

OPINION 8
A NEW AIR
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LIMIT' TO NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT

SPORT 16
KOHLI TO BE
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India to invite Pak for SCO meet

MEA decries China after UNSC rejects Beijing bid to raise Kashmir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

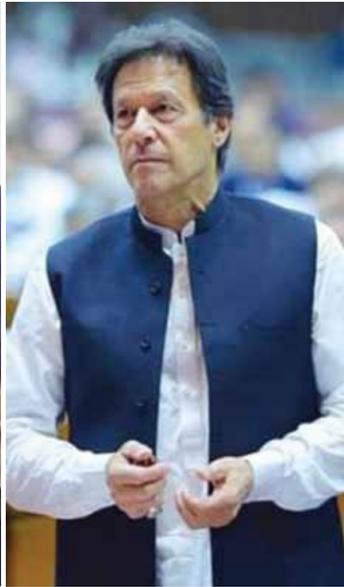
The India-Pak relation may witness some thaw after a prolonged hiatus when New Delhi will be inviting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan later this year to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) heads of Governments meeting. India will invite all eight members and four observer states of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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Court seeks status of Nirbhaya convicts' scheduled execution

L-G recommends MHA to reject mercy plea

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



decision will be taken soon," they added.

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

Meanwhile on Thursday, all the four death-row convicts were shifted to Tihar prison complex's jail number 3 where their hanging is set to take place, a jail official said.

Nirbhaya's father on Thursday said, "We have not lost hope. There is no law for the victim's family but there are legal remedies available to the convicts, which is why the problems are arising," he said.

However, he added, "Justice is not far and their (convicts) hanging is not far.

They should prepare themselves for the hanging. They might delay it, but it will happen."

AAP Govt behind delay: Javadekar

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

Hemant to get 'Champion of Change Award' Ex Prez Pranab Mukherjee to hand over the award

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren will be awarded for doing excellent work as a public representative in Dumka and Barhait Assembly constituencies. The CM will be given 'Champion of Change Award 2019' by former President of India Pranab Mukherjee in Delhi on January 20.

The award will be given at a function to be organised at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. After getting information about the award the CM said that the award is dedicated to the people of the State. "I pay respect to the people of Barhait and Dumka. You have given me an opportunity to serve. I am grateful with your cooperation,"



CM Hemant Soren said the CM in his message.

Notably, the name of Hemant Soren has been selected by the jury that included former Chief Justice of India cum former chairman of NHRC Justice KG Balakrishnan and former judge of Supreme Court Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra.

Five held for sexual assault on schoolgirls

Known minor lured them to isolated place

PNS ■ RANCHI

Khunti police on Thursday arrested four local men and produced a minor boy before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) on charges of luring six school girls to an isolated place on pretext of buying sweets and sexually assaulting them. The minor boy, who was known to the girls, had convinced them to accompany him and the four other men to a sweet shop while they were at a local fair, police said.

While initial reports from Khunti said that the girls were gang-raped, police said that it was a case of sexual assault and the girls fled the spot before the accused could overpower them and outrage their modesty. "We have lodged a First Information Report (FIR) under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, and the girls have been sent to the CWC for counseling," said Khunti Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar.

Police on Thursday sent the girls for medical examinations. Meanwhile, a team of



SP Khunti Ashutosh Shekhar with other police officers during a press conference in Khunti on Thursday

Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and Crime Investigation Department (CID) inspected the crime scene, police said. "The minor boy, who was known to the girls, had convinced them to join his group. He is being questioned by the CWC," Shekhar said.

The arrested men have been identified as Rajesh Sanga, Pravin Nag, Avinash Saimurga and Sagar Aind - all residents of Hatudami village in Khunti. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Khunti Police Station, and the cops were quick to form a team for investigating the case. All four

have confessed to their crime. Khunti CWC member Bajinath Kumar said that the girls were taken to a neighbouring village on Wednesday evening and held captive till 2.30am on Thursday. "We will get the medical reports by tonight. For now, it appears to be a case of sexual assault and teasing. However, the accused will still face charges under the POCSO Act," he said.

Hatudami village is only a few kilometers from Kochang - a village where five anti-human trafficking activists were abducted and gangraped on gunpoint in June 2018. The Jharkhand High Court sen-

tenced all the six convicts in the case to life imprisonment last year. A priest of a Roman Catholic Church, Father Alfonso Aind, was one of the convicts in the case.

The victims in the Kochang case were abducted while they were performing a

street play to spread awareness against human trafficking at RC Mission School in Kochang. They were taken to nearby Chhotalai jungle, where the perpetrators raped them in an attempt to teach them a lesson for speaking on the Pathalgadi movement.

CBI books Adani firm for cheating

New Delhi: The CBI has booked Adani Enterprises and former officials of National Cooperative Consumer Forum in a case of cheating, criminal conspiracy and graft in supply of imported coal to Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation in 2010. Detailed report on P6

DCs, DDCs to hold 'Sarkar Apko Dwar' twice in week

CS gives extensive instructions to DCs on CM's direction

PNS ■ RANCHI

In a bid to establish an effective connect with the masses, the State Government has decided that the people of the State will not have to take rounds of Government offices for solving their issues, rather the Government officials will visit the people, listen to their problems and solve the issues on the spot.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Chief Secretary Dr DK Tiwari has given several instructions to all Deputy Commissioners of the State. Holding a video conferencing with senior officials and DCs of all districts here on Thursday the CS said that for the tasks which cannot be completed on the spot, give

a solution and inform the concerned person on their phone number within a specified time. All this will be done under the government's doorstep program. Under this, all the Deputy Commissioners will visit the Block or Panchayat headquarters every Wednesday and the Deputy Development Commissioner every Saturday.

"Information about when and where the officials will go will be made available to people of that particular area through various communication channels in time so that maximum number of people can avail the benefit of the programme. Along with DC and DDC, concerned officers of all the departments of the district will also be present in the programme. Apart from problem solving, the officials will also inform the people about the public welfare schemes of the government and will also tell how they will be able to take advantage of it," he said.



Chief secretary DK Tiwari holds a video conferencing with with senior officials and DCs of all districts in Ranchi on Thursday

The CS said that the government's focus is on public welfare schemes, so that more and more people can be benefited. He directed the Government to focus on pension, ration, anganwadi workers, para teachers and timely payment of contract workers, among other problems in Sarkar Aapke Dwar pro-

gramme. All the Deputy Commissioners said that such work is not currently pending in their districts. Some people are definitely desirous of pension and ration, but the process of providing this facility to them is also going on, they said. The CS has also asked the officials to give a monthly report of the problem solving done in

the programme. "If there is a delay in any work, then investigate the cause and solve it. The nodal department planning department has been created for that, he said stressing on making the employment offices of all districts active. At the same time, he directed to settle the cases of filing and dismissal on the spot.

Dr Tiwari directed the Deputy Commissioners to continuously monitor the law and order situation and work on the points of the letter of the Home Secretary related to it. He also stressed the need to keep an eye on the protests and rallies etc. of certain matters. He asked to take special care that there is no problem for the common people.

All the Deputy Commissioners said that there was no problem of law and order in the protests and rallies in protest and support on certain matters.

Continued on Page 4



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Eateries and restaurants down shutters for Tusu

Business hit due to staff crunch

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

It is that time of the year when eateries including several restaurants down their shutters for more than a week. Starting from well-known joints-Anand, Ashirwad and Madras Hotel in Bistupur will remain closed for about 10 days due to the festive season.

In Jamshedpur, most of the eateries employ their staff from Purulia, West Bengal or Patamda and Potka blocks of East Singhbhum or other parts of Jharkhand for whom Makar

Sankranti is the biggest festival. The food business suffers the most during this time of the year. "We have no option but to close from today. The restaurant will open next Monday most probably. This is one time of the year when we down our shutters and business gets affected," said owner of an eatery at Sakchi.

"There is no accounting evaluation of the business loss the hotel industry incurs during these days but rough estimates indicate that business of around ₹ 50 lakh goes waste



and medium scale eateries and few of the popular restaurants pull down their shutters for three consecutive days at least, as it is genuinely difficult for them to run their business in the light of fewer work force.

"I closed my shop for three consecutive days and, it is only after January 21 the business will start as few of the labourers would get back," informed, Yogesh Gupta, owner of Gupta Tea Stall in Jugsalai. Traditionally, Tusu is celebrated with gaiety and fanfare across the Jharkhand and there is no point stopping the tribals, who constitute a large chunk of the hotel work force, from going on leave to celebrate this festival with their family and relatives.

"Through out the year they work sincerely and on occasions they work over time but never ask for additional pay or any other benefit. So, it is but human for us to understand their sense when they ask for leave during Tusu," conceded, Ramesh Mukherjee, owner of Snacks Point in Bistupur.

Child sold for ₹50,000, rescued



Garhwa: A girl child sold to a childless couple in Garhwa district was recently rescued by the Child Welfare Committee, Garhwa. The one-year-old child was sold by her father to a childless couple for ₹ 50,000.

The matter came to light when the mother of the child Lalita Devi filed a complaint before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Garhwa alleging that her husband Anil Ram used to harass her for dowry. After the girl was born, he was residing at She said that Anil Ram a resident of Masuriya village under Garhwa police station sold one year girl baby to a childless couple Gangotri Devi and Kanganu Ram native from Rewa village under Satbarwa police station of the Palamu district for ₹ 50,000.

The chairman of CWC Upendra Nath Dubey said, "On receiving the complaint of Lalitha Devi, we rescued the baby from the couple and handed her over to the Divyang Awasiya Vidyalaya, Daltonganj for her safety." The Chairman also sent notices to the people concerned to appear before the CWC.

Bonding over cricket match



PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

For the first ever time two biggest hospitals in the city decided to turn the year-long formal relationship into a friendship.

And what better than cricket that binds across and this time doctors of two major hospital of town come across each other but only for friendly friendship cup cricket match. The match was 16 over match

where Tata Motors Hospital had convincingly defeated Tata Main Hospital in all the department. This was their third consecutive win for this tournament. Toss was held in the presence of Vishal Badshah, head Jamshedpur Plant. It was won by Tata Main Hospital and they elected to field.

In order to inaugurate the match, Vishal Badshah decided to bat and took guard accordingly bowled by Sanjay

Overloaded trucks spill coal dust in residential areas

PNS ■ BERMO

Residents in the Phusro, Kathara and Bokaro Thermal woke up to the black dust on Thursday morning. The stretch on Bermo, road from Phusro towards Kathara and Gomia was covered with mounds of coal spilled from the overloaded dumpers and trucks, making it difficult for the commuters and morning joggers who had to cover their faces.



The entire road from Jaina More towards Kathara via Phusro is facing the coal dust problem since long time, said Dilip Thakur a resident of Jarandih. Despite various representations from the environmental activists to curb the nuisance, the district authorities including Phusro Municipal Corporation are yet to initiate action.

Gulab Prajapati, a social activist living in Bokaro Thermal said, "Coal pollution is very high in this area. We can't even think of jogging on the Kathara-Phusro road due to

the coal dust. Despite complaints, the authorities are unmoved."

Dr H.Kumar MD said that the residents of Bermo coal belt inhale the most polluted air because of large scale mining and industrial activity. Consequently, while mostly people of Bokaro thermal, Kathara, Jarandih, Phusro and Gandhinagar, who are suffering from various disease because of contaminated water they drink and the polluted air they breathe, the Government, local administration and other agencies have done a precious little to rid them of this problem, added Dr Kumar.

Prajapati said dust particles from the open cast mines are causing various diseases in the region. He further said that the excavated warthog the coal mines should be covered with trees but nothing much has been done towards this direction. The coal slurry is being dumped in Damodar which is considered the lifeline of this region, affecting the quantity of its water, Prajapati said.

Besides coal dust, the residents living in Bermo sub division of Bokaro district, including Kathara, Jarandih, and Gandhinagar also face the problem of fly ash generated by the power plant, CCL and open carrying coal dust by dumpers and suffer from various diseases, added Prajapati. When the issue was brought to the notice of CCL authorities, their project officer AK Jha said that the water sprinkling on the road of Jarandih and Kathara have been operated earlier with an aim to curb the rising level of dust pollution in the coal field but its tender has been ended and will soon start sprinkle of water on the roads which will help the dirt and soil wash away, added Jha.

Faculty development programme concludes at XISS

PNS ■ RANCHI

The concluding day of the two-day Faculty Development Programme titled 'Embracing Self Learning in Research with SWAYAM' by Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS) in association with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur on Thursday witnessed a series of discussions and deliberations.

The session began with

Dr. Anant Kumar discussing on Literature review and Qualitative Research methods. The session was attended by Faculty Members and Research Scholars from various academic institutions.

Dr. Amit Giri, Assistant professor, XISS and one of the resource persons for the FDP emphasised on methods of Quantitative Data Analysis.

Furthermore, the SPOC of (SWAYAM Program at XISS),



Dr. Rik Das discussed the importance of Publishing in quality indexed journals and how to identify and select a good journal for publication.

The academic writing skills and Structuring report and articles as per the requirements of good journals was discussed and elaborated upon by Dr. Pooja, Assistant Professor, XISS who was also one of the resource persons for the FDP. Meanwhile, Dr. Mrityunjay Roy discussed in detail on Research methods used in the area of supply chain and operations research.

Dr. Pramil Panda gave the participants a presentation on Citation, Referencing and Plagiarism. The session then concluded with an interactive session with the participants.

All the resource persons for the FDP program also mentioned during their discussions how the SWAYAM program can help the academicians and researchers in the field of academic research as well as in their career advancement.

The program was coordinated by Dr. Pooja of XISS.

