rankings in ads

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Advertisement

Standards Council of India

(ASCI) on Monday announced

to introduce guidelines for

usage of claims of awards and

rankings by the companies in

their respective advertisements.

Now, brands and services need to ensure that the accrediting bodies involved in disseminating or presenting awards or rankings are authentic and credible, while validating their claims in advertisements.

The new guidelines, which would be effective from February 1, 2020, aim to curb the "superiority claims" in advertising for the products and services based on awards and rankings received, which "sometimes misled into believing" by the consumers, the ASCI said in a statement.

It has become increasingly common for advertisers to make superiority claims in advertising for their products and services based on awards and rankings received.

Consumers are sometimes misled into believing that an award or ranking which is given to a brand, product, institute or service makes it superior and /or more authentic.

"Awards, Rankings should not be used as an alternative for consumer or scientific research or testing which is required to substantiate a superiority claim about the effective use or performance of products or services," the new guidelines said.

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

#### See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Pradeep S/o Om Prakash R/o H.No. 311 Block, Gali No. 16, Kailash Vihar, Pansali, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 874/14 u/s 354/457 IPC P.S Shahbad Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Pradeep cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Pradeep absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Pradeep accused of FIR No. 874/14 u/s 354/457 IPC is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.03.2020.

By Order: Ms. Swati Sharma  
Metropolitan Magistrate-02 (Mahila Court),  
Room No. 104, 1st Floor (North Distt.),  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Pooja D/o Amer R/o Gali No. 08, Swaroop Vihar, New Colony Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 02.01.2020 from the area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 16-A, dated 03.01.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age : 20 Years, Height: 4'5", Complexion : Shallow, Built : Medium, Face: Round, Wearing : Blue colour Kurta



Predict TB

Researchers have revealed a blood test could predict the onset of TB three to six months before people become unwell, a finding which could help better target antibiotics and save lives. The accuracy was achieved, by revealing the patients' immune responses to bacteria before the symptoms of the disease develop



DOCYARD DR VIJAY JANAGAMA

Director, New Initiatives

SUVITAS HOLISTIC HEALTHCARE (BENGALURU & HYDERABAD)



Exercise the pain away

Wear and tear is a natural and inevitable damage that affects not just machines, but human beings too. As we age and constantly keep up with the activities of everyday lives, our bodies might show fatigue and degeneration. Thankfully, advances in medical sciences have helped us cope better. Human body parts can be repaired, refurbished or replaced. Knee replacement surgery is an elective clinical procedure performed to resurface a damaged knee. Metal and plastic parts along with the knee cap are used to top the ends of the knee joint bone. However, not everyone resumes to their normal pain-free lifestyle after the surgery. Pre-rehabilitation or rehabilitation before the knee replacement surgery has been a respite for many since it has been proven to bring considerable difference in patient's quality and pace of recovery.

A fit body always recovers first is a no-brainer. Yet most patients undergoing knee replacement surgery consider rehabilitation only after the procedure. After the surgery, in most cases, patient receives physical therapy sessions in the hospital for only a couple of days until discharge. Normally, physiotherapist will advise exercises which should be followed at home for up to three months to improve balance, strength and movement. However, patients who followed an active lifestyle and performed pre-rehabilitation tactics including performing of exercises for up to eight weeks until the surgery, recover faster.

Exercising before the surgery can be painful since it involves the movement of the damaged joint. Therefore only light impact exercises are recommended during this time. Activities like swimming, walking and cycling can help in keeping one to stay active without laying much stress on the knee. It is important to warm up before any exercise and only gradually move to vigorous movements.

Exercising before surgery can be painful. Therefore only those with light impact are recommended. Activities like swimming, walking and cycling can help

days a week.

Ankle activities: Lie on your back keeping legs straight. Now pull your ankle up towards you and push back the opposite way. Repeat six times.

Heel slides: Pull your knee to your chest using a towel under the thigh and slide heel towards the buttocks. Hold it for five to 10 seconds and repeat at least 10 times.

Sitting knee bend and straighten: Sitting on the edge of a chair, move your heel backward to bend the knee and forward to straighten it.

Hamstring stretch: Sitting up tall on the edge of the chair, pull your lower belly to the spine. Now bend forward from your hips until you feel the stretch at the back of the thigh.

Arm chair push ups: Strengthen the muscles under your arms called triceps through this exercise. Sit in a chair with arm rest with hands on it, elbows bent. Now try to lift your body by straightening the elbows. Hold for five to 10 seconds and repeat for at least eight to 15 times per day.

All the above are indicative and actual exercises shall be personalised based on your existing condition.

Pre-rehabilitation before knee replacement surgery comprises of several components beyond exercises including diet adjustment, pain management, counseling and lifestyle modifications. This systematic way of preparing the body for the surgery reaps significant results in the recovery.

WARMFOODS

BROCCOLI: Broccoli is an edible green plant in the cabbage family whose large flowering head and stalk is eaten as a vegetable. It is rich in many vitamins and minerals, including folate, potassium, manganese, iron, and Vitamins C and K1 which may help promote skin and bone health.

It also help in preventing heart diseases and cancer. Two of the main carotenoids in broccoli, lutein and zeaxanthin, are associated with a decreased risk of age-related eye disorders.

It is also known to have a warm taasir (nature) which makes it a great option for winters.

It also contains numerous other vitamins and minerals in smaller amounts. In fact, it provides a little bit of almost every nutrient that your body needs.



NOT SO SWEET

Winters can take a toll on the health of people having Diabetes. ARCHANA JYOTI speaks with doctors to tell you what one can do to stay safe

With no let-up in the extreme cold, health experts have advised the people with Diabetes to be extra careful as bitter weather can play havoc with their well-being in many ways given their weak immune system.

They warn that fluctuating sugar levels often stemming from a weaker immune system and slower circulation during the winter months reduces the effectiveness of insulin. They can be prone to stroke, hypertension and heart-attacks. Elderly people report low blood sugar levels with disturbed gaits. Type II Diabetes is a chronic disease that can cause blood sugar (glucose) to be higher than normal.

Dr V Mohan Chairman and Chief Diabetologist from Chennai based Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialists Centre explains that due to the cold weather, their walking schedule is affected. "It means that their blood sugar can go out of control because the dose of medicines may not be sufficient to control their Diabetes minus their usual exercise schedule," he tells you.

It is known that cold weather can aggravate chest pain related to heart or angina. But people with Diabetes need not have the usual symptoms of chest pain because of autonomic neuropathy which affects the nerves which produce pain.

Hence they should be careful when walking or doing exercise in cold weather specially when walking up a slope or a hill, he warns.

Besides these, extreme cold weather can lead to frostbites which in a person with Diabetes can lead to gangrene. Hence, proper

SUDDEN EXPOSURE TO EXTREME COLD CAN RESULT IN HIGH BLOOD SUGAR DUE TO CONSTRICTED BLOOD VESSELS. THERE ARE CHANCES OF A STROKE, HEART ATTACK AND HYPERTENSION. HENCE ONE SHOULD BE EXTRA CAREFUL WHILE GOING OUT IN THIS SEASON

KEEP WINTER BLUES AT BAY

- Check your feet regularly, at least twice a day. Test your blood sugar regularly to keep your sugar levels under control. Be particularly mindful of what you eat. A little exercise will keep you warmer and increase your body's ability to use insulin better. Stay hydrated and use moisturisers to fight dry skin problem.



footwear and gloves have to be used by people with Diabetes.

"While frigid weather by itself may not increase the blood sugar levels, during the winter people are more prone to cold cough, throat infections bronchitis and pneumonia. If they develop upper or lower respiratory infections, this can profoundly affect the blood sugar level. An increase in medicines may be required, hence more frequent sugar level check-up should be done," Dr Mohan says.

Dr AK Jhingan, Diabetologist and chairman of Delhi Diabetes Research Center warns that sudden exposure to extreme cold can result high blood sugar due to constricted blood vessels. There are chances of getting stroke, heart attacks and accelerated hypertension, hence one should be extra careful while going out in the cold. High blood glucose levels make it hard to fight infections.

Smokers, alcohol consumers, or those sick or with asthma and elderly ones are more vulnerable.

Even just a little physical activity each day can help your glucose levels in a number of supporting

ways. Also, people tend to eat more during the winter in a bid to keep themselves warm.

Besides, this is also a festive and marriage season so people tend to eat more. So "no fast and no feast" policy should be followed.

Studies have revealed that herbs and supplements have shown promise in lowering blood sugar, boosting insulin sensitivity and reducing high blood pressure and cholesterol.

For instance, there are anti-diabetic herbal drugs like BGR-34, developed by the scientists from prominent research institutes like Central of Science and Industrial Research (CSIR) scientists. Formulation of time-tested herbs like gudmar, jamun, vijayar and fenugreek have properties to enhance immunity level and lowering blood sugar level, said former senior scientist with CSIR who had helped developed the drug.

Dr Jhingan sums up saying that never leave the medicine and don't ignore the symptoms of feeling suffocation or pain.

With some adjustments during winters, one can lead a healthy life.

DadiKaKehna

With kids at home, especially boys, minor injuries — cuts and scrapes — are common. There are a few home remedies that moms can do for healing that are natural and easy to follow, says ROSHANI DEVI



Almost all of us have got into scrapes and ended up with minor cuts and bruises while playing or just falling down. A visit to a doctor for many kids can be harrowing. However, the wound has to be treated. Here are a few quick tips that mothers can follow.

The most important and basic rule — clean the wound properly to remove any dirt with clean water. Be gentle while doing so.