झारखण्ड सरकार श्रम, नियोजन एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग आम सूचना

झारखण्ड सरकार, श्रम नियोजन एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग की अधिसूचना संख्या - 02/M.W.-20-20/2015, श्रम नि०-1881, राँची, दिनांक-24.10.2019 द्वारा 77 नियोजनों में अधिसूचना निर्गत तिथि-24.10.2019 से पुनरीक्षित मजदूरी की न्यूनतम मजदूरी की दैनिक एवं मासिक न्यूनतम मजदूरी की दरें निम्नानुसार है :-

क्र०सं०	कर्मचारियों की कोटि	न्यूनतम मजदूरी की दैनिक दरें	न्यूनतम मजदूरी की मासिक दरें
1	अकुशल	274.81	7145.06
2	अर्धकुशल	287.90	7485.40
3	कुशल	379.51	9867.26
4	अतिकुशल	438.39	11398.14
5	लिपिकीय	379.51	9867.26

प्रधान सचिव-सह-श्रमायुक्त, झारखण्ड, राँची।
P.R. 223916 Labour Employment and Training(19-20):D

झारखण्ड सरकार उच्च, तकनीक शिक्षा एवं कौशल विकास विभाग प्राचार्य का कार्यालय

राजकीय पोलिटेक्निक, खुदरी, जैनामोड़ (बोकारो)
अति अल्पकालीन निविदा संबंधी सूचना

राजकीय पोलिटेक्निक, खुदरी के कार्यालय में उपरोक्त हेतु रूटेशनरी, सामग्रियों इत्यादि के क्रय हेतु निबंधित प्रतियोजनाओं से मुहर बंद निविदा आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

- BOQ रुपये 500 के शुल्क अदायगी के साथ प्राप्त करने की तिथि-21.01.2020 (पूर्वाह्न) से 31.01.2020 को 04:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
- पूर्ण निविदा संस्थान कार्यालय में जमा करने की तिथि-02.02.2020 को 04:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
- प्राप्त निविदाओं को क्रय समिति के सम्म तिथि-08.02.2020 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे प्राचार्य कक्ष में खोला जायगा। जिसमें इच्छुक निविदा दाता बैठक में उपस्थित हो सकते हैं।

निविदा में Technical Bid तथा Financial Bid का विवरण अलग-अलग मुहर बंद लिफाफा में जमा करना होगा। सर्व प्रथम Technical Bid वाले निविदाओं को खोला जायगा। जिस निविदादाता का Technical Bid विवरण सही पाया जायगा। उन्ही निविदादाताओं का मूल्य संबंधी (Financial Bid) निविदा खोला जायगा। निविदा सामग्री की सूची संस्थान कार्य अवधि में एक हजार रुपये का राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट जो प्राचार्य राजकीय पोलिटेक्निक खुदरी के पदनाम से बोकारो शाखा पर देय हो के मुगतान कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

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- निविदादाता GST एवं वाणिज्यकर/लघु उद्योग/संबंधित सरकारी संस्था से निबंधित होना चाहिए एवं वाणिज्यकर अथवा लघु उद्योग से Clearance Certificate का प्रमाण-पत्र संलग्न करना होगा।
- निविदा में अंकित दर एफओ ओओ राजकीय पोलिटेक्निक, खुदरी जिसमें स्थापना या अधिरोपण की आवश्यकता हो उसका भी व्यय सम्मिलित करना अनिवार्य होगा। सभी मूल्य सभी करो के साथ दर्शाये/अंकित होने चाहिये एवं अधिरोपण की अगर आवश्यकता हो तो उसके अधिरोपण के इस आशय का प्रमाण-पत्र संलग्न करना होगा।
- विपत्र का मुगतान संतोषप्रद प्रदर्शन मूल्य सत्यापन एवं अधिरोपण के बाद ही किया जायगा।
- विपत्र के मुगतान हेतु तीन (03) प्रति में विपत्र जमा करना होगा।
- अधोस्तावरी को बिना कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा को रद्द करने या अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

प्राचार्य प्राचार्य राजकीय पोलिटेक्निक, खुदरी (बोकारो)
PR 223937 Higher Education Directorate(19-20)D

कार्यालय जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद् पलामू, मेदिनीनगर

अति अल्पकालीन ई-पुर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई०- संख्या-DOPR/DE/ZP/Palamu-11/2019-20
RE-TENDER (2nd call)

- कार्य का नाम :- (जिला योजना अनाबद्ध निधि)

क्र० सं०	योजना का नाम	प्रखण्ड	प्रांराशि (लाख में)	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	एनओ आई०टी० रेफरेंस सं०
1	ग्राम-कल्लाटांड, पंचायत-मझिगावा में कल्लाटांड बस्ती के पास पुलिया निर्माण।	चैनपुर	32.160	66000.00	5000.00	3 माह मात्र	1/2019-20/DOPR/DE/ZP/Palamu

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 18.01.2020
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :-27.01.2020 up to 5.00 PM बजे तक
- जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद् कार्यालय मेदिनीनगर में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, शपथ पत्र की मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय:- 28.01.2020 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :-29.01.2020 अपराह्न 11.00 बजे
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :-जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद् पलामू।
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० -9955924364
- निविदा शुल्क:- किसी भी S.B.I. बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद् पलामू के पक्ष में मेदिनीनगर में भुगतये होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।
- निविदादाता को UCAN Registration की छायाप्रति अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है।
- प्राक्कलित राशि बढ़ या घट सकती है।
- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

जिला अभियंता जिला परिषद्, पलामू
PR 223938 (District)19-20#D

Over 24 idle firms served show-cause notice

PNS ■ BOKARO

The authority is also planning to take stringent action on closed industrial units. Action would be taken against such units that are yet to start their production in the second phase. While in the third phase JIADA is all set to act against those units that are shut since long, said an official.

"The Government puts in a lot of effort to acquire land and develop industrial areas. We do not want people to speculate on land, and profit from industrial plots by reselling them," said the official. During the tenure of past Government, JIADA approved 21 new investment proposals to set up units, with an investment of Rupees 70 crore, at Balidih Industrial Area in Bokaro. JIADA also approved the investment proposal to set up a mega food park at Chandankyari in Bokaro and approved land to set up the unit, said an official.

Triveni Group a real estate company is proposed to set up a mega food park with an investment of ₹ 222 crore. The company has a 0.5 million tonne integrated steel mill and captive power plant in Seraikela-Kharsawan and low-cost housing projects across the state, he said.

The proposed park will have facilities for multi-chamber cold storage, dry warehouse, vegetable dehydration line, modern quality control and testing laboratory and other processing facilities for fruits and vegetables.

Jharkhand Industrial Area Development Authority (JIADA), an arm of the Industries department, is all set to withdraw some plots allotted to investors, who are yet to start their establishment work after allotment of land to them.

JIADA has passed orders to this effect and has served show-cause notices to over 24 such companies/investors at Bokaro, Kandra, Sindri as well as Giridih industrial areas, informed an official.

There are several companies that were allotted land to erect their units. But, after a long time they have only erected boundary walls on their plots and construction work of their establishments are yet to be kicked-off, said PN Mishra Secretary JIADA.

"Notices have been served to such owners of the companies asking them to present their side. If there is no satisfactory response, their allotment will be cancelled (through director level)," added Mishra.

Their allotments will be cancelled because those investors have not made any investment after a long time of allotment of land. There are several genuine investors waiting for a piece of land to set up their industries in those industrial areas, said Mishra adding, "Now JIADA has only one acre of land and we are finding very hard in allotment of land for new industrial units."

Marandi keeps mum on JVM's merger with BJP

JVM chief neither denies nor confirms merger talks

ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI

Confusion deepened over Jharkhand Vikas Morcha's (JVM) merger with BJP after JVM chief Babulal Marandi refused to say anything concrete over his joining BJP. Marandi, the newly elected Dhanwar MLA neither denied nor confirmed about his party's merger with BJP.

Marandi, who was away from State for past one week reached Ranchi on Thursday and had discussion about his future course of action with party leaders. Talking to media persons he said, "I have no information about media news about JVM's merger with BJP. I came to know JVM's merger with BJP when I reached Ranchi."

The former Chief Minister claimed that he will visit his Assembly constituency Dhanwar spending few days



JVM Chief Babulal Marandi gestures as he talks with media persons in Ranchi on Thursday

there. On being asked about JVM leader Pradeep Yadav's remark about JVM's merger with BJP, Marandi said, "Pradeep Yadav is right person to give answer about such rumour."

Sources said that though Marandi refused to disclose his

future plans, but his softness and bonhomie with BJP was evident. Marandi during his chat with media persons for more than 30 minutes talked about his old days when his

RSS Karyakarta moving across the Country spreading RSS teachings. Marandi, a former RSS leader resigned from his job as a teacher to work for the organisation. His association

with RSS helped him in scaling political ladder as BJP gave him ticket to contest Lok Sabha election in 1991 and 1996, but tasted his first political victory in 1998 when he defeated Shibu Soren the stalwart of Jharkhand movement in 1998 election from Dumka Lok Sabha seat.

Though Marandi refused to disclose his future plans, party insiders claim that sooner or later JVM's merger with BJP is inevitable.

A senior JVM leader on condition of anonymity said, "JVM merger with BJP is certain. The delay is mainly due to process and formalities, which has to be taken ahead of merger. As Marandi is not single person who has join BJP but entire party is to be merged a lot of process is to be taken ahead of merger."

Sources said that Marandi after returning in couple of days will constitute the working committee. Sources said that once party working committee decides to go with party chief Marandi's decision to merge with BJP, merger will automatically occur even though party MLAs are opposed to working committee decision.

Presently in Hemant Soren's Cabinet there are two MLAs from Congress camp. State Congress president Rameshwar Oraon and Congress legislative party leader Alamgir Alam took oath along with Hemant Soren on December 29, leaving two to three cabinet berths vacant from Congress quota. Sources said that Congress has demanded five ministerial berths.

Sources said that as Congress is to get three more Cabinet berths, hectic lobbying is on for ministerial berths. As per Congress sources, caste and regional balance will be given importance in making new Ministers. The Congress keeping an eye to year end Bihar Assembly election is going to give representation to backward and upper caste in Ministry. A senior Congress leader requesting anonymity said, "The Congress from its quota had made given representation to Muslim and tribals. In such situation names of Banna Gupta, Amba Prasad, Mamta Devi, Deepika Pandey Singh, Purnima Neeraj Singh and others are doing rounds."

Cong MLAs to meet Sonia today

PNS ■ RANCHI

The 16 newly elected Congress lawmakers from State will meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday in New Delhi. Though the party legislators say that it is courtesy visit as all MLAs will meet Sonia after winning the election for the first time, party insiders claim that discussions on Cabinet Ministers from Congress quota will also take place.

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Sources said that as the ministers will be discussed, senior leaders including Rameshwar Oraon and Alamgir Alam along with



JPC Chief Rameshwar Oraon

Congress-in-charge RPN Singh have reached Delhi on Thursday evening itself. The three leaders will prepare the sketch of ministry and will present it before Sonia Gandhi.

However, the leaders who are going to meet Sonia Gandhi after winning the election are much excited. Jamtara MLA Irfan Ansari said, "The meeting with Sonia Jee is just courtesy visit and we are going to seek blessings from Madam."

Echoing the views, Ansari another MLA Naman Bixal Kongari from Kolebira said, "Congress high command has asked all MLAs to reach Delhi on January 16 for meeting with Sonia Jee." Sources said that though the Congress high command had called its MLAs to Delhi, Chief Minister Hemant Soren after becoming Chief Minister had visited Delhi thrice.

On Wednesday after returning from Delhi he hinted towards the expansion of his Cabinet likely to be done in next couple of days.

While talking to media after returning from Delhi, Soren said here, "Lots of discussions were done there. Everything will be clear very soon... Let's keep something for us to decide."

Do not look for helpline numbers online, warn police

SAURAV ROY ■ RANCHI

Do not look for helpline numbers online, an advisory from Ranchi police said on Thursday warning residents of the city about a new practice by cyber frauds where in they spew wrong helpline numbers of banks and other finance-related companies on search engine platforms in a bid to trap callers.

The advisory, shared by the official Twitter handle of Ranchi Police, said that cyber frauds often impersonate as bank employees over phone and ask for confidential details when the account holders call on the numbers available online. "Unaware bank customers are more likely to fall in the trap and get duped," the advisory said.

In some cases, cyber frauds may ask the callers to download a mobile App from play-store and send links for the same. Downloading any such App, police said, can give access of private data on your phone to cyber frauds. "Since most of us use online banking on our respective smart phones, we become susceptible to cyber fraud of the frauds get access to our phone. No bank or help desk of any company should ever ask you to download any App from play store or any other platform," the advisory said.

The police have also warned Ranchi residents of cyber frauds prowling platforms such as Olx, Quikr and even Facebook. These frauds, police said, put up advertisements of products at a through away price to entice buyers. The sellers ask for advance payment

and shipping expenses and turn incommunicado once the money is transferred to their mobile wallet or bank account through UPI payment.

Ranchi resident Tarun Mehta came across a similar advertisement on OLX, where in a person purporting to be a resident of the USA was selling the latest model of iPhone at half the price. The seller shared a Bank of Baroda account number and asked Mehta to send an advance of ₹ 15,000 to the account. When Mehta refused to oblige, the seller agreed to ship the phone to India even if an amount of ₹ 500 was transferred to his bank account. "I knew had serious doubts on this man. I was sure that he was a fraud when he agreed to ship the product if I send ₹ 500 to him," Mehta said. Sometimes cyber frauds also contact people as buyers on such platforms and send links for monetary transactions. Such links, police said, were dangerous and should not be clicked. "Every seller should remember that you don't need to enter your UPI pin anywhere in order to receive money. The pin is needed only if you have to send money to someone," the advisory said.

Jharkhand is home to India's cyber crime capital, Jamtara — a small, backward district in tribal-dominated Santhal Pargana region of the State. A data compiled by a Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh police revealed that more than 2,000 mobile SIM cards across the country used to commit online fraud in 2015 were operated from Jamtara district.



People form a human chain against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizenship (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR) at Karbala Chowk in Ranchi on Thursday

FODDER SCAM

Lalu's statement recorded in court

PNS ■ RANCHI

Former Bihar Chief Minister of Bihar and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president, Lalu Prasad Yadav, convicted in four cases of Fodder Scam, was produced before a special court of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to record his statement on Thursday for the fifth case of the scam. He answered 32 questions in the court.

After recording his statement Prasad returned to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS). He congratulated the new Government in Jharkhand under the leadership of Hemant Soren. The next hearing in this case will be held on January 20.

His statement was recorded in court room number 313. After a long time, people saw Lalu Prasad in public. On Thursday, when Lalu Prasad came out from the paying ward of RIMS, a large number of his supporters accompanied him.

Prasad's statement for the fifth case of fodder scam was recorded in the court of Special CBI Judge SK Shashi.

The District Administration arranged a very tight security when Prasad was going to court for the fifth case of fodder scam, his party leaders and supporters accompanied him. The RJD Supremo wore a sky coloured sweater.