One can always use alovera. The gel is soothing and improves healing.

In most homes there is honey, especially in winters. Natural honey has great healing power. Apply this on the



Heal the soul & mind

Pages: 205 PUBLICATION: AUROPUBLICATIONS Author: PULKIT SHARMA

A report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) revealed that 7.5 per cent of the Indians suffers from some form of mental disorder. It predicts that by 2020, roughly 20 per cent of India will suffer from mental illnesses. What is worrying is that to treat these, we only have 4,000 mental professionals. In such a scenario, the book When The Soul Heals: Explorations in Spiritual Psychology by Dr Pulkit Sharma, a practicing clinical psychologist since 2005 makes for not just an interesting read but can be of great help who are looking for self-help.

We are living in a world where we are at the peak as achievers but when it comes to peace and happiness, it is way beyond our reach. Why? The answer according to Sharma's book



THE BOOK FINDS A CONNECT WITH READERS AS IT HAS REAL LIFE CASES AND TALKS ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM AND HOW THE TREATMENT LEFT AN IMPACT

stand what the author is trying to say, the issues dealt with here — stress, depression, anger, grief, anxiety, beauty obsessions, addictions and caregiver burden — start with an example of the author's patients (names have been changed). This gives the reader a connection with the real life cases and how they felt and dealt with the situation. It then talks about present psychological understanding, treatment and how it finally had an impact on the subject.

Then there are the practice sessions — breathing exercises — that will make the person introspect and see the real cause of the problem, take a corrective route, heal the should and the mind and move forward with a positive step in life.

All this an much more forms the bases of a book that looks at psychology from a different perspective, interprets it and puts it out in a language that is easy to understand without diluting the subject matter.

BE GENTLE WITH BABY'S SKIN

New born babies tend to develop myriad skin conditions. Therefore, it is extremely important to take extra care of the little ones, says DR AJAY RANA



A baby's skin is much thinner and sensitive than an adult's and needs special care and protection. Because they have a higher chance to get infected by some infection or disease. New born babies can develop many types of skin conditions shortly after their birth. A lot of these conditions last only a period of time after the birth and get cured as they grow. Babies develop a myriad of skin conditions during the first few months of life. Cradle cap, diaper rash, toxic erythema, milia, infantile acne, and others are common among them. Some of these conditions are caused by normal hormonal changes or immature pores, while others are caused by inflammation or, rarely, an infection.

Some of the common skin problems in new born babies are:

Diaper rash is one of the most common skin problems in new born babies. It is often caused by irritation to the skin due to contact with urine and stool. Sometimes it is caused by yeast infections, bacterial infections, or even due to an allergy to diaper material.

Baby acne is also common among babies and it is caused by maternal hormones called estrogens. Estrogens are involved in causing acne in adolescents also.

Eczema, also known as atopic dermatitis, is a itchy rash that occurs in response to a specific exposure or allergy of the skin. It is generally seen in children over three months of age and appears most commonly on the scalp, face, trunk, elbows and knees and even in the diaper area.

Babies have dry peeling skin in the initial period after birth. Because the infant exists in a fluid environment for several months and after birth, the skin cells start to regenerate, which results in the peeling of the old skin cells.

Cradle cap is one of the common rash seen in newborns. These rashes are usually seen in the first month of life, starts on the scalp and has a red, waxy, and scaly appearance. Sometimes these rashes can extend to the face and neck.

Most of the healthy newborns develop milia, which are tiny white or yellow bumps about one-three mm in size. Milia is caused from blocked pores and typically develop on the face, often around the eye and nose. These bumps can appear in large numbers, and usually a roughly equal number form on each side of the face. In new born babies, milia can also develop in the mouth.

Some tips to avoid skin problems in new born babies:

Use a gentle shampoo/soap to massage the baby, which is rich in herbs.

Choose a moisturiser for children that contain olive oil and almond oil, which improves the softness of children's skin.

In the sticky skin which becomes dry, and chapped where the skin rubs, such as wrinkles on the wrists. In such a situation, using a moisturiser such as aspirin, aquaphor, or petroleum jelly on the baby's cheeks increases natural blockage and helps treat any already scorched skin.

The problem of red patches in the cheeks of infants due to UV rays is common. In this case, do not forget to use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher.

Avoid products with dyes and fragrances in them because these may result in allergic reactions to babies.

Skin of new born babies is sensitive and can easily burn from sun exposure, even causing permanent damage. So it is important to avoid direct sunlight.

The writer is Dermatologist & Aesthetic Physician, Founder-Director of ILAMED

STUDYCENTRE

Researchers have revealed that less active infants may accumulate more fat, which in turn may put them at risk for obesity later in life.

For the study, published in the journal Obesity, researchers tracked the physical activity levels of 506 infants using small ankle-worn accelerometers for four days per tracking period at ages three, six, nine and 12 months.

For each tracking period after three, average physical activity increased by about four per cent, in line with infants becoming generally more mobile and active over the course of their first year.

Among infants, higher physical activity measured by the accelerometer was associated with lower central adiposity, a measure of lower-torso fat accumulation, the study said.

"This is the first study to demonstrate an association over time between higher levels of objectively measured physical activity and lower central adiposity in infancy," said study lead author Sara Benjamin-Neelon from Johns Hopkins University in US. Of this group, the research team were able to get adequate accelerometer data for 506 infants.

The researcher noted that larger, longer-term studies will be necessary to determine the sustained effect of infant physical activity, but that preventing extended periods of inactivity for infants will almost certainly be good for them.

— IANS

US PRESIDENT impeachment

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump's defence team and the prosecutors of his impeachment are laying out their arguments over whether his conduct toward Ukraine warrants his removal from office.

then, both sides will have submitted briefs and four Democratic presidential candidates will have been forced back to Washington from the early nominating states to join every other senator in silence, sans phones, on the Senate floor.

the impeachment articles are invalid and he's the victim of Democrats who want to overturn his election.



called Trump's behaviour the "worst nightmare" of the country's founders. In their view, the standard of "high crimes and misdemeanors" is vague and open-ended in the Constitution and meant to encompass abuses of power that aren't necessarily illegal.

The White House is pushing an "absurdist position," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the lead Democratic prosecutor of the impeachment case.

During the trial, Sanders and other senators are required to sit for perhaps six grueling hours of proceedings daily — except Sundays, per Senate rules — in pursuit of the "impartial justice" they pledged to pursue.

Mystery, however, abounded over the trial's ground rules. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., shed no light on how the proceedings will follow — and differ from — the precedent of President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial in 1999.

"The President deserves a fair trial. The American people deserve a fair trial. So let's have that fair trial," said Democratic Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado, one of the seven impeachment prosecutors.

5 former police officials sentenced to death over attack on Hasina's motorcade in 1988

PTI ■ DHAKA

Five former police officials were sentenced to death by a Bangladesh court on Monday for opening fire on a motorcade of then Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina in 1988 that killed her 24 supporters during an anti-government rally.

May pull out of N treaty over Europe dispute: Iran

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran said on Monday it will consider withdrawing from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) if a dispute over its atomic programme goes before the UN Security Council.

landmark accord in 2018. The European move "has no legal basis" and if they take further measures "Iran's withdrawal from the NPT will be considered," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quoted as saying by the Iranian parliament's website.

party to the JCPOA for failing to live up to their promises to ease the impact of US sanctions on its oil-based economy.

before that we can consider other (options)," he said. European officials have made it clear that the decision to trigger the dispute resolution mechanism was made in a bid to bring Iran back into compliance and save the accord.

But Iran's foreign ministry on Monday warned more measures could be taken in retaliation for the European move.

WORLD POWERS AGREE NEW PUSH FOR LIBYA PEACE

Berlin: World leaders committed to ending all foreign meddling in Libya's civil war at a Berlin summit on Sunday, and to uphold a weapons embargo as part of a broader plan to end the long-running conflict.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for general information of public that M/s MZM Buildtech Pvt. Ltd. was earlier having their office at D-44, 3rd Floor, Sector-6, Noida-201301.

Evacuation crackdown ordered as Philippine volcano 'recharges'

AFP

Tanauan (Philippines): Philippine authorities ordered a crackdown Monday on evacuees' daily visits to their homes in the danger zone around Taal volcano as scientists warned it could be "recharging" for a more powerful explosion.

Iraqi protesters ramp up pressure as deadline expires

AFP

Baghdad: Thousands of Iraqi anti-government protesters grappled with security forces in a bid to shut streets across the country on Monday, a deadline they had given authorities to implement long-awaited reforms.

Xi orders resolute efforts to contain new virus as China reports 3rd death

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday ordered resolute efforts to curb the spread of a new coronavirus that has infected more than 220 people and resulted in the death of three persons in the country as an expert warned that the virus is contagious between people.

3 Sikhs stabbed to death in east London in clash within community

PTI

London: Three persons were stabbed to death after a clash between two groups within the Sikh community in east London, police said on Monday. The victims were believed to be in their 20s or 30s, they said.

Spain walloped by heavy snow, rain, gales

AFP

Madrid: Heavy snow, rain and gale-force winds lashed many parts of Spain on Monday, killing at least two people and prompting five provinces to go on top emergency alert. The storm forced the closure of Alicante Airport and some 30 roads in the eastern region.

UK looks to Africa for trade ties after Brexit

PTI

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prince Harry touted the UK as an ideal business partner for Africa on Monday as their country prepares for post-Brexit dealings with the world.

IMRAN KHAN TO MEET TRUMP AT WEF IN DAVOS

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and US President Donald Trump will meet this week on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, the Foreign Office announced on Monday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Mr. Haridwari Lal who is purchasing Shop No-558-557, both land area measuring 29 Sq. Yds., each & Shop No-558 admeasuring 25 sq. yards., total admeasuring 83 Sq. yards., comprised in Kh. No. 550/4/3/01/2/97/50-10, 550/7/302/2/97/60-7, SITUATED AT Village Gurgan, Colony Laxman Vihar, Gurgan, in Haddod Committee Gurgan, Tehsil & District Gurgan, Haryana from M/s Darshan Solutions Ltd. and further will be mortgaging the same against the financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. That the Original Registered Sale Deed dated 24.11.1998 executed by Mrs. Birma Devi w/o Mr. Rajendra Prasad in favour of Mr. Ashok Banga s/o Mr. Motilal Banga in respect of plot admeasuring 29 sq. yds. & Original GPA executed by Executed by Mrs. Veda Kaur in favour of Mr. Raj Kumar has been lost/misplaced. Publics being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person. If anybody found these document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.

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Website: www.gulshanindia.com
email: cg@gulshanindia.com
Tel: 011-49999200, Ext. 237, Fax: 011-49999202

Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 27th January, 2020 at G-81, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092, inter alia, to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended 31st December, 2019, and any other matters. The information contained in this Notice is also available on Company's website www.gulshanindia.com and on the Stock Exchange website: www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
OA No. 1464/18 DATE: 06.12.2019
HDFC BANK LTD. ....APPLICANT
STATE BANK OF INDIA & ORS. ....RESPONDENT

DEFENDANT
3. MR. NARESH KUMAR S/O H.S. KARTAR SINGH S-291/58, SONIYA GANDHI CAMP, PUR PRAHLADPUR, NEW DELHI-44.
4. MR. AJAY KUMAR S/O LT. SH. MAHIPAL SINGH HOUSE NO. 1/1, SUSHILA GARDEN, MANDOLIN EXTENSION, ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI
5. MR. RAJEEV KAPOOR S/O RAMDAS HOUSE NO. 110A, RAJEEV NAGAR, SECTOR 18, FARIDABAD.
6. MR. PUNIT CHANDOK, S/O SH. KULDEEP CHANDOK C-4/137A, KESHAV PURAM, DELHI.
7. MR. RAMAN GULIA S/O SH. KISHAN SINGH 22/4, RANI RAGH, NEW DELHI
ALSO AT:
C-332, NAVIN PALACE, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI
Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 83,73,041/- (RUPEES EIGHTY THREE LAKH SEVENTY THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY ONE 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 the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 30.01.2020 at 10.30 a.m.

RELIANCE HOME FINANCE LIMITED
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer (AO) of the Reliance Home Finance Ltd. (RHF), invites tenders/quotations for purchase of the properties specified below of the below mentioned Borrowers, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, for recovery of secured debts of Rs. 178,394,11/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Nine Hundred And Forty One Only) as on 20th January 2020 plus interest and costs etc., of RHF. The Properties are proposed to be sold on "As is Where is" and "As is Whatever there is basis" and on without recourse basis.

KANSAS CITY: Police in Kansas City, Missouri, say at least two people are dead and 15 people were reportedly injured in a shooting.

2 dead, 15 injured in Missouri shooting
The shooting took place shortly before midnight Sunday, Kansas City police said at a press conference at the scene. A police spokesman said responding officers found "a chaotic scene" and had to call in help from around the city. Two people were found dead, including a woman in the parking lot.

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/02/2020 Dated 20.01.2020
S.N Short Description of Item Quantity T.O.D.
13 Anchor link fitment Bolt 6000 Sets 04.02.2020
14 Dual flush Valve (3/6 LTRS) Size 93 Nos 05.02.2020
15 Gear Case Assembly 274 Nos 10.02.2020
16 Various child parts of AC-AC traction control system 6 Items 11.02.2020
17 Dynamic Braking Grid Non Fan Tap Grid 12 Nos 11.02.2020
18 Insulating Hose (PTFE TUBE) 26 Nos 12.02.2020
19 Un-insulated GDM/UM copper catenary wire 125 sq. mm 30 Nos 12.02.2020
20 Hot Rolled Round steel Bar 'ISRO 45' 1000 Kgs 12.02.2020
21 M.S. Flat Steel size 50 x 6mm 2300 Kgs 12.02.2020
22 Various child parts of AC-AC traction control system 8 Items 12.02.2020
23 Various child parts of AC-AC traction control system for HHP Locomotives 8 Items 12.02.2020
24 Child parts of AC-AC traction control system for HHP Locomotives 2 Items 12.02.2020
25 Various child parts of AC-AC traction control system 8 Items 13.02.2020
26 Child parts of AC-AC traction control system for HHP Locomotives 2 Items 13.02.2020
27 Child part of AC-AC traction control system 2 Items 13.02.2020
28 Child part of AC-AC traction control system 2 Items 13.02.2020
29 Clean silica sand free from 908.92 MTs 14.02.2020
30 Pressure Sensor CS 300 94 Nos 14.02.2020
31 Wire Steel mild Galvanised 1.60MM 397 Kgs 14.02.2020
32 Child parts of Microprocessor controlled Air Brake System 4 Items 14.02.2020
33 RAL-9018 Papyrus white metallic finish 27000 Ltrs 15.02.2020
34 Complete Brake gear arrangement 80 Sets 17.02.2020
35 Various child parts of AC-AC traction control system for HHP Locomotives 2 Items 17.02.2020
36 Duct Air Flexible 350 Nos 17.02.2020
37 Complete Brake gear arrangement 2 Items 19.02.2020

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Trend Slazer

Amitabh unveils first look of Jhund

Actor AMITABH BACHCHAN treated his fans by sharing the first official poster of his forthcoming film *Jhund*.

First glimpse of #Jhund," Big B wrote on Instagram.

In the poster, Amitabh can be seen showing his back to the camera as he stares into what appears to be a dilapidated football field.

Directed by Nagraj Manjule, *Jhund* is reportedly based on the life of Vijay Barse, who is the founder of Slum Soccers. Amitabh plays the role of a professor who channelises the street children to build a soccer team.

The look of Big B has left his fans in awe of him.



'I have been making films based on horror and paranormal. But this time I chose to use a subject very

close to reality by showcasing the real horror of matters in daily lives. In this age of social media, everybody is vulnerable to being hacked and nobody knows about it. It would just take one clever hacker to ruin our lives.'

—Vikram Bhatt

Actor RAVEENA TANDON will be writing and producing a web series on multiple personality disorder.

The web-show will be in the psychological space and is based on the concept of split-personality.

"I am really excited for the world to see a story that I have worked very hard for. This web-series is a gripping story that I have written and it will surely keep the viewers on the edge of their seat. Concept-wise, this web-series is something very different I have tried. I just hope that people love it," Raveena said.



'My kids are sad that I didn't win'

Actor CHARLIZE THERON's children are not hopeful when it comes to her chances of winning at the 2020 Oscars.

Theron was nominated for the "Best Actress" prize for her role in *Bombshell*. But after already losing out at the Golden Globes and Critics' Choice Awards, her children aren't getting their hopes up for success. "It's been a thrilling couple of weeks. I was nominated for a Golden Globe. I was nominated for a Critics' Choice... Spoiler alert: I didn't win," she said.

She shared that her children were sad and angry when they found out that she lost at both awards shows.

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR...

While *Parasite* made for a historic win and Robert De Niro talked against the blatant abuse of power, the 26th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards made way for new faces and opinions to emerge and take the limelight

Off-camera and during commercials, the stars at the 26th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards got to rub shoulders, give congratulatory kisses, and meet for the first or the 50th time. Here are some of the more memorable moments from the Sunday night's ceremony

Party time for Parasite

The *Parasite* table was one of the happier places in the Shrine ballroom — and that was before its cast won the night's biggest award. Song Kang Ho and the film's other stars got whoops, whistles and a standing ovation from much of the room of mostly American actors early in the show, when they took the stage to present their nominated film. That was followed by a full-blown ovation at the end, when theirs became the first foreign-language film to win the best ensemble SAG Award. In between the two hours, the gleeful cast and director Bong Joon Ho, savoured their moment in the Hollywood spotlight, taking group selfies during every commercial break. They greeted a steady stream of fellow-actor fans, including Steve Buscemi. "I'm a little embarrassed," cast member Lee Sun Kyun said after the show through a translator. "We're feeling a little like the parasites of Hollywood now."

Some SAG stars loom larger than others

TV and film screens tend to obscure actors' heights, but when they're all in a room together it's very clear who looms over whom. The winners of the show's first two awards for actresses, Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Laura Dern, both reportedly five-foot-10, made it seem like the night was going to be dominated by the tallest nominees, but the trend ended there. The win of a much shorter Joaquin Phoenix — for *Joker* — over a reportedly 6-foot-3 Adam Driver for best actor in a film was more typical of the night. And the tallest actor and actress in the crowd, Stephen Merchant of *Jojo Rabbit*, who stands about 6-foot-7, and Gwendoline Christie of *Game of Thrones*, who stands about 6-foot-3, never got to take the stage with their casts, over whom they towered when they stood up during commercial breaks.