Former Bihar Chief Minister and RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav being taken to a special CBI court to record his statement in fodder scam cases in Ranchi on Thursday

It may be mentioned here that former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad had to record his statement in the court of Special CBI Judge SK Shashi in Case Number RC-47A / 96 filed in the case of large scale irregularities in the Animal Husbandry Department. Lalu Prasad has been convicted in four cases related to animal husbandry scam.

Currently he is serving sentence in RC- 68 A / 96 case and admitted in RIMS. The four cases in which he has been convicted include CBI Case Number RC-20, 38, 64 and 68 A / 96.

In these cases, he has been sentenced from three and a half years to a maximum of 14 years. The biggest case related to animal husbandry scam is scandal number RC-47A / 96. The case is about the illegal withdrawal of about ₹ 139 crore from Doranda treasury. In this case, along with Prasad, there are 113 accused including the then Animal Husbandry Minister, Vidyasagar Nishad, former MP Jagdish Sharma, several IAS officers and suppliers, now the statement of few accused in this case is yet to be recorded.

Western disturbance to bring mercury down

ASTHA ■ RANCHI

Amidst the sunny weather in Ranchi, people are expected to face a temperature drop in coming days. Western disturbances as a cyclonic circulation over east Afghanistan and adjoining Pakistan will extend up to 5.8 km above mean sea level. Due to which there is a minimum temperature drop and late afternoon clouds will be witnessed. Ranchities will witness clear skies and foggy weather in the weekends.

Due to the western disturbances as a cyclonic circulation temperature is expected to go down by 3-4 degree. The temperature will fall from 17th evening with cloudy weather and winds from north eastern side. There might be sprinkles of rain with a cloudy and foggy weather," said weather forecast official, Abhishek Anand.

According to weather forecast for January 19, Ranchi will witness maximum temperature of 23 degree Celsius and minimum of 12 degree Celsius. The cyclonic circulation over southwest Madhya Pradesh and extends up to 1.5km above mean sea level. Such western disturbances are likely to affect western Himalayan region and plains of northwest India.

Starting from 17th evening to 20th January, capital and nearby districts will witness temperature drop.

In some regions fog will also be seen. Though there are subtle warnings of rain.

"Apart from this the temperature will again rise in the later days until 26th January. And on 27th and 28th there will be clear skies with cloudy weather including little rains. This will also occur due to western disturbances that might touch away with some districts in Jharkhand. Less quantity of rain is also witnessed for the two days. Afternoon clouds with less temperature are also a key feature," added the official.

"The sprinkle rain and low temperature will not affect the agriculture and crops. In last few days there had been a constant decrease and rains due to which the price of vegetable had also increased. Vendors are facing huge trouble in storage and transportation. Same applies on the budget of customer," said A. Wadood, Agro- meteorological scientist at Birsra Agriculture University.

In recent days temperature variations were seen in the State. Weather bulletin from 10 January to 16 January, Jharkhand had a dry weather while north westerly winds likely prevailed over the state. City is enjoying with the sunny weather at present.

Though after the few days of cold weather there will be rise in temperature, thereby comforting the citizens.

INBRIEF

BJP QUESTIONS COALITION'S STAND ON DOMICILE

State BJP Spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo has said that JMM chief Shibu Soren has spoken of implementing the Khatian of 1932 as soon as possible. "The Chief Minister and the ruling coalition should clarify their stand on this issue. The RJD and Congress should clarify their stand on this issue as contradictory statements of their leaders are coming. BJP is in Opposition. If any such issue or proposal comes, the BJP will take a decision keeping in mind the interests of all the people living in Jharkhand. Even before this, the local policy formulated by the previous BJP government, about 90 per cent of the tribal and native residents were appointed here. The ruling parties should clean their party's stand at the behest of Shibu Soren," he said.



CPS STUDENT SHINES AT SPELL BEE



Nafisha Taj, a student of Cambrian Public School, Kanke Road, secured 46th rank at the National Spell Bee Competition 2018-19. Around 200 students from various states took part in this competition held at the Kumaraguru Institute in Coimbatore. Earlier, in the state level competition, Nafisha, an eighth grade student, daughter of Thalsihimmat Zubair Ansari and Yasmen Khatoun got the 10th place. Principal Neeta Pandey has congratulated Nafisha Taj on her success.

14 eminent personalities get Vibhuti Veer Birsa Samman

PNS ■ RANCHI

A total of 14 eminent personalities from the State were honored with the Jharkhand Vibhuti Veer Birsa Samman at the Vichar Manch of Darbhanga House, the CCL's headquarter in the State capital on Thursday. The ceremony was organized under the aegis of Disabled Sports and Jan Utthan Samiti's unit Maa Sharde Manch.

Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest noted Writer and Social Worker, Mahua Majhi said that there is no dearth of talent in Jharkhand. "There are many talented people who are doing special performance in their respective fields even in adverse conditions.

There is a need to recognize and encourage such talents. There is need to honor and encourage all eminent personalities of Jharkhand," she added.



Officials of sports, art, culture, management pose for group photo during Jharkhand Vibhuti Veer Birsa Samman 2020 at Vichar Manch Auditorium Darbhanga House. CCL organised by Disabled Sports and Jan Utthan Samiti's unit Maa Sharde Manch in Ranchi on Thursday

Majhi further said that the new Government in the State is trying for to do this. Speaking on the occasion Eminent Journalist

Harinarayan Singh said that since birth in the society, till the end of life people move ahead with the help of the society, so it is very important that people

should always remain alert towards the help and encouragement of the society. Addressing the gathering on the occasion as Special

Guest former Regional Director of ASSOCHAM and Director of RKDF University, SK Singh said that the society which does not encourage talented persons that society does not grow further so it is necessary to encourage talented people for the betterment of society.

People from various fields such as Medical, Child Protection, Women Empowerment, Social Service, Literature and Publications, Art Culture, Disability Rehabilitation, Sports, Management and others were got award and felicitation on the occasion.

Those who got honored on the occasion are Vandana Teta from Pyara Carekatta Foundation, Hazel Davis from Davis Institute of Neuropsychiatry, Gopal Singh got honored as Chairman cum Managing Director, CCL, Satish Chandra from State Disability Commission,

Jitendra Kumar from-Site Savers, Mahadev Hansda from Save the Children, Pooja from Srajan Foundation, Praveen Lohia from Mukti Sanstha, Indira Shukla from All India Women Development Council, Devdas Vishwakarma from Sant Mikhail Blind School, Ranjan Bihari Prasad from All Jharkhand Artist And Culture Association and Anil Kumar Yadav, Sunil Kumar Agarwal, and Sunil Jain got awarded for their work as Social Worker.

The eminent personalities were honored with a memento, citation and shawl by Majhi, SK Singh, Harinarayan Singh, and member of the Central Censure Board, Ashok Sharan.

Mukesh Kanchan, Pranav Kumar Babbu, Neetu Tarang, Rahul Mehta, Vipul Sen Gupta, Vagish Kumar etc. played an active role in organizing the event.

Ulidih murder: Police yet to crack mystery

Cong MLA Banna demands action

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Though 24 hours have passed since a 21-year-old youth was shot dead by two bike-borne criminals under Ulidih thana area in Mango, the police have not been able to crack the case.

The local Congress MLA Banna Gupta inquired about the investigation and demanded the Ulidih thana OC, Chandra Shekhar Kumar to detect the case as early as possible.

Suman Rakshit (21) who was a resident of Patel Path in Ulidih was shot dead by two bike-borne criminals on Wednesday morning.

The police suspect the case to be result of dispute arising out of cricket betting.

Deputy superintendent of police (Patamda) Vijay Kumar Mahto said they are scanning CCTV footage of the assailants, but they are yet to reach to conclusion.

"We are yet to reach to conclusion. We will have to depend on the call details records (CDR) of the victim's

cellphone so as to reach to those who killed him. We are in the process of obtaining the CDR of the said cellphone," said Mahto.

Replying to a query, the DSP (Patamda) said that the matters related to obtaining CDRs are handled by the technical cell of the district police.

"The cricket betting net has raised its ugly head in the steel city and has posed a big challenge for police to crack down on the racket. I am of the opinion that electronic and physical surveillance systems should be beefed up and existing links with various intelligence agencies strengthened to deal with the situation.

On the playground the T-20 format may have given chance to select players to churn easy money but off the field the league has given rise to one of the biggest betting rackets in the city too luring the youths to mint easy money. Several youths have fallen prey to the racket," said an official.

Palamu SP asks students to be wary of dropouts, human trafficking

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

More than 1,250 students of Deepti Niketan High School at Nawadeeh near Chainpur police station 25 Kms away from Daltonganj have been asked by SP Palamu Ajay Linda to be on guard against two things.

Linda unfolding these two things said, "The first thing is when you go home find if there is any drop out lurking aimlessly in your village. The second thing is that minor girls and boys are induced and tempted and are trafficked outside the state where they lead a sub human life."

Linda asked the students to be a model for them. He asked the mod-

est gathering of parents and huge strength of students (1,250) to 'keep police informed if someone induces a minor girl or boy for human trafficking. Police will rush to help'."

Linda was the chief guest in the Deepti Niketan High School's annual sports day function where he in his speech quite warmly praised the March Past of the students, band party and energy and zeal of the students as many of them were bare footed in winter. Linda spoke against witchcraft reminding students that they should not fall in this kind of trap as there is nothing any such thing called witch. The huge multi columns of students on the ground did not utter any word on this nei-

ther against it nor for it.

A Sister of this school said that this school has been given opening permission only but a proper affiliation is still awaited. Its files are languishing in the district education office said the Sister.

Matriculation students of this school are to appear for their examination from some affiliated school said the Sister. The school has 24 teachers.

Students have no books and there is no mid day meal scheme of the state government here. Daily food comes through IMS and some philanthropists for the students. Students get stipend from the welfare office said sources.

DCs, DDCs...

From Page 1
At the same time, the Deputy Commissioner of Khunti was directed to do ground work on taking back cases registered in the Pathalgadi case, so that the results would come out soon. On the problem of late payment to farmers in procurement of paddy by the Deputy Commissioners, the CS clarified that it should not take more than 15 days. He

directed to get in touch with the departmental secretary in this regard. In Garhwa and Palamu, the reasons for lack of electricity were investigated and the Deputy Commissioners were directed to review the problems faced in the transmission line construction and suggest solutions.

The problem of sand lifting in Giridih was also taken into consideration. Delay in running five Kasturba schools in Ranchi district was resolved and asked to start soon. The CS instructed to assess the

Social Responsibility Fund (CSR) of the various companies to be provided to the district, to ensure that the State companies use this amount within the state.

Additional Chief Secretary, Home Sukhdeo Singh, Additional CS Planning cum Finance KK Khandelwal, Principal Secretary School Education and Literacy AP Singh, Revenue Secretary KK Soan, Food and Civic Supplies Secretary Amitabh Kaushal alongwith several other officials were present on the occasion.

INBRIEF

SHREE SADGURU DISCIPLE IN CITY

With the blessings of the Shree Sadguru, his disciple Kushendra, who is known as 'Kush', reached Ranchi on Thursday in order to convey his message to the masses, while informing the media here, emphasized the importance of Shri Sadhguru's message. Describing why classical Hatha Yoga is required, Kush told that in the busy life of people now they have forgotten to live life. Now only one motive to earn money for family has become their goal. The importance of the joy of living is becoming less and less. Therefore, with some easy steps of Yoga through which a person will be able to control himself and will be able to maintain balance in life.

CLEANLINESS FORTNIGHT AT SBU



Taking the Swatchta Pledge, the students and Faculty of Sarala Birla University, Ranchi reiterated the importance of keeping one's surroundings clean. SBU has pro-actively ensured that there are workshops on themes of Swachhta organized to generate awareness, and keep the momentum on Swachh Bharat Mission- Garmin (Department of Drinking water and Sanitation) going. The Swatchta Pakhwada started in SBU Campus on the January 16 and it will be continued till January 27. It was organised by the NSS unit of SBU, Ranchi. On this occasion NSS Programme Coordinator Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sinha, Programme Officer (boys) Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Programme Officer (girls) Prof. Megha Sinha, Dr. Ria Mukherjee, Prof. Rahul Vats, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Dr. Pintu Das alongwith Bhardwaj Shukla and students of the University were present.

PARLE LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN

Parle Products has launched an engaging campaign featuring three ad films for its biscuit brand - Milk Shakti. The campaign depicts an age-old battle of child versus glass of milk that plays out every morning at breakfast tables across the country, with the mother playing the role of an enforcer. As each generation gets smarter with their milk avoidance tactics, Parle Milk Shakti coheres that sweet spot between mother, child and milk.

JHARKHAND BIJI VITRAN NIGAM LTD
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
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Telephone:-0662-235076 & Fax:-0662-235078

3rd e-TENDER Time Extension Notice
Due to some unavoidable reasons the due date of e tender Notice No. 152/PR/JB/VN/19-20 for repairing of different capacity distribution transformer at TRW, Medininagar and Garhwa is extended as following manner:

S. No.	Particulars	Details / Date and Time
1.	Last Date for Submission of Bid on line	Up to 25.01.2020 upto 17:00 PM
2.	Last date of Submission of Cost of BOQ and EMD (Original) and Other related documents	27.01.2020 at 17:00 PM
3.	Date of Opening of Bid	Techno-Commercial part will be opened at 04:00 PM of 28.01.2020 and Price Part on a date to be notified later.

- Tender Notice is also available on our website : www.jvvn.in
- For any clarification please contact: 06562-235078/8789217066/9431828440
- Other terms and conditions will remain the same and duly available website.