Lithgow visits driver's seat

John Lithgow



Parasite cast

is even taller than Driver, and is nearly 40 years older, but it was Lithgow doing the looking up when the two met for the first time during a commercial break. Lithgow, nominated along with the rest of the cast of *Bombshell*, smiled and gushed to Driver, nominated for best actor for *Marriage Story*, expressing his admiration for Driver's run of recent performances. "Great to meet you Adam," Lithgow said with enthusiasm as the SAG Awards telecast returned from commercial and Lithgow rejoined Charlize Theron, Margot Robbie and his other cast mates at the neighbouring table.

Small stars scramble for SAG selfies

You could be excused for thinking it was "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" for the professional actors of the SAG Awards. Actually, the wee ones running around the ballroom were acting pros, too, on a night where children abounded among the nominees. The kid actors from *Big Little Lies*, including brothers Cameron and Nicholas Crovetti, were all over the ballroom during commercial breaks, taking photos with stars including their cast mates Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon. Twelve-year-old Roman Griffin Davis sat proudly at his table like he utterly belonged alongside his fellow *Jojo Rabbit* cast members, who include Scarlett Johansson. Leonardo DiCaprio politely spoke to a steady stream of people excited to meet him during commercial breaks, but he positively beamed when his 10-year-old *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood* co-star Julia Butters, in a shiny silver suit, brought three young friends to meet him. He greeted each of them with a huge grin just moments before he lost out on best actor to Phoenix.

De Niro and Streep make SAG crowd swoon

If anyone inspired more awe in the ballroom than DiCaprio it was Robert



Robert De Niro

De Niro, to whom DiCaprio presented the "SAG Life Achievement Award" during the ceremony. Many major stars came to pay tribute to De Niro as he sat at a table that included his *The Irishman* co-stars Al Pacino and Harvey Keitel. But when Meryl Streep — his co-star in *The Deer Hunter* more than 40 years ago — stopped by to exchange kisses and kudos, photographers descended in droves and phone cameras came out on all sides to capture the meet-up of the pair that many regard as the greatest actor and actress of their generation.

Telling teleprompters

Virtually the entire ballroom can see the SAG Awards telecast's teleprompters if they look over their shoulder, and can see who's going off-script. When Ray Romano said while introducing the best ensemble nomination for *The Irishman* that he still couldn't believe he played a mob lawyer opposite De Niro and Keitel, Keitel roasted him by replying "I can't believe it either." Romano replied, "Hey, that's not up there," pointing at the teleprompter. Romano was right. It wasn't.

Rogers, Judy Garland are neighbours

Actors usually sit with their cast



Brad Pitt



Jennifer Aniston

mates at SAG Awards tables, but sometimes the seating chart yields more novel pairings, like the adjacent placement of Tom Hanks, nominated for *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, and Renée Zellweger, nominated for *Judy*. The pairing made theirs a popular table for fans and cameras, and it proved prescient. They met up again onstage late in the show, when Hanks handed Zellweger the trophy for best actress in a film.

De Niro gets political as he accepts SAG Awards honour

De Niro received the "Screen Actors Guild lifetime achievement Award" to

LIST OF AWARDEES

- FILM**  
 Actress: Renée Zellweger, *Judy*  
 Actor: Joaquin Phoenix, *Joker*  
 Ensemble: *Parasite*  
 Actress in a supporting role: Laura Dern, *Marriage Story*  
 Actor in a supporting role: Brad Pitt, *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood*  
 Stunt ensemble: *Avengers: Endgame*
- TELEVISION**  
 Actor in a comedy series: Tony Shalhoub, *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*  
 Actress in a comedy series: Phoebe Waller-Bridge, *Fleabag*  
 Comedy series ensemble: *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*  
 Actor in a drama series: Peter Dinklage, *Game of Thrones*  
 Actress in a drama series: Jennifer Aniston, *The Morning Show*  
 Drama series ensemble: *The Crown*  
 Actor in a TV movie or limited series: Sam Rockwell, *Fosse/Verdon*  
 Actress in a limited TV movie or series: Michelle Williams, *Fosse/Verdon*  
 TV stunt ensemble: *Game of Thrones*

praise for his illustrious career and thunderous applause from his fellow performers, but spent much of his acceptance speech on politics.

"There's right and there's wrong, and there's common sense and there's abuse of power," said De Niro, who received a standing ovation that lasted nearly a minute after Leonardo DiCaprio presented him with the award. About half of the room stood and applauded when the actor said it was his responsibility to speak about politics and seemingly took aim at President Donald Trump, whose name he didn't mention. "As a citizen, I have as much right as anybody — an actor, an athlete, anybody else — to voice my opinion. And if I have a bigger voice because of my situation, I'm going to use it whenever I see a blatant abuse of power," he added. —AP

Revenge or money?

Actor ASIA KATE DILLON talks about the conflict between preserving an ethical centre and keeping a strong sense of identity in *Billions* Season 4. By TEAM VIVA

An you give us a rundown of how things were left in season 3 and what's new this season?

The scene where the third season left and the fourth picks up is that Taylor has left Axe capital, he is on the odds with not only Bobby but with Wendy and Ben Kim as well. The only person Taylor has on their side is the loyal Mafee, who as we know was the first person we saw Taylor with in season 2. So it's been quite an evolution for Taylor in particular.

What motivated Taylor's decision to pull the Axe capital?

At the beginning of season 3, Taylor was put in charge of Axe capital, while Bobby sorts out all his problems. They handle the ups and downs quite well. And we also see that Bobby becomes obsessed with saving his money and reputation. I also think Taylor gets swapped to their side because when he asks how to help Mafee, Axe tells him that they didn't need his help right now. Hence, Taylor starts feeling left out. Taylor is too smart to not see the moves ahead more than Axe does. Moreover, once Axe stepped in and ruined Taylor's relationship with Oscar for the sake of the business, that broke the trust and loyalty between Taylor and Axe.

It seems as if this season is about shifting loyalty. Who is loyal to Taylor? Whose loyalty did he break?

Loyalty is a huge theme in every season of *Billions* and particularly the fourth one. There are things from Taylor's past that are going to come up. I don't want to spoil anything but I think Taylor would like to be out of access line of fire.

Where do we pickup with Taylor at the beginning of this season?

At the beginning of season 4, Taylor runs his own company, dealing with the ups and downs of what it means to be in-charge of his own ship for the first time. So, during season 3 there is a scene between the two where Taylor really comes down hard on Axe about the money move that he wanted to make.

Taylor is playing a big game this season. I think he is the type of person who functions at their best when put under pressure. The pressure that comes from Axe and Axe Capital is just fuelling Taylor to work even more efficiently than ever. This time we get to see more about Taylor's past, specifical-



ly, in relation to his family.

What do you feel about the script of the show and what excites you the most?

Working in this show was really the best. The scripts are incredible, unexpected, exciting, entertaining and socially relevant. Though I work in the show, but as its fan I would say it makes for a great drama, which is exciting and entertaining.

What is Taylor's biggest conflict during this season?

I think Taylor's biggest conflict during season 4 is figuring out how to maintain moral ethical centre and a really strong sense of identity.

What motivates Taylor the most in season 4?

I'm weary of naming it, but I certainly think revenge or money. Also just wanting to be the best at what he does, which is trading since he is a mathematical genius. I think that's just the world that they live in and the only way that they know themselves.

(The show airs on AXN on every Saturday and Sunday at 10 pm.)



'Filmmakers not valued enough'

Actor Kangana Ranaut says being an actor is the most privileged job in our country while filmmakers are not as valued as they should be.

Kangana's observation came while she was commenting on the controversy that erupted when she took over the directorial reigns of her 2019 release, *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi*. She was in the capital to promote her forthcoming film *Panga*, directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari.

"There was no *panga*. The director left the film and I completed it. It was just that. If I helped my producer and studio, *toh us cheez ke liye mera sammaan hona chahiye* (I should be revered for that). People should see I am so responsible. I got many brickbats and I am shocked," she said.

She then added: "I think being an actor on set is the most



privileged job. (Being) a director, I am sorry to say, and even Ashwiny will agree with me, is not as valued as it should be. Filmmakers in our country, unlike America, are literally de-valued. This industry is of the actors."

Kangana also said that she wants to pursue her moviemaking ambitions. "There is a part of me that wants to pursue my filmmaking ambitions but if you ask me, it is a privilege to be an actor on the set — especially if your director is sorted," she added.

*Panga* also features Neena Gupta, Richa Chadha and Jassie Gill. The film, slated to hit screens on January 24, revolves around a kabaddi player, played by Kangana, who wants to make a comeback in the game after marriage and motherhood.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar —IANS



# From grandma's stories to canvas

Ten works of GANESH PYNE, which will be showcased at the India Art Fair, revolve around his memories of Kolkata in the 1940s. By UMA NAIR

Recreating the anthologies written by iconic writers of Bengali literature, Kolkata-based Aakriti Art Gallery brings artist Ganesh Pyne's 10 drawings to the year's India Art Fair, setting a tone of 'less is more'. He showcases the 1982 illustrations for *Shoborsher Roopkatha* — 100 years of fairy tales. The authors include the Tagores to Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar to Sunil Gangopadhyay.

## ROMANTICISM AND PLAY OF LIGHT

The 10 pen and ink works are not just about drawing but also the art of concealing rather than revealing. Pyne, the foremost exponent of the Bengal School of Art, was known for his ability to blend fantasy and romanticism along with an inventive play of light and dark. In *Mone*, we look at the labyrinths

of the subconscious in the imagery of the young prince smelling the flowers. The expression of solitude and the narrative of simplicity both come together in the fine lithic detailing that he creates without being oppressive or overt.