Sd/-
GM-cum-CE
ESA, Medininagar

PR 223905 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd) 19-20 (D)

झारखण्ड ऊर्जा संवर्धन निगम लिमिटेड
(CIN No. - U40108JH2013SGC001704)
उप महाप्रबंधक का कार्यालय
संवर्धन अंचल, कुसई कॉलोनी, डोरण्डा, राँची
ईमेल आईडी नं० :- eseteranchi.jusnl@gmail.com,
मो० नं० :- 9431707301

सार्वजनिक सूचना
एतद् द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि 132/33 के 0 भी 0 ग्रीड सब स्टेशन, हटिया - 1 का PSDF योजना के अन्तर्गत Upgradation के कारण दिनांक 18.01.2020 (शनिवार) को पूर्वाह्न 08:00 बजे से संध्या 06:00 बजे तक ग्रीड सबस्टेशन, हटिया - 1 से निकलने वाली 33 के 0 भी 0 राजभवन, हरमू, रातू, ब्राम्बे, टाटीसिल्वे, बेरो एवं काँके फीडर पूर्ण रूप से बंद रहेगी तथा इनसे संबंधित सभी आपूर्ति क्षेत्र प्रभावित रहेगी।

असुविधा के लिए खेद है।

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कुषया अपनी शिकायतों को टोल फ्री नं० 1800 345 8570 पर दर्ज कराये।
ह 0 / -
उप महाप्रबंधक
संवर्धन अंचल, राँची
PR 223930 (Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd)19-20#D

झारखण्ड सरकार
गृह, कारा एवं आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग
सैनिक कल्याण निदेशालय

डॉ 0 राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जवान भवन-सह-सैनिक बाजार, मेन रोड, राँची के

दुकान के आवंटन के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रण की सूचना

सैनिक कल्याण निदेशालय, गृह, कारा एवं आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार, झारखण्ड राज्य के इच्छुक वीर नारी, विधवाओं तथा पूर्व सैनिकों से डॉ 0 राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जवान भवन-सह- सैनिक बाजार, मेन रोड, राँची के दुकान नं 0 - E-28 (65 वर्गफीट) के आवंटन के लिये आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। आवेदन प्रपत्र 04 फरवरी 2020 पौच बजे अपराह्न तक पहुँच जाना चाहिए और प्राप्त आवेदनों को अधिकारियों की एक समिति द्वारा 05 फरवरी 20 को 11:30 बजे खोला जायेगा। नियम एवं शर्तें झारखण्ड सरकार के वेबसाईट www.prdjharkhand.gov.in एवं डॉ 0 राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जवान भवन-सह-सैनिक बाजार, मेन रोड राँची के कार्यालय के सूचना पट पर भी देखा जा सकता है। निदेशक के आदेशानुसार ह / -

स्थान : राँची
दिनांक : 15 जनवरी 2020
PR223911 (Home)19-20#D

जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी का कार्यालय, बोकारो।

:- प्रेष विज्ञापित :-
महालेखाकार कार्यालय, झारखण्ड राँची के अक्षेपण दर द्वारा अक्षेपण के क्रम (Annexure III) में जिला परिवहन कार्यालय, बोकारो में निम्नलिखित वाहनों का Short levy of OTT Personalised vehicles शांति हूए राशि वसूली हेतु नाम पत्र / निलाम पत्र बंद दायर करने का निर्देश दिया गया है।
अतः अक्षेपण आचार्य के अनुपालन में निम्नलिखित वाहनों के खातियों को इस प्रेष विज्ञापित के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि उनके वाहन के निम्नलिखित खातों के सामने अधिक राशि का भुगतान अविलंब करना सुनिश्चित करें अन्यथा वाद्य होकर बकाया राशि की वसूली हेतु निलाम पत्र बंद दायर कर दिया जायेगा।

SI No.	Vehicle No	Amount	SI No.	Vehicle No	Amount	SI No.	Vehicle No	Amount
1	JH09AP0050	30006	36	JH09AP0520	18928	71	JH09AP1174	27294
2	JH09AP0091	12457	37	JH09AP0584	1726	72	JH09AP1190	1018
3	JH09AP0149	1401	38	JH09AP0616	1726	73	JH09AP1200	26150
4	JH09AP0154	1475	39	JH09AP0619	1333	74	JH09AP1230	1746
5	JH09AP0170	1398	40	JH09AP0629	1144	75	JH09AP1296	716
6	JH09AP0174	2429	41	JH09AP0641	1832	76	JH09AP1310	1333
7	JH09AP0181	502	42	JH09AP0650	1359	77	JH09AP1326	1236
8	JH09AP0191	980	43	JH09AP0651	1355	78	JH09AP1331	19327
9	JH09AP0192	342	44	JH09AP0654	1812	79	JH09AP1345	1065
10	JH09AP0205	683	45	JH09AP0670	3422	80	JH09AP1391	1686
11	JH09AP0221	1475	46	JH09AP0683	1426	81	JH09AP1423	22738
12	JH09AP0225	1410	47	JH09AP0686	2594	82	JH09AP1430	772
13	JH09AP0230	1450	48	JH09AP0718	1586	83	JH09AP1462	1284
14	JH09AP0232	477	49	JH09AP0728	1640	84	JH09AP1477	21835
15	JH09AP0233	670	50	JH09AP0762	1574	85	JH09AP1504	530
16	JH09AP0236	1044	51	JH09AP0778	1746	86	JH09AP1513	1324
17	JH09AP0240	1062	52	JH09AP0794	1324	87	JH09AP1525	1638
18	JH09AP0244	2113	53	JH09AP0795	11020	88	JH09AP1566	797
19	JH09AP0264	2121	54	JH09AP0808	14368	89	JH09AP1578	1733
20	JH09AP0293	1894	55	JH09AP0816	1249	90	JH09AP1585	1320
21	JH09AP0336	1065	56	JH09AP0964	1333	91	JH09AP1593	1683
22	JH09AP0348	2290	57	JH09AP0968	11020	92	JH09AP1620	1640
23	JH09AP0393	1626	58	JH09AP0988	1758	93	JH09AP1645	701
24	JH09AP0396	590	59	JH09AP0990	1106	94	JH09AP1651	975
25	JH09AP0403	1746	60	JH09AP1003	1752	95	JH09AP1654	1431
26	JH09AP0404	1062	61	JH09AP1013	1054	96	JH09AP1659	682
27	JH09AP0419	797	62	JH09AP1018	22597	97	JH09AP1695	1155
28	JH09AP0434	1311	63	JH09AP1051	13254	98	JH09AP1713	499
29	JH09AP0437	422	64	JH09AP1074	477	99	JH09AP1743	950
30	JH09AP0441	7561	65	JH09AP1094	1967	100	JH09AP1744	1967
31	JH09AP0453	1769	66	JH09AP1097	1967	101	JH09AP1751	2027
32	JH09AP0455	1970	67	JH09AP1107	1183	102	JH09AP1752	13979
33	JH09AP0467	10149	68	JH09AP1159	1170	103	JH09AP1800	25422
34	JH09AP0479	1475	69	JH09AP1161	1833	104	JH09AP1834	1221
35	JH09AP0486	1161	70	JH09AP1168	1333	105	JH09AP1870	1333
SI No.	Vehicle No	Amount	SI No.	Vehicle No	Amount	SI No.	Vehicle No	Amount
106	JH09AP1872	1434	151	JH09AP2430	980	196	JH09AP3288	1054
107	JH09AP1884	1504	152	JH09AP2443	1232	197	JH09AP3292	708
108	JH09AP1890	1401	153	JH09AP2463	659	198	JH09AP3317	1110
109	JH09AP1903	2584	154	JH09AP2469	17649	199	JH09AP3318	1362
110	JH09AP1909	937	155	JH09AP2476	1003	200	JH09AP3324	1410
111	JH09AP1912	970	156	JH09AP2491	1726	201	JH09AP3346	772
112	JH09AP1920	1758	157	JH09AP2529	1426	202	JH09AP3349	1249
113	JH09AP1924	1221	158	JH09AP2536	1726	203	JH09AP3369	1832
114	JH09AP1953	1894	159	JH09AP2540	17499	204	JH09AP3376	806
115	JH09AP1973	1487	160	JH09AP2544	1528	205	JH09AP3382	2439
116	JH09AP2014	1677	161	JH09AP2546	1528	206	JH09AP3408	640
117	JH09AP2020	1746	162	JH09AP2566	1431	207	JH09AP3411	2957
118	JH09AP2044	1812	163	JH09AP2598	1049	208	JH09AP3418	1287
119	JH09AP2052	1483	164	JH09AP2603	1284	209	JH09AP3433	8212
120	JH09AP2071	1566	165	JH09AP2627	916	210	JH09AP3440	17592
121	JH09AP2083	1746	166	JH09AP2647	1961	211	JH09AP3444	1324
122	JH09AP2095	1507	167	JH09AP2725	2105	212	JH09AP3482	647
123	JH09AP2115	610	168	JH09AP2736	1209	213	JH09AP3489	1677
124	JH09AP2125	1249	169	JH09AP2745	970	214	JH09AP3495	1362
125	JH09AP2159	11880	170	JH09AP2759	1249	215	JH09AP3512	1528
126	JH09AP2160	2453	171	JH09AP2795	377	216	JH09AP3524	647
127	JH09AP2166	1249	172	JH09AP2867	1894	217	JH09AP3550	1106
128	JH09AP2171	1217	173	JH09AP2885	1324	218	JH09AP3553	1295
129	JH09AP2175	10322	174	JH09AP2905	1640	219	JH09AP3571	2749
130	JH09AP2181	1401	175	JH09AP2914	530	220	JH09AP3575	1437
131	JH09AP2186	2453	176	JH09AP2917	10242	221	JH09AP3587	1107
132	JH09AP2196	17109	177	JH09AP2947	640	222	JH09AP3608	1144
133	JH09AP2228	21895	178	JH09AP2957	827	223	JH09AP3612	1324
134	JH09AP2232	1903	179	JH09AP2972	2727	224	JH09AP3617	1103
135	JH09AP2248	2517	180	JH09AP2995	1362	225	JH09AP3618	1003
136	JH09AP2259	1683	181	JH09AP3024	1049	226	JH09AP3623	2594
137	JH09AP2261	334	182	JH09AP3039	905	227	JH09AP3624	708
138	JH09AP2294	1375	183	JH09AP3048	1410	228	JH09AP3652	1546
139	JH09AP2296	711	184	JH09AP3058	10049	229	JH09AP3666	1503
140	JH09AP2307	1698	185	JH09AP3081	1752	230	JH09AP3730	1507
141	JH09AP2312	10221	186	JH09AP3118	1144	231	JH09AP3734	1726
142	JH09AP2323	647	187	JH09AP3147	563	232	JH09AP3736	2453
143	JH09AP2349	797	188</					

BJP top leaders, rallies to galvanise support for CAA

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

January 23.

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

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



onwards.

An internal survey of the party maintained that the BJP has ground support of 80 per cent people in several states who are largely "silent" and the party needs to work on them.

The protest is sponsored by the Congress and Left which has no other issue to gain its

Monday.

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

Jain, who is overseeing BJP's campaign for CAA, said a majority of institutions and university campuses have not witnessed disturbances or anti-CAA protests. He said the party has received support of about two crore people in its mass contact programme in different states.

Asked whether continuing anti-CAA protests have also disrupted economy in the country, the BJP General Secretary said that may not have a direct link between the two subjects. The BJP leader said there was no question of

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

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

Persecuted minorities from these three countries who move to India beyond the cut-off date will have to spend six years before being eligible for the citizenship.

In his public rallies in Bihar, Shah has accused opposition parties of "misleading minorities" on the CAA and discounted rumours of discord within NDA on the issue.

INSHORT

FARM SECTOR MAY GROW AT 3.1%: NITI AAYOG

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

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

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

MANDATORY HALLMARKING FOR GOLD FROM JAN 2021

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

GLOBALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DISCUSSED

New Delhi: To deliberate upon some of the key challenges and opportunities faced by the universities in the subcontinent, Times Higher Education (THE) India Universities Forum in partnership with Amity University witnessed a host of national and international educators from higher education, industry and Government on Thursday to discuss about the globalization of higher education in India and its future. Phil Baty, THE Chief Knowledge Officer, Dipit Sharma, Hiring Solutions Sales Executive amongst others addressed the gathering.

VIGYAN SAMAGAM WILL BE HELD HERE FROM JAN 21

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Officials said the objective of the NPR is to create a com-

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

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

Rawat for hardline approach to tackle terrorism

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Defending the security forces for using pellet guns for crowd control, the newly appointed CDS said the non-lethal weapon is "sparingly used" in Kashmir and even then they are aimed at the legs.

He said those throwing stones face action. "Stones can cause death. Now we cannot be throwing stones back at them. Pellet guns are non lethal weapons and are fired at the legs," he said.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Prepare roadmap on road safety: Gadkari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

Peeved by the number of road accidents across the country, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has called upon Transport Ministers from all States to prepare the roadmap without bothering about expenses.

Gadkari also warned that officials behind faulty engineering and road designs will not be spared as road accidents are causing a loss of 3 per cent of the GDP of the country every year. More people in India die annually in road accidents than those killed in militant operations or extremism which is unfortunate, the minister said addressing the 18th Meeting of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and 39th Meeting of Transport Development Council (TDC).

"There is no dearth of resources for infrastructure development in the country and the need is only for a coherent approach to serve



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

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

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

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

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

The Minister also exuded confidence that the number of accidents will decline sharply on the back of stringent traffic rules post enactment of the new Motor Vehicles Act and massive steps undertaken to curb accidents including correction of "black spots" or accident spots at a cost of ₹14,000 crore.

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

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

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

RISING GULF TENSION

Jaishankar holds talks with Iranian counterpart

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

Zarif, who is here to attend the Raisina Dialogue, on Wednesday said, Iran was interested in diplomacy but not in negotiating with the US and said killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani showed ignorance and arrogance of the US.

Asserting this, he had also said 430 cities in India witnessed protests against the killing. He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval besides Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and

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

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



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

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

out of the JCPOA in 2018.

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

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

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

COP 26 IN GLASGOW

India's approach positive about climate change, says Javadekar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

WHO endorses India's TB test TrueNat for more accuracy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

- The endorsement of the technology by WHO would enable low and middle-income countries to procure TrueNat for tuberculosis and Rifampicin resistance, thus supporting elimination of the disease in developing countries
- It is highly cost-effective compared to GeneXpert and can be used in peripheral

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

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



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

"It works in two steps. In the first step, the DNA is extracted from the sputum and the second stage involves detection of tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant TB," a senior ICMR official said.

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

reviewed, said the official.

The most promising kits were selected by an expert group and those were subjected to a double-blind validation in comparison to standard tests at four national reference laboratories of the country.

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

ous follow-up, the 'TrueNat MTB & Rif' assay was found to be on par with the internationally recognised molecular assay Gene Xpert in terms of sensitivity and specificity and detection of rifampicin resistance.

As part of WHO's pre-qualification process, ICMR funded Indian centres of the FIND-coordinated multi-centred, prospective field evaluation study in four countries -- India, Ethiopia, Peru and Papua-New Guinea.

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

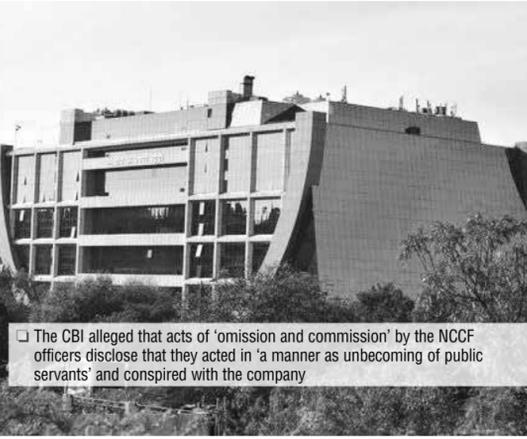
Nearly 100 crore people are suffering from TB globally. India accounts for around 27 per cent of these cases, according to a WHO report. The Government aims to rid India of TB by 2025, five years ahead of the target set under the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Adani Ent, NCCF officials booked for graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

- Adani Enterprises is alleged to have got undue favours in the supply contract
- The tender enquiry was forwarded to seven PSUs including National Co-operative Consumer Federation India Ltd (NCCF), a multi-State cooperative under Union Consumer Affairs Ministry having 78 per cent Government stake



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

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

APGENCO had floated a limited tender enquiry for the supply of six lakh MTs of imported coal from sea ports to Narla Tata Rao Thermal Power Plant in Vijaywada and Rayalaseema Thermal Power Plant (RTPP) in Kadapa on June 29, 2010, according to the FIR.

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

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

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

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

The FIR said the officers "committed irregularities by

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

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

quarters in Delhi to Singhal.

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

Six days later on July 7, APGENCO informed NCCF,

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

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

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

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

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

Davinder Singh stripped of gallantry award by J&K admin

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

Meritorious Service on August 15, 2019. The J&K Police spokesman also issued a statement in this regard which read, "It is to clarify that DySP Davinder Singh

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

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

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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



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

Pioneer photo

statement said.

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

"All the loan amounts availed by Hilal Ahmed Rather to tune of Rs 177 crore have become NPA".

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

Dar of Sanat Nagar Srinagar, Ghulam Mohd Bhatt of Baramulla Kashmir, Daljeet Wadhwa and Deepshikha Jamwal of Jammu was sanctioned a term loan of Rs 74.27 crore in the first phase. According to ACB, without following the credit policy of the bank, which restricts loan to a partnership firm at Rs 40 crore, the loan was approved by the Board of Directors of the J&K Bank when Hilal Rather had already entered into a OTS with the State Financial Corporation in the past. The remaining loan amount were granted by the Board despite the fact that the repayments of the first loan taken was not complete" the ACB statement said.



A woman sells vegetables on a roadside after heavy snowfall, in Srinagar on Thursday. Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been closed for last five days due to heavy snowfall that caused shortage of essential stocks

PTI

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

PTI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

Cold wave conditions persist in North India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



Vehicles ply on a road amid rain in Lucknow on Thursday

PTI

morning, officials said.

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

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

received heavy snowfall.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The melting caused the flow of the water to become too strong, for the trekkers to continue across the river on foot. The stranded trekkers managed to move to Niraq, a small camp site upstream and were awaiting to be rescued," it said.

To carry out the rescue operation by helicopters, a makeshift helipad was prepared along the river bank. Advanced Light Helicopters were immediately pressed into action from Air Force Station Leh, the IAF said.

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

Verbal spat between Bedi, Narayanasamy reaches next level

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

Bedi, who is having a running battle with the chief minister told the law maker that he was free to approach the con-

cerned authorities and file complaints against those accused in land grabbing.

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

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

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

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

Particularly over the last few days the Chief Minister "has crossed the line of decorum, dignity and decency," she said.

'Elephant Pongal' in TN celebrated at rejuvenation camp

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

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

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



PTI ■ MADURAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

vessels kept the participants on their toes to dominate the animals and emerge victorious.

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

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

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

Bru tribals to permanently settle in Tripura

Tripartite agreement signed



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 More than 30,000 displaced Bru tribals from Mizoram, who have been living as refugees in Tripura since 1997, will permanently settle in Tripura and a tripartite agreement was signed in this effect on Thursday.

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

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

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

Nitish will lead NDA in Bihar polls: Shah

Home Minister seeks people's support to CAA

PTI ■ KHARAUNA (VAISHALI, BIHAR)

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

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

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

Shah also sought to dispel "rumours" of discord within the NDA in the State, asserting that the upcoming assembly polls in Bihar will be contested under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Shah slammed the Opposition for misleading minorities about the Act in pursuance of their "vote bank" politics and engineering violence that had erupted in the aftermath.

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

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

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

Kumar, whose party JD(U) voted in favour of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament to help it become an

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

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

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

With Bihar scheduled to see elections in the current year, Shah declared "I want to dispel all rumours about our coalition

with Kumars JD(U). The elections will be contested under Nitish Kumars leadership".

"Lalu Prasad (RJD supremo), who is in jail in corruption cases, may go on dreaming that our coalition will come apart. But he should know that the NDA has led Bihar out of his lantern age (an allusion to RJDs poll symbol) to the LED era."

"The country and the state shall progress under the leadership of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar respectively", Shah flanked by Union ministers Giriraj Singh, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Nityanand Rai and Ashwini Choubey besides state

chief Sanjay Jaiswal and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, said.

SC clears deck for Goa airport construction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The top court in March last year had suspended the EC granted for the greenfield airport and directed the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) to revisit the decision in light of its impact on the ecology there.

The need for a new airport was buttressed as the passenger traffic at Goa was expected to rise in the upcoming financial years -- 12 million passengers by 2021 to 17.9 million by 2025 -- and the existing airport at Dabolim is a defence establishment which is closed to area traffic between 8.30 am and 1.30 pm daily.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ JAIPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAUT'S INDIRA GANDHI-KARIM LALA REMARK ROW

Balasaheb had lot of respect for Indiraji: Aditya gets into damage control mode

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
 Office of the Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department, Jammu
 Ph No: 999340293, website: www.jktenders.gov.in, Mobile: www.jktenders.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM - 3

Due to poor response the e-NIT No. CE/MEDJ/Tech/2019-20/06 Dated :- 09-12-2019 Due on :- 24-12-2019 extended upto 02.01.2020 and again upto 10.01.2020 for the Supply of 01 no. Truck Chassis with Cabin for Mechanical Division, Rajouri of Mechanical Engineering Department, Jammu is hereby further extended upto 17-01-2020 and shall be opened on 18-01-2019. The revised critical dates can be seen / downloaded from the J&K Govt. Website www.jktenders.gov.in and departmental website www.mechjmu.co.in. rest all terms and conditions of e-NIT shall remain the same.

No. DIP/J-12254/19 Sd/- Technical officer to Chief Engineer
 Dated:- 14.01.2020 Mechanical Engineering Department, Jammu

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 New Delhi: Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday accused the AAP Government for negligence behind inordinate delay in hanging of Nirbhaya gangrape convicts.

The Union Minister said it took more than two and a half years for the Arvind Kejriwal dispensation to give notice to convicts after Supreme Court rejected their appeal against the death sentence in 2017.

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

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

It also informed the high court during a hearing that execution of the convicts will not take place on January 22 as a mercy plea has been filed by one of them - Mukesh Singh.

The four convicts - Mukesh (32) Vinay Sharma (26), Akshay Kumar Singh (31) and Pawan Gupta (25) - were to be hanged on January 22 at 7 am in Tihar jail. A Delhi court had issued their death warrants on January 7.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

However, Kamal Nath has always

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

The SIT report shows that the hands of the Congress are with "murderers", the BJP leader said, noting that it points out that one FIR was registered to probe over 500 cases of arson and violence in places like Sultanpur, leading to delay in probe and acquittal of accused.

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

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Dilip Ghosh re-elected as Bengal BJP chief



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the BJP doing considerably well during his tenure by not only expanding its organisational base in Bengal but also winning a record 18 out of 42 Lok Sabha seats in the April-May general elections the saffron outfit has once again reappointed Dilip Ghosh as the presidents of its state unit for the period between 2020-2023.

Ghosh has been famous for courting controversies with his notorious statements. He was recently slammed by the opposition and also his party colleague and Union Minister Babul Supriyo for his controversial remark that the BJP had shot the agitators protesting against Citizenship Amendment Act like dogs in Assam and Uttar Pradesh.

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

Ghosh on Thursday said, "There are a few people who criticize me by my comments. But they must listen to the clear words. Earlier, they (opposition) used to speak and we listened, now we will speak and they will listen". Sayantan Basu another tough-talking leader said, "Bengal Assembly polls will be the most crucial polls for us and with just a year left for it, the party top leadership felt that they need a leader like Dilip Ghosh to lead the state unit."

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION DODA

NOTICE INVITING e TENDER
 e-NIT No.: eNIT/STD/Doda/02 of 2020 dated: 11-01-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Superintending Engineer O & M Circle Kishtwar invites e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) from reputed A-class electrical contractors / registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency, for Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, survey, Transportation, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of two Nos 33 kv Bus out arrangement at 33/11 kv R S Mandal and Dadpeth in Kishtwar and Replacement of old 33 kv C and R Panel and 33 kv VCB at 2x10 MVAR S Malipeth Kishtwar in kishtwar under languishing scheme 2019 S.No.1, Description of Work :- Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 1. 33 kv Bus out arrangement at 33/11 kv R S Mandal and Dadpeth, Kishtwar and ii. Replacement of old 33 kv C and R Panel and 33 kv VCB 2x10 MVA at R S Malipeth Kishtwar.

Name of the Office :- Superintending Engineer, O & M, Circle Kishtwar
 Estimated cost (In Rs.) :- 46,50,000.00
 Earnest Money (In Rs.) :- 93,000.00
 Cost of document (In Rs.) :- 4000.00

Last date of submission of e-bid :- 24.01.2020 up to 4:00 PM.

1. Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document and Scope of the work carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

2. The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A. Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document :- The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 13.01.2020 to 10:00 AM

B. Sale of Bid Document (Start) :- 13.01.2020, 10:00 AM

C. Date of Bid Document (End) :- 23.01.2020 up to 4:00 PM

No. DIP/J-12322/19 Sd/- (Er. Jarnail Singh) Executive Engineer,
 Dated :- 15-01-2020 Sub Transmission Division, Doda

FRESH OFFENSIVE AGAINST CAA-FISCAL CRISIS

Prakash Ambedkar Aghadi calls 'Maha bandh' on Jan 24

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) on Thursday stepped up its offensive against the Narendra Modi Government over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register for Citizens (NRC) and current economic crisis, by calling a "Maharashtra bandh" on January 24.

A month it organised a massive rally of dalits in Mumbai, the VBA prepared itself for one more show down with the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

Aghadi president Prakash Ambedkar said: "As many 35 organisations are supporting our Maharashtra bandh on January 24. We have called the bandh among other things to condemn the Modi Government. We request all political parties and organisations to join the bandh on January 24," the VBA chief said.

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

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

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORKS					
Sr. No.	Executive	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work & Location	Approx. Cost of work	EMD
1	DEN (East) BCT	BCT/19-20/346 dtd. 15.01.2020	Mumbai Division : Need based clerical/technical/ Ministerial assistance on day to day basis by outsourcing for 06 months in ADEN-offices of Engineering department.	₹40,54,348/-	₹81,100/-
2	DEN (Central) BCT	BCT/19-20/347 dtd. 15.01.2020	Mumbai Division : Interlocking of 2 LC gates LC No. 14 & 23 in Udhna Jalgaon-section)	₹72,75,249.13	₹1,45,500/-
3	DEN (East) BCT	BCT/19-20/348 dtd. 15.01.2020	Udhna-Jalgaon section : Supply of 50 mm size M/crushed stone ballast as per specification and loading into hoppers/wagons at Nardana depot (Qty 123250Cum)	₹9,94,46,727.50	₹6,47,200/-

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

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Death of justice

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



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

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

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

Putin's Russia

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



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

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

A new air quality agenda

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



KK PAUL

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

That vehicular emissions contain carcinogenic material needs no emphasis. But what has now come to light is that the inhalation of toxic airborne particles emitted by diesel and petrol vehicles can weaken bones and speed up the ageing process. This finding, based on a fairly large sample size taken from the vicinity of Hyderabad, quantifies on the basis of X-Rays and other studies and determines the extent of osteoporosis ie, the weakening of bones, in all age groups.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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



Chief of Defence Staff —Gen Bipin Rawat

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



Actor —Kangana Ranaut

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



Former Afghan President —Hamid Karzai

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



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Focus on the economy

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

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

When movements are politicised

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

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



tism" that BJP leaders can organise and take part in pro-CAA campaign and rallies and Opposition leaders must not take part in anti-CAA protests. Aiyar's rhetorical flourish, "Let us see who is powerful — we or the kaatil" was blown out of proportion to see if this can help arrest the declining in the BJP's support base. With protests continuing for over a month now, what is clear is that no sacrifice is too great to win the "political" battle for a liberal, secular India.

G David Milton Maruthancode

must be on the Union Budget, which must be used to re-invigorate the Indian economy and provide the much-needed stimulus.

Harminder Singh Gumbhir Uttar Pradesh

Better late than never

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

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

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

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

Devendra Khurana Bhopal

Flagging issues

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

Shubham Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A crippled campaign

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



ARMAN ALI

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

Ambiguous and over-ambitious targets: The campaign under Built Environment Accessibility targetted 50 most important buildings in Tier-1 cities and 25 most important Government buildings in Tier-2 cities, to be made fully accessible within a period of six months by July 2016. The revised guidelines have extended the deadline to March 2020. The numbers and time period were too ambitious for the reach of the Department of Persons with Disability. The deadlines were missed and extended consecutively and targets under it are yet not achieved even as three years have passed since the campaign was launched. Moreover, there was no study done on the number of Government websites or the quantum of public documents, which makes it impossible to assess the Government on the targets it envisaged as they were mostly made in percentage terms i.e. to make 50 per cent of all Government websites and public documents accessible by March 2018. Such ambiguous targets make it easier to extend the deadline as it becomes impossible to measure the true progress of the work done.