## SAAT BHAI CHAMPA

Pyne shapes his signature style of drawings with dulcet ease and effortlessness. The piece de resistance of the suite of works belongs to *Saat Bhai Champa*, the famous Bengali fairytale, which translates to *Seven Champak flower brothers*. Originally collected in the *Thakurmar Jhuli (Grandmother's Bag of Stories)*, it received a detailed update in 1944.

The King gazing at the seven flowers offers us a scent of the story and we can imagine him in his garden. The

king's robes, head dress, almond-shaped oriental eyes and the cross-hatching of the skies make us think of the sun leaning across its windows and sentient shadows nestling in its deep recesses, a spectacle of light and darkness enacted every day. As the king gazes at the seven flowers that finally become his seven sons, you can feel a hint of the radiation of a subtle magnetism. Pyne takes us back to the world of grandmother's tales which stimulated the wide-eyed wonder of children.

## ENCHANTING ALLURE

*Pori-ir Golpo* is absolutely captivating for its compositional control and the strokes are as enchanting as the story. It makes one go back to the stories of how Pyne's grandmother narrated tales to him on the verandah of his home during the evenings in the 1940s. Pyne's imagination and sensitivity both come into play when you look closely at these drawings. It is said that as a result of listening to the stories, Pyne as a child artist was able to invent his own private mythology and familiar kingdom.

Questions come to our minds

when we look at the drawings — What tales would a Bengali Hindu grandmother narrate in the early 1940s to her grandson? Epics, religious fables, folktales, and stories of valour and bravery and that of victory of the good over evil?

## PYNE, THE PERSON

Essayist and critic Nanak Ganguly states, "Pyne's fascination with the fables and mythology in various settings depict not only a reality but primeval values about what an artist chooses to look at and his strong and subliminal feelings about it."

The beauty of these drawings is the fact that it gives us a window into the meticulous working of Pyne's hand and mind as in Rajkumar Poncho and Maniraj. We are also compelled to recall that Pyne as a painter worked mostly in tempera. His paintings were rich in imagery and symbolism.

One also recalls Pyne talking about his early life in a crumbling Kolkata mansion, his evenings in smoky cafes discussing communism and Picasso with friends. "My childhood memories revolve around

Kolkata. The sounds and smells of this city fill my being. I love Kolkata," said Pyne in one of his exhibitions.

## SOLITUDE AND STRUCTURE

Pyne's signature style has shaped from his own experiences of solitude, sight of sorrow, pathos of pain, heartened horror and tenderness and tranquility. At times, in these drawings, we see a minimalist resonance with poetic and lyrical annotations.

The contours and lines alternate between bold and soft, loose and controlled to give us a series that emerge in potency both in context and content. Stripped of colour, their monochromatic mood has about it an architectonic quality in the structuring of the imagery and the weaving in of the tale.

Equally enticing is the suggestion of his life's leanings—we recall how Pyne had drawn inspiration from movies made by Fellini and Ingmar Bergman. This booth is bound to ensnare you in the ambience of nostalgia.

(The fair starts from January 30 to February 2.)

A mere survival of the art is not the aim. The mission is to promote artists and their various art forms for the years to come and make them popular among the global audience.

*Confluence: Celebrating India-Bangladesh Printmaking*, organised by The Art Route, features a group of printmakers from both the nations who aim to promote the medium of creative expression, which has survived the test of time even after current technological advancement.

Lubna Sen, co-curator and organiser, says, "It has always been our endeavour to promote art forms which deserve a broader platform of recognition. The value of this art needs to be promoted through a framework of education, experimentation and patronage. *Confluence* was born out of this mission to create something collectively for printmaking to promote a deeper appreciation amongst the collectors and to extend its scope."

Artist Ananda Moy Banerji says that the artists will present a confluence of body, mind and soul. "Art, culture and sports are the three major wings of a great flight between any two borders and our 'confluence' of prints will certainly open up a pragmatic and broader perspective."

Another main objective of the exhibition is to educate and inform connoisseurs and the public in general about printmaking. The term 'print' provides limited understanding for a generation, which is mostly used to the concept of digital

# A confluence of ideas

Artists from India and Bangladesh, through a range of printmaking creations, argue why the project needs to be promoted through education, experimentation and patronage. By TEAM VIVA



eclectic mix of artists."

The artworks showcased in the exhibition will include various techniques of printmaking — intaglio, relief, serigraphy, mix media — and will also stretch the traditional boundaries of printmaking into the realm of further experimentation.

Rafique Nabi, Bangladeshi artist, explains his area of expertise in printmaking. He says, "Wood has some interesting visual qualities on the surface which help the object of print. I take advantage of its potential to enrich the design. I keep draw-

ings and broken forms for woodcut to depict the subject of the design while keeping the wood's fibres and textures to give it a more meaningful look."

At the end of the festival, the team hopes to have generated appropriate value to the fine art of printmaking through a framework of experimentation, promotion and patronage. There will be a display of portfolio prints, history of printmaking in India. Participants will also organise curated walks of the show, workshops and camps on printmaking, research presentations on printmaking through seminars by senior art practitioners.

The Visual Art Gallery is set to exhibit works of 24 contemporary artists from India and Bangladesh who established a niche of their own with their virtuosity and commitment to the medium. Artists from India are Ajit Seal, Ananda Moy Banerji, Anant Nikam, Dattatreya Apte, Kavita Nayyar, Moti Zharotia, Salil Sahni, Sukhvinder Singh, Surender K Mishra, Sushanta Guha, Vijay Bagodi and Walter D Souza. Artists from Bangladesh are Abul Barq Alvi, Anisuzzaman, Mahmudul Haque, Monirul Islam, Nagarbari Barman, Rafiqun Nabi, Rashid Amin, Rokeya Sultana, SM Roknuzzaman, Saidul Haque Jusse, Shahid Kabir and Wakilur Rahman.

(The show begins from January 22 and goes on till 31 at the Visual Art Gallery & Open Palm Court, India Habitat Centre.)

prints. The team wants to educate art collectors on the merit of buying prints as an accessible way to start a collection of mature and talented artists.

Nisar Hossain, dean, faculty of Fine Arts, University of

Dhaka and co-curator, talks about printmaking in Bangladesh. "It is marked by the contribution of several globally-acclaimed Bangladeshi artists who have brought in the aesthetics from countries like Spain,

Greece, Germany, and Japan. The development is further getting deepened now by the commitment of several talented young artists. The show will give the viewers an opportunity to witness the contribution of this

Gallery Latitude 28 presents *The Exodus of Eternal Wanderers*, a solo show of Sudipta Das, who, through her works, interrogate the realities of climate change and appeals to humanity about its most important outcomes, human migration. **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHEN:** Till February 28 **WHERE:** Gallery Latitude 28, Lado Sarai.



Triveni Kala Sangam presents *Mitti Da Bawa*, a solo exhibition of rare drawings and paintings by artist Manjit Bawa, which showcase how he has been passionate about Sufi music and used to play the *dholak*. **WHEN:** Till January 28 **TIME:** 11 am to 8 pm **WHERE:** Shridharani Gallery.



Shrine Empire presents *Burukuwa Dwan*, a solo exhibition of recent works by Shambhavi, which explores the subtle interplay between man, nature and art and a duality where everything is connected, yet nothing is complete in its original form. **WHEN:** January 25 to February 24 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Shrine Empire Gallery and Gallery Espace.



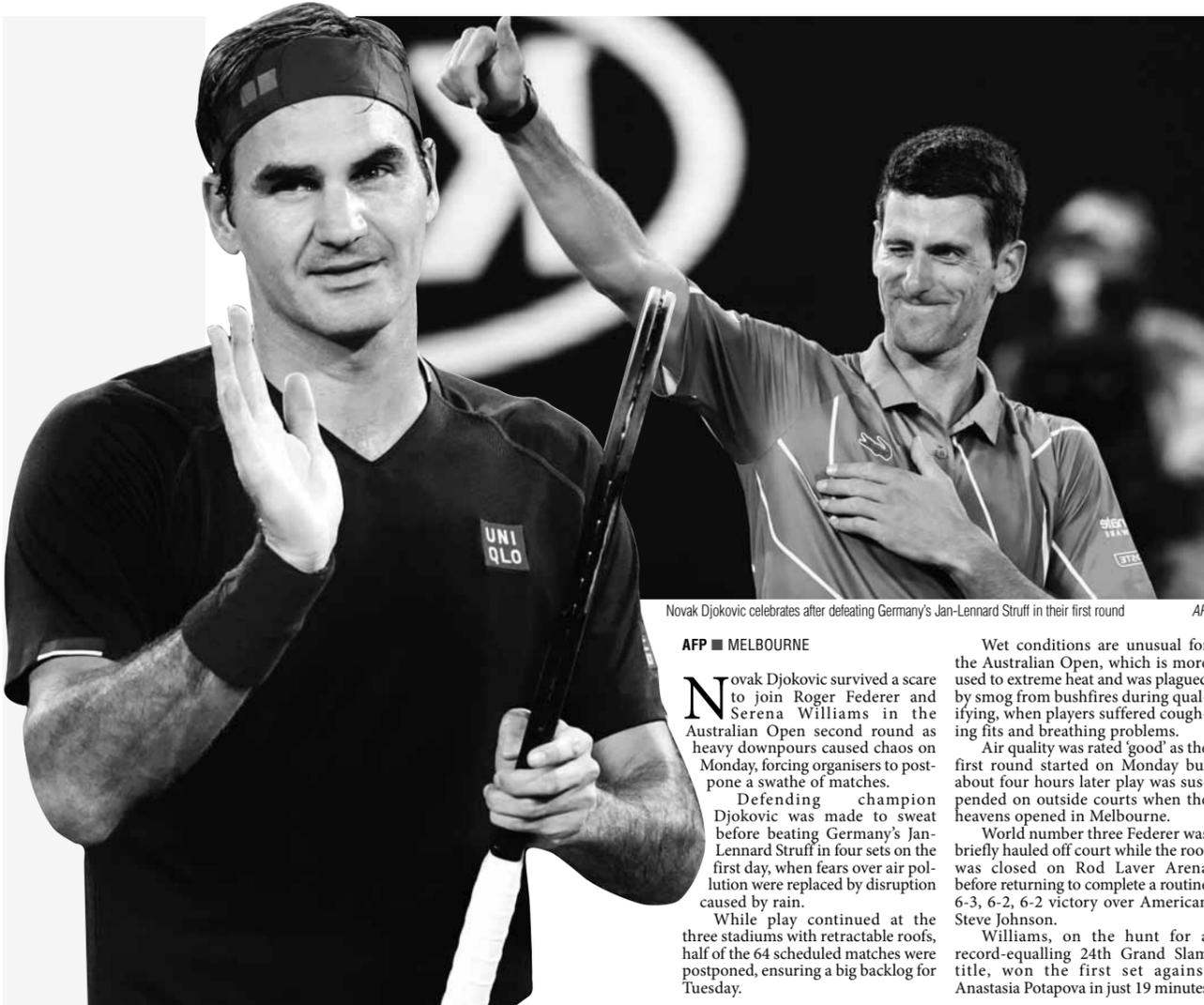
Gallery 1000A presents *Miscellaneous and the Mute*, a solo art show by Josh PS, whose works offer a means of reading between the strokes and speak the language of exploitation and resistance, non-violence and bondage and the righteous desire for freedom. **WHEN:** Till February 29 **WHERE:** Gallery 1000A, Lado Sarai.