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

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

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

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

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

—BSP CHIEF MAYAWATI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

—BJP LEADER AND UTTAR PRADESH MINISTER SHRIKANT SHARMA

Budget a litmus test

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



ABHISHEK RAJA

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

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

Increase in deduction under Section 80C: At present, the deduction under Section 80C is available up to ₹1,50,000 and eligible investments include life insurance policies, Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), five-year notified tax-saving bank deposits, three-year Equity Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS) mutual funds, repayment of housing loan, tuition fee and many more. One can put the entire ₹1,50,000 in one investment or in more than one instrument. Practically, the overall limit of ₹1,50,000 does not offer any major benefit in real terms, as various investments are clubbed under one single provision. With an increase in the inflation rate, there is a need for an increase in the threshold limit of the Section 80C deduction, too. It is recommended that this deduction should be increased to a minimum of ₹2 lakh or even ₹2.5 lakh. Thus, if the threshold limit of Section 80C is increased by the FM in the Budget, this will not only boost investments, but also provide a majority of taxpayers the much-needed relief.

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

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



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

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

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

DTAS may allow assesseees to declare

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The joys and perils of the gig economy

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

BALWANT MEHTA SIMI MEHTA ARJUN KUMAR

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

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

higher education are leading to increasing migration to urban areas in pursuit of better jobs and opportunities. These trends could have significant implications in the Indian context as women in urban areas are increasingly participating in new-age jobs, particularly those that are technology-based such as flexible work on information technology and other digital platforms called the gig economy.

This is helping women maintain a work-life balance and accommodate disproportionate care activities by reducing reliance on physical space and presence and giving them the option to choose their own working hours and tasks.

This phenomenon has been brought about by technological innovation. The ownership and access to computers, tablets with internet and smartphones — some of the prerequisites for active participation of people in the gig economy — has increased manifold in India in recent years. This has encouraged more women to participate in the gig economy, particularly from urban and peri-urban areas.

According to the *Employment Outlook Report*, by staffing platform TeamLease, women gig workers accounted for about 68,000 jobs in the country in 2019 and the

gig economy is expected to generate more jobs in the future. It is estimated that it will comprise half of the urban workforce by 2025 and as much as 80 per cent by 2030.

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

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

warehouses. This has led to greater demand for women at delivery hubs and fulfilment centres.

Another study done by BetterPlace (2019) reveals that the number of women entering the gig economy is rising. Online companies such as Amazon and Flipkart that have begun to hire women in delivery roles have also seen better acceptability by customers. Besides, food-delivery apps such as Swiggy and Zomato have also employed several thousand women employees in cities like Kochi, Jaipur, Pune and other Tier 2 cities.

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

Flexible work and the possibility of

combining paid and unpaid work could provide opportunities to women involved in care-giving activities but could also lead to the deterioration of their working conditions and increase in working hours, given the requirement of constant availability to both duties of care-giving and paid work.

While more women are joining the gig economy, they are paid less than men for the same jobs. As much as 60 per cent of the jobs are in food technology, 30 per cent in e-commerce and courier services and 10 per cent in hyper-local delivery. Another study done by BetterPlace (2019) reveals that challenges remain when hiring them for frontline roles, especially with regard to their safety.

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

and women face the possibility of being disadvantaged all over again.

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

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

No SC relief for telcos on ₹1.47L cr dues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

A Bench comprising



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

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

an in-chamber hearing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

standing spectrum usage charges.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The recovery of past dues by the government was based on adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of about ₹92,000 crore.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

With **Estimated cost: ₹4,05,45,869.00, Earnest Money : ₹4,05,459.00 Time of Completion - 6 (six) months. Last Date of bidding for bids : 14-02-2020 upto 15.00Hrs.**

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

NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER

Sd/-
(Er.P.S.Datta Muhuri)
Executive Engineer
Capital Complex Division, PWD(R&B)
ICA/C-2229/2019-20 Agartala, West Tripura

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjati, New Delhi-110049
CIN-L24302DL1973PLC189662
Email:-info@sunilhealthcare.com/ Website:
www.sunilhealthcare.com.
Tel:-+91-11-49435555/00, Fax: +91-11-43850087

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in pursuance to the Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 and other applicable regulation of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Monday, January 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at New Delhi**, inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the Un-Audited Financial Results for the 03rd quarter/nine months ended on December 31, 2019 of the financial year 2019-20

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

The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website www.sunilhealthcare.com and also available on the website of BSE Ltd. www.bseindia.com.

For Sunil Healthcare Limited
Santosh Kumar Sharma
Place: New Delhi Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Date: January 16, 2020 F-6817

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The law officer said the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ BEIJING/WASHINGTON

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

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

Trump, however, refused to roll back the massive tariff imposed on import of Chinese goods and said he will roll back the tariffs only if the second

phase of the trade deal is signed.

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

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

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

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

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

Goyal: India, US in advance-stage talks to resolve trade issues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said India and the US are in an "advance stage" of dialogue to resolve some of the pressing trade issues.

He said that both the countries can expand their trade relations which in future may result in a preferential or a free trade agreement.

"With the US, we are in an advance stage of dialogue to sort out some of the pressing issues," he said here.

The remarks assume significance as both the countries are negotiating a trade package to boost two-way commerce.

The minister said that both the nations are big trading partners and can further expand trade.

"...I would believe that going forward both countries will like to further expand that engagement which could lead to PTA (preferential trade agreement) and FTA (free trade agreement) in the years ahead," he added.

BUSINESS CORNER

SAIL LAUNCEHS STORY WRITING COMPETITION

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

AP MAHESHWARI, IPS, ASSUMED CHARGE AS DG CRPF

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



CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF VISITS NCC R DAY CAMP

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



DRIVE SMART DRIVE SAFE ORGANISES CAMPAIGN

New Delhi: To Arrest Alarming Road Deaths on Indian Roads, during The Road Safety Week 2020, as announced by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, a Nationwide Citizen's Campaign being organised by NGO Drive Smart Drive Safe had its campaign proceeding with mass pledge of Code of Conduct at Delhi Aerocity at GMR Square on 14th January, where more than 2000 people joined and observed a minute silence in the memory of Road Victims, participated in short walkathon and made Safety Human Chain. NGO, Drive Smart Drive Safe alongwith SIAM & many other likeminded organisations has launched the campaign titled #IndiaAgainstRoadCrash #IARC2020 during the 31st National Road Safety week. The campaign started on 11th January 2020, as part of the Road Safety Week announced by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways from AttariWagah Border where around fifty thousand people took the safety pledge in one go which itself is a record. Never ever has such large number of people have taken a safety pledge collectively. Lacs of people are expected to join the campaign from all over the country in more than 70 Locations.



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

"Both sides held extensive discussions on a variety of issues of mutual interest, like Border Haats, joint study for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), CEOs' Forum, sharing of trade data, regional connectivity initiatives, harmonization of standards, upgradation of border trading infrastructure and facilitation of business visas," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

He said that India believes in fair play and equal treatment to all the countries. "I don't think we have put any curbs on imports from Malaysia, and neither we are contemplating nor we have put any curbs on Turkey," he said here at the Raisina Dialogue. The Minister said that any import curbs being imposed by India is only to protect interest of the country and it is uniform in nature.

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Banks credit grew by 7.57 per cent to ₹100.44 lakh crore while deposits rose by 9.77 per cent to ₹132.10 lakh crore in the fortnight to January 2, according to the Reserve Bank data. In the year-ago period, banks loans stood at ₹93.37 lakh crore while deposits at ₹120.33 lakh crore.

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

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

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



from 4 per cent in the corresponding month of 2018.

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

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

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

Mega job mela in Kandhamal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

On 10th January 2020, the mega job mela was organized at Boudh where 2,000 youth from Kantamal and Boudh Block registered their name for placement. Total 21 companies participated, selecting 700 youth. Samanta has been trying his best for last 6 months to bring more companies to the mega job mela to ensure maximum placement. Steps were taken to aware more and more youth of Kandhamal parliamentary constituency to participate in the mega job mela and proper training was given for placement before the job mela. District administration and staff of the MP tried their very best for this.

Sensex, Nifty fail to hold life highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmarks Sensex and Nifty on Thursday eked out gains but retreated from record highs touched in early trade as optimism over US-China trade deal short-lived after investors weighed macroeconomic issues like higher bank NPAs and a spike in retail inflation.

Starting off on a bullish note, the 30-share BSE Sensex went on to hit its life-time high of 42,059.45 in early deals. It, however, briefly moved into the negative territory before staging a recovery.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty also touched its all-time intraday high of 12,389.05 in early trade. It, however, closed at 12,355.50, showing a gain of 12.20 points, or 0.10 per cent.

Nestle India was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.23 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, HUL, Bharti Airtel, RIL, TCS, PowerGrid and Titan.

Of the 30 Sensex constituents, 12 closed in the green and 18 in the red.

Sectorally, BSE realty, consumer durables, healthcare, telecom, FMCG, energy and auto indices ended up to 0.97 per cent higher. On the other hand, metal and oil and gas were among the losers.

In the broader market, BSE midcap and smallcap indices gained up to 0.78 per cent. "The main indices are seeing a mild pause in the trajectory after the solid performance in the last one-month. It may wait and analyse the upcoming key companies' Q3 results. Globally, the completion of the US-China trade deal and sudden jump in consumer inflation and NPAs in India are impacting the main indices. But broad market is still very solid in expectation of re-rate in valuation supported by revamp in earnings growth," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Globally, investors heaved a sigh of relief after the US and China on Wednesday signed the first phase of a trade deal, concluding more than a year of tough negotiations between the two largest economies of the world.

Bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended higher. While Shanghai closed in the red. European markets too started on a positive note.

Brent crude oil futures rose 0.52 per cent to USD 64.33 per barrel.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Farm sector growth is likely to be higher at 3.1 per cent in the current fiscal compared with 2.9 per cent in 2018-19, government think-tank NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand said on Thursday.

More competition and private investment is the need of the hour, he said, adding that the role of private sector in Indian agriculture sector has to come in a big way.

"India's farm sector growth for the current fiscal is expected to remain higher at 3.1 per cent," Chand said while addressing an industry body ASSOCHAM event here.

The overall farm sector growth stood at 2.9 per cent in the 2018-19 fiscal. It was 2 per cent and 2.1 per cent in the first and second quarter of the 2019-20, respectively.

Emphasising on private investment, Chand said the face of agriculture from traditional to modern, and movement of agriculture from present stage to higher evolution will not happen without active involvement of private sector.

"Unless we increase corporate sector's investment and involve them from seed and continuing it up to sale, it would be difficult to cause a breakthrough in growth of agriculture and doubling farmers' income," he said in a statement.

Chand also said that the NITI Aayog was trying to convince the Central government to make up its mind in drafting a Model Land Lease Act.

With regard to the implementation of the model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act and contract farming law, he said, "I think we need to persuade the states, we are already trying to do it that those two acts are adopted by the states".

In his keynote address, National Rainfed Area Authority (NREA) CEO Ashok Dalwai said: "To avoid food wastage, we need to build an infrastructure to store what we cannot consume".

Horticulture Commissioner BN Srinivasa Murthy said that India could easily compete with any western country in food value chain partnerships if the country focused on micro-level products like coconut, honey, wine and more.

Farm sector growth may reach 3.1% in this fiscal, says NITI Aayog member

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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India's palm oils import dipped over 8 pc in Dec 2019: SEA

New Delhi (PTI): India's import of palm oils declined by 8.64 per cent to 7,41,490 tonnes in December 2019, Industry body Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) said on Thursday.

India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, had imported 8,11,700 tonne palm oils in December 2018.

The country's total vegetable oil imports declined to 11.28 lakh tonne in December 2019, compared to 12.11 lakh tonne in the year-ago period.

The share of palm oil is more than 60 per cent of the country's total vegetable oil imports.

According to SEA, import of palm oils have declined, while that of soft oils have risen due to reduction in the duty difference between the two oils.

Among palm oil products, import of crude palm oil (CPO) declined to 6,31,824 tonne in December 2019, from 6,70,244 tonne in the year-ago period, as per the SEA data.

The shipment of RBD palmolein dropped to 94,816 tonne, from 1,30,459 tonne, while that of crude palm kernel oil (CPKO) rose to 14,850 tonne from 10,997 tonne in the said period.

Among soft oils, import of sunflower oil declined to 1,97,842 tonne in December 2019 from 2,35,824 tonne in the year-ago period.

Amfi pitches for debt-linked saving schemes with tax benefits in Budget proposal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mutual funds industry body Amfi has requested the government to allow low cost debt-linked saving schemes, with tax benefits, to deepen bond market, and lower holding period in gold and commodity ETFs to one year from existing three years for LTCG purposes.

In its Budget proposals to the Finance Ministry, the industry body has also demanded that the government recognise mutual funds (MFs) as specified long-term assets, qualifying for Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG), as well as bring ULIPs of life insurance companies and equity MF schemes on par.

The mutual fund body has also asked for dividend distribution tax (DDT) exemption for EPFO, NPS and insurance companies investing in MF schemes and pass-through status for income tax purpose to those Category III AIFs which make 65 per cent investments in listed equities.

"Amfi's suggestions have been in the Budget proposal list for a few years. We are hoping this time our long-pending submissions get addressed, which would help take the Indian MF industry not only to the next level of growth but also help in contributing to making economy stronger, especially with deepening of bond market, making long term availability of funds for infrastructure growth, and reducing the fiscal deficit by shifting investments from pure gold to gold ETFs," Amfi Chief Executive NS Venkatesh said.

Some of the proposals are also aimed at bringing parity with comparable investment avenues and making mutual funds more retail investor friendly, he added.

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) said that mutual funds should be allowed to introduce low-cost, lower-risk tax-exemption-linked debt-linked savings schemes (DLSS) on the lines of equity linked saving schemes (ELSS). It further proposed that investments up to ₹1.5 lakh under DLSS be eligible for tax benefit, subject to a lock in period of 5 years. At present, equity-linked savings schemes qualify for tax benefits under Section 80 CCC of the Income Tax Act for an investment limit of up to ₹1.5 lakh in a fiscal year.

In order to make gold and commodity ETFs more attractive, the industry body has proposed to lower the holding period for LTCG purposes to 1 year.