Gandhara Art Gallery and Dhoomimal Art Centre presents *Art: Bengal Now*, an art exhibition that showcases contemporary artworks from Bengal which have inherited a significant historical language from its modern past. **WHEN:** Till February 7 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Dhoomimal Art Centre.



# NOVAK SURVIVES TOUGH STRUFF



Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff in their first round AP

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic survived a scare to join Roger Federer and Serena Williams in the Australian Open second round as heavy downpours caused chaos on Monday, forcing organisers to postpone a swathe of matches.

Defending champion Djokovic was made to sweat before beating Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff in four sets on the first day, when fears over air pollution were replaced by disruption caused by rain.

While play continued at the three stadiums with retractable roofs, half of the 64 scheduled matches were postponed, ensuring a big backlog for Tuesday.

Wet conditions are unusual for the Australian Open, which is more used to extreme heat and was plagued by smog from bushfires during qualifying, when players suffered coughing fits and breathing problems.

Air quality was rated 'good' as the first round started on Monday but about four hours later play was suspended on outside courts when the heavens opened in Melbourne.

World number three Federer was briefly hauled off court while the roof was closed on Rod Laver Arena before returning to complete a routine 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over American Steve Johnson.

Williams, on the hunt for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title, won the first set against Anastasia Potapova in just 19 minutes

**Defending champion Djokovic was made to sweat before beating Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff in four sets on the first day, when fears over air pollution were replaced by disruption caused by rain**

tory. Former US Open champion Sloane Stephens was the biggest women's casualty on day one when she crashed out in three sets to Zhang Shuai of China — her fourth first-round exit in Melbourne.

## SHAPOVALOV RACQUET ROW

Defending champion Naomi Osaka was done well before the downpour as she dismissed Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-4 in 80 minutes, smashing one powerful serve that broke a net fastening.

"It was really tough for me trying to control my nerves," said Osaka. "It's tough to play someone you've never played before in the first round of a Grand Slam."

Later on the covered centre court, Australian world number one Ashleigh Barty recovered strongly from a set down to beat Lesia Tsurenko 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

In the men's draw, Greek sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who beat Federer en route to last year's semis, crushed Salvatore Caruso 6-0, 6-2, 6-3.

Player anger over smog dominated the final days before the tournament, which is taking place after bushfires ravaged large parts of Australia, destroying thousands of homes and killing 29 people.

Tournament officials are closely monitoring pollution and will halt play and close the three main stadiums' roofs if particulate matter suspended in the air hits PM2.5 200.

In other results, Canadian 13th seed Denis Shapovalov argued furiously with the umpire over a code violation for throwing his racquet as he lost in four sets to Marton Fucsovics.

Croatian 25th seed Borna Coric was another first-round loser as he went down to experienced American Sam Querrey, while Australia's Sam Stosur bombed out against Caty McNally.

But former champion Caroline Wozniacki, playing her last tournament before retiring, safely reached the second round as she beat Kristie Ahn 6-1, 6-3.

## PSG see off plucky Lorient to reach French Cup last 16



Pablo Sarabia celebrates after scoring for PSG Pablo Sarabia/Twitter

AFP ■ LORRIENT (FRANCE)

Pablo Sarabia put Paris Saint-Germain into the last 16 of the French Cup on Sunday with the late winner in a tight 1-0 win over spirited Lorient.

Spaniard Sarabia headed home the only goal with 10 minutes remaining to put Thomas Tuchel's much-changed side into the next round after struggling to break Ligue 2 leaders Lorient down in an underwhelming contest.

They have been rewarded with a tie at third-tier Pau, who knocked out Ligue 1 side Bordeaux on Thursday.

PSG came into the match missing a host of injured stars including Edinson Cavani, Marco Verratti, Juan Bernat and Marquinhos, and with both Neymar and Kylian

Mbappe on the bench the away side lacked creative spark despite the presence of in-form striker Mauro Icardi.

The French champions were lucky to go into the break level after Yoane Wissa somehow managed to head Jimmy Cabot's pinpoint cross wide from just a couple of yards out.

The second half continued to lack clear chances for either side, with Paul Nardi doing well to charge down Icardi's close range header in the 68th minute before pushing Pablo Sarabia's shot wide 11 minutes later.

However the 25-year-old could do nothing about Sarabia's header seconds later, the Spaniard beautifully guiding home Thiago Silva's cross to squeeze the top flight outfit into the next round.

AFP ■ MILAN

Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice as Juventus beat Parma 2-1 to pull four points clear of Inter Milan at the top of the Serie A table.

Inter's title push hit another stumbling block after a 1-1 draw at lowly Lecce on Sunday while Ante Rebic fired city rivals AC Milan to a last gasp 3-2 win over Udinese.

Ronaldo broke through just before the break, to score in a seventh consecutive league game, and almost set up a second just after for Aaron Ramsey, but the Welsh international rattled the post.

Andreas Cornelius scored with a towering header to get seventh-placed Parma back level ten minutes after the break.

But the visitors hardly had time to celebrate when Ronaldo broke through again after latching onto a Paulo Dybala cross for his 11th goal in seven games to bring his league tally this season to 16.

The eight-time reigning champions have a four-point cushion on Inter, who have won only two of their last six league games, and are now also under threat from Lazio, who are just two points behind with a game in hand after hammering Sampdoria 5-1 on Saturday.

Antonio Conte's side

## CR 7 in a row

Ronaldo nets in seventh consecutive Serie A game as Juve go 4 points clear at top



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Parma AP

**THE EIGHT-TIME REIGNING CHAMPIONS HAVE A FOUR-POINT CUSHION ON INTER, WHO HAVE WON ONLY TWO OF THEIR LAST SIX LEAGUE GAMES, AND ARE NOW ALSO UNDER THREAT FROM LAZIO, WHO ARE JUST TWO POINTS BEHIND WITH A GAME IN HAND AFTER HAMMERING SAMPDORIA 5-1**

### IBRA BOOST

Croatian forward Rebic hit a brace, including the stoppage time winner, against Udinese that snatched a dramatic win that gave troubled AC Milan back-to-back league victories and moved them up to eighth, two points from the Europa League spots.

Star striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic got his first

### start at the San Siro after scoring last weekend at Cagliari.

The 38-year-old Swede did not get to celebrate in front of the home crowd but he has provided a confidence-boost for the seven-time European champions, who have taken seven points in three matches since his return.

"The arrival of Ibrahimovic has given us even more depth and conviction, which has helped us," said coach Stefano Pioli.

## Need to improve one-on-one tackling: Reid

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid feels his wards need to improve their "one-on-one" tackling and 3D skills ahead of the FIH Pro League ties against Belgium and Australia.

The Indian team made a dream debut at the FIH Pro League, beating world number three Netherlands 5-2 in the first tie of the double header on Saturday. The hosts then came from two goals down to beat the Dutch 3-1 in shoot-out after the second game ended 3-3 in regulation time.

India garnered five points (3 from the outright win and 2 from the second game) from their opening



Indian Hockey team celebrates after beating Netherlands Hockey India/Twitter

Pro League tie.

India will next host world champions Belgium on February 8 and 9 followed by two more home

ties against Australia on February 22 and 23.

"The good thing was we struggled to win this (second) match and some-

times, it's good to struggle for a win because you learn a lot and also it is a proof that if we apply ourselves and use some aggressiveness, we can bounce back," Reid said.

"I still feel our one-on-one tackling can improve and we have also been working on 3D (three dimensional) skills to beat players in short space.

"This can help create penalty corners and when you have a world-class dragflick battery, we can definitely make use of this." It was at the 2015 FIH Hockey World League Final in Raipur when India had managed to overcome a 0-2 goal deficit in the first half to draw against the Netherlands 5-5 in regulation time before

prevailing in a penalty shootout to secure the bronze medal.

And dragflicker Rupiner Pal Singh, who scored a goal on Sunday, said the team has matured a lot in the last two years.

"If this probably happened to us two years ago (conceding early goals), we may not have been able to make a comeback. But I think we have now matured, players are taking responsibility and adhering to coach's instruction of 'tackle and play forward,'" he said.

"There is definitely a change in attitude on how we approach a game even when we are down," added the dragflicker, who was adjusted man-of-the-match on Sunday.

## Tai leads Raptors defence against NEW

PTI ■ CHENNAI

All eyes will be on world No. 2 Tai Tzu Ying when Bengaluru Raptors begin their title defence against North Eastern Warriors in the fifth season of the Premier Badminton League (PBL) here on Tuesday.

The clash between Tzu Ying, the former World No. 1, and 2014 Commonwealth Games champion Michelle Li of North Eastern Warriors will be the highlight of the best of five match to be played at the Nehru Indoor Stadium.

The North Eastern Warriors team also includes the legendary



Lionel Messi, left, celebrates with Ansu Fati after scoring the opening goal AP

## Get Setien Go

Messi's strike ensure Quique starts Barca campaign with win

AFP ■ MADRID

Quique Setien may want a different Barcelona but he needed the same old Lionel Messi on Sunday as the Argentinian gave his new coach a winning start by scoring in a 1-0 victory over Granada.

Messi's strike in the 76th minute decided a cagey contest at the Camp Nou and prevented the much-anticipated launch of Setien's new era becoming something of a damp squib.

Victory also sends Barca back to the top of La Liga on goal difference, after Madrid had briefly

claimed first place following their win over Sevilla on Saturday.

I already saw some of them against Atletico (last weekend) because Barca has been doing great things for many years." It would have been different if Granada's Yan Eteki hadn't struck the post with just over 20 minutes left or their central defender German Sanchez had not been sent off for a needless second yellow card soon after.

The extra man was the boost Barca needed and Messi duly poked home his 17th goal in 21 games this season following good work by Arturo Vidal,

Antoine Griezmann and the 20-year-old Riqui Puig. All three had reasons to impress, particularly Puig, whose inclusion on the bench was an early indication of Setien's belief in youth. Puig's contribution after coming on should mean more opportunities are to come.

Setien said last week that if he could make one guarantee, it was that Barca would play good football while he is in charge and although few could argue this was a transformative display following the sacking of Ernesto Valverde, there were certainly some encouraging signs.



Tai Tzu Ying hits a return shot against Pusarla V. Sindhu AP

Lee Yong Dae and Guwahati's rising star Ashmita Chaliha.

Li has two career wins over the Chinese Taipei ace with her last victory coming at the 2019 Japan Open and the North Eastern Warriors shuttler would aim for an encore

against PBL's joint-costliest player, Tai.

Sai Pranee, who has been retained by the Bengaluru franchise, will be coming to the league fresh from his historic Bronze medal win at the World Championships.

With former World

No. 19 Brice Leverdez in the squad as well as promising talent Ansal Yadav, the Raptors boasts of a strong men's singles line-up.

The North Eastern Warriors, on the other hand, will be boosted by the presence of World No. 23 Lee Cheuk Yiu, who made it to the semi-finals of the Indonesia Masters last week.

Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk will be continuing his association with the Guwahati-based franchise for the second year in a row with PBL debutant Kausal Dharmamer being in the team.

# Virat confident of good show in NZ

Citing recent result Indian skipper says his team will try to put Black Caps under pressure from start

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A series win against a strong Australia and the performance in New Zealand last year gives India a lot of confidence ahead of a fresh tour beginning on January 24, said skipper Virat Kohli whose team will be aiming to put the Black Caps under pressure from the word go.

India will be playing five T20s, three ODIs and two Tests in New Zealand. They had beaten the hosts 4-1 in ODIs before losing the T20 series 1-2.

"We are taking a lot of confidence from our performance (in NZ) last year. We were very positive in how we played, very sure of what we wanted to do. The thing about playing away is if you're able to put the home team under pressure, you can enjoy your cricket," Kohli said.

"You have to win at home, there's that sort of feeling (for hosts). So if you bring out your A game, you can really put them under pressure. That's what we did last year, squeezed them in the middle overs, picked up wickets, spinners were outstanding. Looking forward to take that same intensity into the series."

Ahead of the New Zealand tour, Kohli said it became even more important to win the home series against Australia here on Sunday. The team leaves for New Zealand on Monday night.

"We spoke of that at the huddle, that this is the last game we're playing in the series and if we win, you go on a tour on a happy note. If you lose, it can go under the radar, you can brush it aside as 'oh it's just one loss'."

"But when you win and win under pressure, the last two games were tough wins, it boosts your confidence which we're carrying forward," he said.

On the limited overs leg of the New Zealand tour, Kohli picked out the areas of improvement.

"Again, we want to bat well when



Virat Kohli bats during the third one-day international cricket match between India and Australia

we bat first and in case we're defending a low total, we should be able to do that as well. We can't afford to ease into the series after two games, because then it keeps getting tougher and tougher, so we'll look to make a mark in the first game that we play," he said.

The skipper loves playing against Australia as it brings the best out of him. He explained why he relishes the Australian challenge.

"Last year (at home) after 2-0 up, we thought we're definitely going to win one of the three at home, but they showed us that they understand these conditions very well now (to win 3-2), having played here a lot in the IPL and so many tours over the years," Kohli said.

"So, although they had a stronger side (with Steve Smith and David Warner back) than last time, we thought if we play good enough, we can beat this team. The only thing we needed to be wary of was our body language and intent because that's Australia's strongest point.

"All the teams in the world are skilled but these guys play with the intent of making things happen every over you play against them. So you can't take your foot off the pedal at all, that's what we've done in the last two games. The partnerships that I mentioned today, even the singles were taken with intent," said Kohli.

India raced to victory in the series-deciding third ODI against Australia, courtesy fine knocks from Kohli himself and Rohit Sharma. They both could not stay till the end but the finishing touches were provided by Shreyas Iyer, who remained unbeaten on 44.

"I don't think he's (Iyer) going to have any issues anymore because he really went after their best bowlers and got the results. It took pressure off of me as well not having to take risks and the other guy striking at 140-145. I think it was really smart how we went about it" Kohli added.

# Kohli, Rohit consolidate top batting positions

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma consolidated their top two positions in the batting chart, while pace ace Jasprit Bumrah continued to lead among bowlers in the ICC ODI Rankings issued on Monday.

Following their stellar performances against Australia in the just-concluded series, which India won 2-1, Kohli (No.1) and Rohit (No.2) have strengthened their positions.

With 183 runs under his belt against Australia, Kohli was the player-of-the-series while Rohit was a close second, garnering 171 runs in the rubber, including a match-winning 119 in the deciding ODI in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Kohli (886 points) and Rohit (868 points) have gained two and three ratings points, respectively to occupy the top two positions in the batting rankings.

Left-handed opener Shikhar Dhawan has also gained seven slots to reach 15th position with 170 runs in two innings, missing a chance to bat in Bengaluru after injuring his shoulder while field-

ing. K L Rahul, who opened in his place in the final ODI, has gained 21 slots to reach 50th position with an aggregate of 146 runs.

Bumrah, who returned from injury in the Australia series, is atop the bowlers chart with 764 points, ahead of New Zealand left-arm pacer Trent Boult and Afghanistan's Muejeb Ur Rahman. South Africa's Kagiso Rabada and Australian Pat Cummins complete the top five.

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has moved up two slots to be 27th among bowlers after finishing with four wickets in the series.

He also scored 45 runs in two innings and has gained four places in the all-rounders' list to be ranked 10th.

Australian Steve Smith, who topped the series with an aggregate of 229 runs including a knock of 131 in the final ODI, has been rewarded with a four-place jump to 23rd position.

David Warner, a former top-ranked batsman in the format, has also moved up one place to sixth while captain Aaron Finch has moved up one place into 10th.

Wicketkeeper Alex Carey is in 31st position after gaining two slots.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa's five wickets in the series saw him advance 20 places to reach 37th position, while Kane Richardson has moved from 77th to 65th.



# Kohli greatest ODI player of all-time: Finch

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Australian captain Aaron Finch has rated his Indian counterpart Virat Kohli as "probably" the greatest ODI player of all-time, while picking Rohit Sharma in the top-five.

Rohit (119) scored his 29th ODI hundred and Kohli made 89 off 91 balls as they shared a match-winning stand of 137 in the decisive third game against Australia here on Sunday.

For Finch, what stood out was that India overhauled the 287-run target with ease despite opener Shikhar Dhawan not coming out to bat due to a shoulder injury.

"They've got Virat who is probably the greatest ODI player of all-time, and Rohit who'd probably be in the top five batters of all-time. They're exceptional, and the thing with the Indian side at the moment is their experienced players are getting the job done in the big games," Finch said.

"Rohit's 100, especially without Shikhar there tonight, for them to shuffle and their two most dominant players to still get majority of the runs is a sign of a really settled and

really quality top-order," said Finch.

Australia could not get the final flourish they were looking for, mustering only 63 runs in the last 10 overs at the loss of five wickets, far too many in Finch's view.

"In the last two games we have had the bowlers batting for the majority of the last few overs. Which we saw in Rajkot the damage that KL (Rahul) could do in the back end because he was a settled batter. I think that's an area we just missed a couple of tricks.