NIFTY 50

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

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists 500 stocks and their price movements.

ASIANPAINT

Table with columns: 1838.20, 1845.00, 1829.75, 1834.95. Lists specific stock prices for Asian Paints.

CIPLA

Table with columns: 484.00, 487.25, 478.80, 480.30. Lists specific stock prices for Cipla.

KRBL

Table with columns: 273.00, 276.00, 271.00, 271.00. Lists specific stock prices for Krbl.

MAHSEAMLES

Table with columns: 435.00, 454.00, 421.35, 422.90. Lists specific stock prices for Mahseamles.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists 50 stocks from the Nifty Next 50 index.

CUMMINSIND

Table with columns: 584.00, 597.00, 584.00, 591.40. Lists specific stock prices for Cummins Industries.

NILKAMAL

Table with columns: 1244.65, 1544.15, 1411.15, 1498.85. Lists specific stock prices for Nilkamal.

IRCON

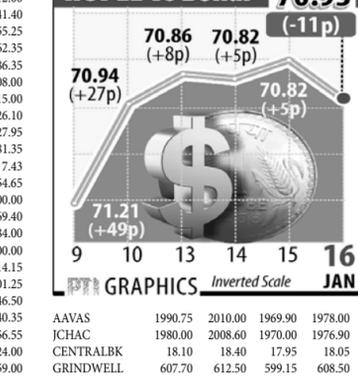
Table with columns: 458.80, 463.40, 438.30, 442.40. Lists specific stock prices for Irccon.

AMBER

Table with columns: 1330.00, 1308.85, 1324.00, 1324.00. Lists specific stock prices for Amber.

AAVAS

Table with columns: 1990.75, 2010.00, 1969.90, 1978.00. Lists specific stock prices for Aavas.



Trump impeachment: US House sends historic case to Senate

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

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



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

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

The managers were named by House Speaker Nancy

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

"This is what an impeachment is about," she said earlier, announcing the seven-member prosecution team led

by Congressman Adam Schiff, chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

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

White House 'violated law' on Ukraine aid: Watchdog

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

The damning report from the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office says it "issued a legal decision concluding that the Office of Management and Budget violated the law when it withheld approximately \$214 million appropriated to DOD (Department of Defense) for security assistance to Ukraine." AFP

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

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

All of this work was supposed to be done by the House, not the Senate!"

The 435-member House, where Democrats enjoy a majority, on December 18 charged Trump with "high crimes and misdemeanors" and impeached him for pres-

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

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

vict and remove him from office. PTI

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

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

Trump has strongly denied allegations he ordered a campaign pressuring Ukrainian officials to investi-

gate the business dealings of former vice president Biden and his son, part of the impeachment inquiry that will formally read out charges facing the president in the Senate on Thursday.

Lev Parnas, an associate of Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, told MSNBC on Wednesday that "President Trump knew exactly what was

going on."

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs Lilamani Prasad W/o Late Maj Gen Niranjan Prasad R/o D-117 Sector-40, Noida died on 10/06/2019. As per her Last Will and Testament dated 04.12.2009 which is duly registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Noida at No-1146, Book No.3, Vol. No. 158 on pages 591 to 600 on 04.12.2009, Property residential Plot No D-117, Sector-40, Noida are being transferred to Lt. Col. Bishan Dutt (Retd) S/O Shri Narotam Phulara R/o D-117, Sector-40, Noida. Anyone having any objections may inform to Residential Plots Division, New Okhla Industrial Development Authority, Sector-6, Noida within 30 days of publishing of this notice with relevant documents.

Lt. Col. Bishan Dutt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Princi Gupta, W/o Mr. Deepak Gupta, R/o E-51, Sector-51, Noida, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) 201301 hereby declare that The Princi Gupta & Princy Gupta is Same Person. In Future I will be known as Princi Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Mr. Praveesh Kumar issued by ICICI Bank Ltd having ID card no. 09434 has been found missing and or lost on building the same said ID card no. 09434. The said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager, Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Ltd, 10 TOWER SECTOR 8 ROHINI, DELHI - 110085. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the same said ID card no. 09434. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own risk and the bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

Date: 08/01/2020 For ICICI Limited
Place New Delhi SD TOWER ROHINI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the flat and shares more particularly described in the schedule hereunder written is being transferred in name of Mrs. Gurub Kaur legal heirs of Mr. Jagir Singh all persons having any claim in respect thereof by way of sale, exchange, gift, mortgage, charge, trust, inheritance, possession, lease, lien or otherwise whatsoever are requested to inform the same in writing to the undersigned having their Sanjiban Halder & contact no. 9999094604 within 10 days from the date hereof failing which, the claim(s) if any, of such person(s) will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and the transfer shall be completed.

SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO
Property No. 121513 (Old No. 1215/10) measuring 140 sq. yds. under Kharsa No. 93 at Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019
S. K. Gupta (Advocate)

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

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

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

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

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

if it saw none of its promised economic benefits. After the January 3 airstrike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the architect of Iran's regional military operations, it said it would abandon all restrictions in the nuclear deal. Thus far, however, it has only modestly increased its nuclear activity.

In recent months it has boosted its enrichment of uranium to 4.5 per cent — higher than the 3.67 per cent limit set by the agreement but far from the 20 per cent enrichment it was engaged in before the deal. Uranium must be enriched to 90 per cent to be used in a nuclear weapon.

Putin cements power as Russian Duma votes for new PM

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

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

Putin proposed sweeping changes to the constitution. Medvedev served as president in 2008-2012, keeping the seat warm for Putin who continued calling the shots as prime minister when he was forced to step down from the top job due to term limits.

Under Medvedev, the constitution was amended to extend the presidential term from four years to six, although it limits the leader to two consecutive terms.

Mishustin vowed to focus on social issues and improve living standards.

"We have all the necessary resources to fulfill the goals set by the president," he said.

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

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

Putin proposed sweeping changes to the constitution. Medvedev served as president in 2008-2012, keeping the seat warm for Putin who continued calling the shots as prime minister when he was forced to step down from the top job due to term limits.

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Putin has kept his longtime ally Medvedev in his close circle, appointing him to the newly created post of deputy head of the presidential Security Council.

The 53-year-old Mishustin is a career bureaucrat who has worked as the tax chief for the past 10 years, keeping a low profile and showing no political ambitions.

He has won a good reputation among experts who praised him for boosting tax collection and streamlining Russia's rigid tax administration system. AP

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

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

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

But protesters say Beijing is already renegeing on that promise, while uncertainty swirls around what might happen when the deadline expires.

On Thursday Lam said the city's continued freedoms were contingent on the city not challenging Beijing.

"Only if we insist on implementing the 'one country, two systems' principle and practice it continuously and fully... Then I think there will be enough grounds for 'one country, two systems' to move ahead smoothly and there would be no change after 2047," Lam said during Thursday's appearance in the legislature.

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

The protests are fuelled by fears that the city is losing freedoms under an increasingly authoritarian Beijing.

Under a "one country, two systems" deal agreed ahead of the city's 1997 handover, authoritarian China has allowed Hong Kong to keep key liberties and its capital system for fifty years.

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She then called on the city's youth not to damage the principle because of "temporary misunderstandings."

"Otherwise, what they are worried about will be brought about by themselves," she added. AFP

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BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI
COMPANY PETITION NO. CA (CAA)-147/ND/2019 OF 2019 CONNECTED WITH IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2013 AND

IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF DEMERGER BETWEEN:
MEZBAAN HOTELIERS PRIVATE LIMITED, a Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1965 and having its registered office at S-137, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017

-----Petitioner 1/Transferor Company

And
MEZBAAN HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED, a Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1965 and having its registered office at S-137, Dayanand Marg, Near MCD Park, New Delhi-110017

-----Petitioner 2/Transferee Company

Notice of Petition

A Petition under section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act 2013, for sanctioning the Scheme of Demerger between Mezzaan Hoteliers Private Limited and Mezzaan Holdings Private Limited was presented by the Petitioners companies on 16.12.2019 and the said matter is fixed for hearing before Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi on 06.02.2020. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Petitioner's representative/advocate, notice of his/her intentions signed by him or his advocate, with his/her name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner's representative/advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the Petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the Petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his/her affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of prescribed charges for the same.

Sd/-
CS Kumar Aniket
Practicing Company Secretary
Phone No. +91-9958890449
Email: kumaraniket@hotmail.com
RZB-27, 2nd Floor, Street No.5,
Gurudwara Road, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi 110045

Place: New Delhi
Dated: 15.01.2020

Intense fighting in Syria's Idlib kills 39: Monitor

Beirut: Intense fighting between pro-government forces and jihadist-led fighters in Syria's Idlib province killed at least 39 fighters overnight, a war monitor said on Thursday.

The violence, which saw air strikes, shelling and ground combat, further buried a ceasefire announced by Russia on Sunday in Idlib, the last major opposition bastion in the country.

Government and allied forces took two villages in their advance towards the key town of Maaret al-Numan, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

According to the Britain-



based war monitor, the fighting flared late on Wednesday in areas south of Maaret al-Numan, the key target of the Syrian government's latest military offensive.

At least 22 anti-government fighters were killed, most of them members of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a group that includes fighters from the former Al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria.

Seventeen government troops and allied militia were also killed in the fighting, said Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Observatory.

He added that government forces were now just seven kilometres (less than

five miles) from Maaret al-Numan, a town that was one of the bastions of the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad's rule.

Nearly nine years into the conflict, protests against the government are still held in some of the province's towns.

In the city of Idlib itself, 18 civilians were killed in air strikes on Wednesday, shattering the truce brokered by Moscow and rebel backer Ankara.

The fighting has prompted hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes in recent weeks, exposing them to a harsh winter.

HIGH TREASON CASE: Musharraf approaches Pak SC to suspend death sentence ruling by special court

Islamabad: Pakistan's self-exiled former dictator Pervez Musharraf on Thursday approached the Supreme Court to challenge the ruling of a special court that had handed him death sentence on charges of high treason.

The special court in Islamabad on December 17 last handed down the death penalty to the 74-year-old retired general, now based in Dubai, after six years of hearing the high-profile treason case against him.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) gov-

ernment led by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had filed the treason case against the former army chief in 2013 over the imposition of an extra-constitutional emergency in November 2007, which led to the confinement of a number of superior court judges in their homes and sacking of over 100 judges.

On Monday, Musharraf's trial in the high treason case was declared as "unconstitutional" by the Lahore High Court (LHC), leading to the annulment of the death sentence against the ex-Pakistan

Army chief.

In a huge reprieve for Musharraf, the LHC declared that the formation of the special court was "unconstitutional" and that the treason case against the former president was not prepared in accordance with the law.

Barrister Salman Safdar, the counsel for Musharraf, submitted the 90-page petition challenging the special court verdict in the top court. In the petition, the former president urged the Supreme Court to declare the special court ruling null and void. PTI

Greece to elect first woman Prez on Jan 22

Athens: Greece will elect its first woman president on January 22 after leading opposition parties on Thursday approved the government's nomination of top judge Ekaterini Sakellariopoulou.

Main opposition leftist leader Alexis Tsipras said Sakellariopoulou was an "exceptional judge" and a defender of human rights.

The socialist KINAL party also said it would support the nomination of the 63-year-old current head of the Council of State, Greece's top administrative court.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis had announced Sakellariopoulou's candidacy in a surprise televised address on Wednesday. "The time has come for Greece to open up to the future," Mitsotakis said, emphasizing that the selection breaks with tradition not only because Sakellariopoulou is female, but also because she is not a member of a political party. He said the choice "embodies unity and progress". A total of 200 votes is required to elect the new president for a five-year term.

Sakellariopoulou, a French-educated expert in constitutional and environmental law, is on track to secure over 260 votes. AFP

UN: Record 45 mn people need urgent food aid in southern Africa

AFP ■ JOHANNESBURG

An unprecedented 45 million people in southern Africa are in urgent need of food aid due to drought, flooding and economic hardship, the UN said Thursday.

"This hunger crisis is on a scale we've not seen before and the evidence shows it's going to get worse," World Food Programme (WFP) regional director Lola Castro said in a statement.

The agency warned that it had only secured \$205 million (184 million euros) of the \$489 million it requires.

"If we don't receive the necessary funding, we'll have no choice but to assist fewer of those most in need, and with less," Castro said.

Low growth, rising population, drought and floods have combined to worsen food insecurity in the region, with Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe the worst-hit.

EARTHWORK ETC.

E-Tender Notice No. CON/2019/Dec/11. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: Tender No. CE/CON/IA/G/EMB/2019/23. Name of work: Earthwork in filling to construct embankment including blanketing, construction of minor bridges, RUB/LHS, trolley refuges and other ancillary works of Y-connection for field Ch. 0.45 Km to 3.80 Km between Araria and Rahmatpur in connection with construction of New BG line from Araria to Galgalia of N.F. Railway. Approx. Value: ₹16,34,72,128.56. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 07-02-2020 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 07-02-2020. For Details Please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

For Chief Engineer/Con/3, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

WESTERN RAILWAY

OUTSOURCING OF COOKING OF FOOD

Chief Engineer, Western Railway, Churchgate invites the following E-Procurement Tender No.: W64/22/19/54. Description of Works Tender: Outsourcing of Cooking of food including serving and up keeping of kitchen in each camping coach / rest room (33 nos.) for track machines working in BCT/BRCT/MT/ADI/RJT divisions of Western Railway. Total Tender Value: ₹2,10,07,530/-. EMD: ₹2,55,000/-. Date of Closing of e-Tender Box at 15:00 Hrs: 11.02.2020. Date of Opening of e-Tender Box at 15:15 Hrs: 11.02.2020. Note: The complete information along with tender document of above e-Procurement Tender is available in website on <https://ireps.gov.in> upto the due date of tender opening.

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COMMISSIONING OF TUNNEL LIGHTING, POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM ETC.