"Just not having an in batter being in and having faced 20 or 30 balls to get us deeper and get us to the back end," Finch said.

He also praised India's death over bowling at the same time.

"But credit to India, their death bowling in the last few games was exceptional. (Mohammed) Shami was nailing his yorkers, (Navdeep) Saini in the last two games and (Jasprit) Bumrah. In both games they were exceptional.

You can look at where we could have improved but also that you've got some credit to India," said Finch.



# Eng celebrate innings win over SA

Runs	Batsman	Bowler	Venue	Season
28	Brian Lara (West India)	Robin Peterson	Johannesburg	2003-04
28	George Bailey (Australia)	James Anderson	Perth	2013-14
28	Keshav Maharaj (S.Africa)	Joe Root	Port Elizabeth	2019-20
27	Shahid Afridi (Pakistan)	Harbhajan Singh	Lahore	2005-06

FAISEL FEATURES



England team celebrate taking the wicket of Rassie van der Dussen

AFP ■ PORT ELIZABETH

England completed a comprehensive win by an innings and 53 runs on the fifth day of the third Test against South Africa at St George's Park on Monday, taking an unbeatable 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

England were held up by a last wicket stand of 99 between Keshav Maharaj (71) and Dane Paterson (39 not out) and it needed a direct-hit run-out by Sam Curran from mid-on to clinch the result shortly before lunch. South Africa were bowled out for 237.

The partnership between Maharaj and Paterson was easily South Africa's best of the match and showed up an otherwise poor batting performance by the hosts.

South Africa added 135 runs in losing their last four wickets, which seemed unlikely when Vernon Philander chipped a catch to midwicket off Stuart Broad three balls into the day.

Mark Wood and Dom Bess also took wickets but England captain Joe Root could not add to his four wickets taken on Sunday, conceding 56 runs in 10 overs on Monday to finish with four for 87.

TRIUMPH

Maharaj hit Root for three fours and two sixes in an over which ended with four byes, costing 28 in total.

Despite the late face-saving flourish for the hosts, it was a result which was a triumph for England's youth policy, while the way South Africa were outplayed was a devastating blow for captain Faf du Plessis and new coach Mark Boucher.

Even before Monday's last rites there was speculation about Du Plessis' future. He has expressed his desire to lead South Africa in the T20 World Cup in Australia in October and November, by which time he will be 36.

It seems possible that the fourth Test in Johannesburg from Friday could be his last home series in charge.

It was South Africa's seventh defeat in their last eight Tests, the only exception being their win in the first Test against England when it seemed that radical changes in the team management might have heralded a new dawn.

# Tiripano strikes early to give Zimbabwe edge

AFP ■ HARARE



AFP ■ HARARE

Donald Tiripano struck early to remove Oshada Fernando and complete an excellent second day of the first Test for Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka in Harare.

The 31-year-old seamer had earlier made a handy 44 not out batting at number eight as Zimbabwe advanced from their overnight 189 for two to 358 all out.

Left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya, playing in his sixth Test, was the stand-out bowler with five for 114.

When bad light stopped play for the day, Sri Lanka had reached 42 for the loss of Fernando who had his off stump flattened by Tiripano's very first delivery.

The day began with Zimbabwe Craig Ervine well set on 55 and looking for his third Test century.

The 34-year-old progressed comfortably to 85 until pace

bowler Suranga Lakmal nipped one through his defence shortly before lunch.

It was the third wicket to fall during the morning as Lakmal also produced a full inswinging to have Brendan Taylor leg before for 21 and Zimbabwe captain Sean Williams edged left-arm spinner Embuldeniya to Niroshan Dickwella behind the stumps.

The left-arm spinner removed Regis Chakabva shortly after lunch but Sikandar Raza and Tiripano then both settled in.

Raza fell for a flighty 41, stumped by Dickwella as he charged at Embuldeniya, who also bowled Jarvis.

Ndlovu was brilliantly snapped up at short-leg by Kusal Mendis off Lahiru Kumara. Lakmal dismissed last man Victor Nyauchi just after the delayed break to finish with three for 53, leaving Tiripano undefeated on 44.

# Simmons blasts 10 sixes as WI rout Ireland

AFP ■ BASSETERRE (SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS)

Opening batsman Lendl Simmons blasted 10 sixes in an undefeated 91 as West Indies routed Ireland by nine wickets in the third and final Twenty20 International at Warner Park here on Sunday.

Simmons, the nephew of West Indies coach Phil Simmons, also hit five boundaries in his 40-ball blitz. It was his highest score in the format and came just five days before his 35th birthday.

Chasing a modest 139 to win, Simmons won the match in style with a six over midwicket off spinner Simi Singh whose three overs cost 41 runs.

Fellow opener Evin Lewis made 46 with four boundaries and three sixes as West Indies raced to victory with 54 balls remaining.

The three-match series ended 1-1 after Ireland edged a first-game thriller by four runs in Grenada before Saturday's match at Warner Park was abandoned due to rain. Earlier, veteran all-rounders Kieron Pollard and Dwayne Bravo shared six wickets as West Indies restricted Ireland to 138 all out. Captain Pollard, who produced the best bowling spell by a West Indian in T20 internationals (4-25) in Saturday's abandoned game, claimed 3-17.

Bravo finished with 3-19 to become the West Indies' leading all-time wicket-taker in the format with 57 victims in his 69th game. That beat the previous best of 54 by leg-spinner Samuel Badree.

Put into bat, Ireland raced to 50-0 off just 3.3 overs with openers Kevin O'Brien (top scoring with 36) and Paul Stirling again getting their team off to a storming start. However, Pollard dismissed O'Brien after the Irishman hit his runs off only 18 balls with Bravo then accounting for Stirling (11).

# Ishant's injury adds to Delhi woes as Vidarbha take complete control

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's miserable season just got worse as premier speedster Ishant Sharma twisted his ankle after another woeful outing with the bat against defending champions Vidarbha in a Ranji Trophy group A encounter on Monday.

On a helpful track, former India U-19 seamer Aditya Thakare's career-best 7 for 55 restricted Delhi to 163 in reply to visitors' first innings score of 179.

By the time, play was called off due to bad light, Vidarbha were 35 for no loss as the track got easier for batting.

Vidarbha now have an overall lead of 51 but more importantly, the pitch has eased out. With a bowler short and the wily artist Wasim Jaffer longing for an easy second innings pitch, Delhi at the moment is looking down the barrel. And it didn't help Delhi's cause



Ishant's 15th delivery saw him sustain a freak injury while appealing for a leg-before against rival skipper Fazal beaten by a fuller delivery. The senior speedster twisted his

**On a helpful track, former India U-19 seamer Aditya Thakare's career-best 7 for 55 restricted Delhi to 163 in reply to visitors' first innings score of 179**

bowling was exposed again. IPL specialist Nitish Rana became Thakare's fifth victim of the innings giving a catch to skipper Fazal.

Only keeper Anuj Rawat (37 off 101 balls) showed some stomach for fight adding 36 for the ninth wicket

with Simarjeet Singh (23) even as Umesh Yadav (2/45) removed all-rounder Lalit Yadav (7) and Kumar Bidhuri (19).

**YADAV'S DOUBLE TON FLOORS MUMBAI**

Mumbai : Batsman-wicketkeeper Upendra Yadav's maiden double ton propelled Uttar Pradesh to a mammoth 625/8 declared on the second day of their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy game against Mumbai on Monday.

Twenty-three-year-old Yadav was the cynosure of all eyes at Wankhede Stadium as he took a listless Mumbai attack to the cleaners first in the company of Saurabh Kumar (44 off 47 balls; 8x4) and then with skipper Ankit Rajpoot (32 off 63 balls; 5x4) and Yash Dayal (41 not out).

Yadav (203 not out off 239 balls) conjured 72 runs for the seventh wicket with Saurabh to take the game away from Mumbai, and then

forged a 119-run eight-wicket stand with Rajpoot, as Uttar Pradesh took complete control.

Adding to Mumbai's woes, Yadav and Dayal put up an unbroken 131-run stand for the ninth wicket.

Yadav, who registered the highest score by a number 7 batsman against Mumbai, smashed 27 fours and one six in his 239 balls unbeaten knock.

**TIWARY TRIPLE TON TO PUT BENGAL ON TOP**

Kalyani (WB) : Senior batsman Manoj Tiwary cracked his maiden first class triple century to put Bengal in the driver's seat against Hyderabad in their Ranji Trophy Group A clash here on Monday.

The 34-year-old, who has played 12 ODIs and 3 T20 Internationals, was at his sublime best, smashing 30 fours and five sixes, en route to his unbeaten 303 from 414 balls at a strike rate of 73.19. His marathon

knock lasted 10 hours and 30 minutes.

His final 50 came off just 37 balls as he got to the landmark in the fourth ball of the final session of the second day, gliding part-timer Buddhi Rahul through covers boundary. Bengal immediately declared their first innings at 635 for seven.

Tiwary, who last played for India in 2015, also became the only second batsman from Bengal to hit a triple ton — after Devang Gandhi's 323 versus Assam at Guwahati in 1998-99 season. His previous best was 267 as Bengal skipper against Madhya Pradesh in a drawn encounter in Kolkata in 2011-12 season.

After Tiwary's sensational innings, it was time for Bengal pace duo of Akash Deep (3/46) and Mukesh Kumar (2/29) to wreak havoc as they reduced Hyderabad to 83 for five in the final session. Hyderabad still trail Bengal by 552 runs with two days left.