E-Tender Notice No. DY.CEE/CON/SC/02/2020. Dated: 07-01-2020. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor (s)/firm(s) having valid electrical contract and supervisor license for the following work. Tender No.: EL/CON/SC/14/2019/B-S. Name of work: Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of tunnel lighting & power supply system and lighting & socket system for technical building cum power house for tunnel no. 1, 6, 8, 10, 12, 21, 23 in connection with Bhairabi - Sarang New BG line project. Tender value: ₹5,78,83,705.50. Earnest money: ₹5,78,83,705.00. Completion period: 180 days. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 05-02-2020 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 05-02-2020. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in & www.nfrvc.construction.org

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/CON/SC/1, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 for i) Tripping up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for system associated with Enhancement of Transmission Capacity of Spare ICT Scheme in Northern Region consisting of Petition 01: Asset-I: 315 MVA, 400/220 kV ICT at Mandola (COD: 1.11.2010) under spare ICT scheme in Northern Region and Asset-II: 315 MVA 400/220 kV ICT at Ludhiana (COD: 1.12.2011) under spare ICT scheme in Northern Region, Petition 02: Combined Assets consisting of Asset-I: 400 kV (Quad) Gurgaon - Manesar Transmission Line along with associated bays (DOCO 01.09.2012), Asset-II: 400/220 kV 500 MVA ICT-I at Manesar S/S along with associated bays (DOCO 01.06.2012), Asset-III: 400/220 kV 500 MVA ICT-II at Manesar S/S along with associated bays (DOCO 01.08.2012), Asset-IV: 125 MVA Bus Reactor at Manesar (DOCO 01.10.2012) and Asset-V: 02 Nos. of 220 kV Line Bays at Fatehabad Sub-station (DOCO 01.07.2011) covered under Transmission system associated with NRSS-XIII in Northern Region, Petition 03: Asset-I: Asset: 400 kV D/C (Quad) Kurukshetra-Jind TL alongwith associated bays (DOCO 11.12.2017) under Transmission System Strengthening in WR-NR transmission corridor for IPPs in Chhattisgarh in Northern region.

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

2. Tariff details: a) 2014-19 block

Petition No.	Asset	True up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19					₹ in lakh
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
Petition-1	Asset-I	322.96	323.41	312.98	302.62	292.61	
Petition-2	Asset-A (Combined Asset I, II, III & IV)	4,737.48	4,940.89	4,946.60	4,898.90	4,817.48	
	Asset-B (Asset V)	150.54	151.79	153.00	154.32	155.83	
Petition-3	Asset-1	-	-	-	1378.00	4829.36	

b) 2019-24 Block

Petition No.	Asset	Tariff for 2019-24 block					₹ in lakh
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Petition-1	Asset-I	509.50	507.84	506.15	505.15	503.47	
Petition-2	Combined Assets A & B	4470.29	4386.24	4299.69	4214.98	4129.34	
Petition-3	Asset-1	4753.12	4749.07	4644.57	4540.06	4435.22	

3. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

4. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application to be filed by any person, including the beneficiary, before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd and 4th Floor, Chandernagore Building, Jangpoh, New Delhi-110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its Corporate Office "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-26, Gurugram, Haryana-122001 within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurugram Sd/-
Date: 10.01.2020 Senior General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-120001, (Haryana) Tel.: 0124-2571700-719
Reg. Office: B-9, Qutub Institutional Area, Katwara Sara, New Delhi-110 016. Tel: 011-26560112, 26560121
www.powergridindia.com, CIN: L40101DL1993G0038121

A Maharatna PSU

WESTERN RAILWAY

BULK ADVERTISING RIGHTS FOR DISPLAY OF ADVERTISEMENTS

Sr. No.	e-Tender Notice No. & Date	Work & Location	Approx. Cost of work	EMD
1	CA11-NFR-OOH-BAROB-IV-35 dated 13.01.2020	Bulk advertising rights at Bandra ROB-South West Location (Group-IV) at Bridge No. 20 at Kms. 14/2B-3B for display of advertisements by dismantling existing hoarding structures of size 120' x 40' (1) & replacing with erection of new hoarding structure of size 60' x 40' (1) facing west, for a period of five years.	₹4,51,16,492/- (excluding taxes etc.)	₹9,02,400/-
2	CA11-NFR-OOH-LC-VR-ST-36 dated 13.01.2020	Bulk advertising rights for erection & display of Hoardings at Level Crossing gates between Virar-Surat section for 42 hoardings of size 20' x 10' for total display area 8400 sq. ft., for a Period of five Years.	₹1,50,51,590/- (excluding taxes etc.)	₹3,01,100/-

Executive: Sr. DCM, Date & Time of closing of online submission: upto 15.00 hrs. on 12.02.2020. Date & time of opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 12.02.2020. NOTE: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details Cost of tender and EMD shall be accepted only through online net banking or E-payment gateway. Bidder should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

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Trend Blazer

Hrithik's KNPH marks 20 years

Bollywood superstar HRITHIK ROSHAN recently posted a few emotional lines on social media to mark the completion of 20 years of his debut film *Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai*.

Sharing a video clip of his two characters, Rohit and Raj from the film, which turned him into a superstar overnight, Hrithik wrote: "I think the two emotions which best describe my journey of the past 20 years since KNPH is simply 'Fear' and 'Fearless,' both existing simultaneously and one is never devoid of the other. I feel terribly bad for fear. Cause it tries so hard. Fearless is a smart cookie, it only follows one rule. To keep going..."

Directed by his father Rakesh Roshan the film released on January 14, 2000.



'A lot of people have achieved so much more than me. I have earned love of friends. I feel that I still have to do a lot of work. I can do a lot of things. I can write much more poetry, lyrics and scripts. I can associate myself with causes in which I believe in. I can speak my mind at different panel discussions, so that I can bring in change in people's mindset.'

—Javed Akhtar

Actors SARA ALI KHAN and KARTIK ARYAN recently shared the first poster of their forthcoming film *Love Aaj Kal*.

Both of them shared the poster at Instagram. Introducing the two main characters — Zoe and Veer — director Imtiaz Ali wrote: "Meet Veer & Zoe, captured in their element. It's in these simple, candid moments that love plays peekaboo, right? #LoveAajKal." The poster shows two different timelines, 2020 and 1990.



Ruffalo gains 30 pounds in few weeks

Actor MARK RUFFALO is playing twins in *I Know This Much Is True* for which he had to take five weeks off to gain 30 pounds.

He's playing identical twins who look completely different, because they've lived different lives for 40 years.

Thomas is schizophrenic and has been on years of medication, while Dominick is not. In order to play the two men, Ruffalo first shot for all his scenes as Dominick for 15 weeks and then he took a few weeks off and gained 30 pounds.

"We didn't want it to be like I run and throw a wig on and do the same scene in the same day, so we took six weeks off to really separate these two guys," Ruffalo said.



Kyla Gill had never so much as touched a sewing machine or picked up a crochet hook two weeks ago. Now, she's hooked on crafting for critters 10,000 miles (16,000 km) away, to the point of temporarily putting aside her floor refinishing business in Pittsburgh. "I do hard labour so I'm rough with my hands. Sewing, knitting — that's just completely out of my realm," she said and added, "But to go to work the next day knowing that there are animals and people suffering? I just pretty much wiped my schedule clean and put my projects on hold."

Hoping to help the wildlife harmed in the Australian wildfires, thousands of crafters worldwide are churning out swaddling wraps for bats, hanging enclosures for kangaroos, and cozy pouches for wallabies and other animals. But confusion abounds about whether the items actually are needed or will be used.

The Animal Rescue Craft Guild, based in Australia, and associated groups have told their

Finding the right value

Thousands of crafters worldwide are creating goods in a bid to help the wildlife caught in the Australian fires. But will they be judiciously used?

members to pause work while they take stock of donated items. And some wildlife organisations say what they need most is money, not handmade goods, which can help pay for cages, medical supplies, specialised animal feed and other critical items, said Megan Davidson, CEO of Wildlife Victoria.

"While we have been overwhelmed by the kindness of people wanting to donate items for wildlife, physical donations of clothes, knitted items and food are very difficult for relief agencies to sort through, distribute and store — especially during peak periods like the current bushfire crisis," she said. "It is so lovely that people want to help. The most practical way to help right now is by a direct donation."



The unprecedentedly fierce fires in southeast Australia have claimed the lives of at least 28 people since September, destroyed more than 2,600 homes, mostly in New South Wales state. The area burned is larger than the US state of

Indiana. Half of the money will go to front-line responder groups, with the other \$25 million funding an advisory panel to analyse affected areas and plan for long-term habitat restoration.

A donator, Anna Key gathered together a bunch of sewing, knitting and crochet patterns approved by wildlife rescue groups and posted them on social media, due to which multiple Facebook groups popped up to collect donations.

Key, who lives in Yamba in New South Wales, called the response to what she's dubbed the #globalcraftmovement overwhelming but said participants should not be discouraged. "Rescuing our animals is a marathon, not a sprint," she said.

In Lee, New Hampshire, 10-year-old Gibson Griffith organised an event at his church to sew dozens of bed liners for crates and cages. About 15 people donated fabric and more than a dozen showed up to help make the liners.

In Haverhill, Massachusetts,

Kimberly McCullough had cut fabric for about 50 pouches and was about to start sewing when the confusion erupted.

McCullough has reached out to local animal shelters to see if they could use the items. "It really opened my eyes to ways crafters can help other animal rescue organisations," she said. "So, it felt better to realise, I cut all this stuff out and maybe it's not going to make it to Australia, but it might just make it to the Boston Animal Rescue League."

Similarly, Gill has no regrets about her efforts, which included staying up until 2 am one night, getting to the fabric store before it opened the next morning, sewing more than 60 pouches with her partner and learning how to crochet bird nests. They've become online friends with a woman in Australia, who has invited them to stay with her next year. "It's uplifting for her, and it made her feel better to see the humanity," she said. "It makes me cry. It really touches me." —AP



Next up, artist Pritam Mehta's medium of art is wood. This is an "unusual and rare" art form in India as the artist believes he hasn't come across anyone else doing it. It's followed in some Western countries. "Painting or colours have no role to play in pyrography since it's the fire flames which do the wonder here. They are used to create different pieces of art. There's a pen with a tungsten metal tip, which you can connect to a small machine and plug in to get the electric current. It then gets heated up, after which one can start creating artworks. There's also a small temperature control button on the machine," says the artist.

Through pyrography, Mehta creates different works of animals, birds and leaves. The artist also tries his hands on coffee table logs, wall hangings and *sandooks*. It is the wildlife and nature mostly that appeals him. "I have recently started making portraits of human beings too. We don't use any colour in this but just control the temperature and create images," he adds.

Talking about the difficulties of such an artform, he tells us that the biggest challenge of painting with fire is "guiding the flame" and trying to make it leave the kind of trace you want. He adds, "The second biggest challenge is preservation of the work. The soot is very fragile and sensitive to touch. I'm always holding my breath when working with a piece because anything that touches the surface will leave a trace. So it really demands a lot from you, including both your patience and attention at the same time."

Artist Sandeep Chhatraband, who is also a part of the exhibition, portrays the *ghats* of Varanasi through water colours and acrylics on canvas, which he sees as "unique, tranquil and full of energy."

(The exhibition is on till January 24 at DLF Mall of India.)

Yellow and blue trams amid a vintage background, black and white trees and grey railway lines, a faded red abstract work, the meaning of which one fails to figure out in the first glance, *ghats* of Varanasi and visuals of nature and wildlife... these are some of the landscapes brought to life on various canvases. The series, *Arth - Tribute to Shades of India*, clearly holds up our cultural mosaic at a time it is most under threat.

The exhibition features many traditional and contemporary artists showcasing different artforms made through diverse media. Artist Arpan Bhowmik, who is known for his *Monochrome Kolkata* series, highlights a few aspects of the city he grew up in via *A Journey Through Kolkata*. "Through this, I want to tell people about the nostalgia I feel for Kolkata. Its yellow taxis, trams, hand rickshaw lend a special identity to the city. So my paintings usually have a black and white background and these elements are coloured so that they remain the focal point," says he.

He uses the African canvas for most

AN ODE TO TRANQUILITY

Art exhibition, *Arth - Tribute to Shades of India*, features various traditional and contemporary artists whose works showcase the *ghats* of Varanasi, bring forth the nostalgia of Kolkata and the rare artform, pyrography. By SAKSHI SHARMA

of his works to use the water colour wash technique. His paintings have a water splash effect which makes the scenery look like a photograph of a city taken right after a rain shower. However, it is an acrylic which he has developed using the same technique in the past 20 years which lends it such a filter. He describes it as a "difficult artform but a serious medium" that lasts for over 100 years.

Next in line is Chennai-based contemporary Indian artist, A Viswam. Usually based on hues of yellow, burning red, cool green, deep blue and quiet grey, Viswam's paintings are either monochromes or come out in vibrant combinations. He says, "I work on unidentified elements of time and space through different combination of colours. The use of monochrome and colour varies with what I want to display. For instance, if I want to depict a morning

scene, it has to be filled with colours, while for evening, I would use black and white."

There's hardly any art exhibition in the South where the national award-winning artist hasn't been invited. But in North, he still has a long way to go to become a recognised face. And *Arth...* is also an attempt to make people aware about such artists and talent that is present across our country, adds he.

Many years ago, when I used to write extensively on mobile phones, I used to interact a lot with some European phone-makers, particularly the market leader from Finland. They used to pooh-pooh American mobile device makers. After all, European phones were more tech-savvy, loaded with million features and what not. Then, almost exactly 13 years ago, Steve Jobs got on stage and introduced the iPhone which changed everything as we know today. But I remember that in my previous organisation, I interviewed the chief executive of that Finnish phone-maker. And while this was before the iPhone came onto the market. After it was showcased, he quite clearly expected it to fail. After all, what did an American company know about making phones? Now, hindsight is always 20:20 that the chief executive was right that the devices that his company made were miles ahead of the first iPhone, technologically. But the iPhone had a completely intuitive touch interface, which became the game-changer and Americans loved it. It is only when you visit the United States, and in my case this yet another visit, that you realise how much larger the American market is. Its sheer size is massive. European phone-makers might have pooh-poohed Apple, but Apple broke the American market and iPhones started appearing on screens. It became the must-have device.

I am bringing this up because during my last trip to the US, I experienced the Tesla Model 3. And despite all the stories I had read about the production diffi-

The land of tech

Make no mistake, the future of car technology will be driven by the United States. Tesla has made sure of that



KUSHAN MITRA



culties that Tesla is having and the Twitter tirades of "wannabe" Bond villain and Tesla chief executive Elon Musk, it is only when you experience the Model 3, you realise that some European car-makers have a serious problem. I did not take a car from Tesla, instead I drove and was driven around in my brother-in-law's Model 3 in and around the Seattle Metropolitan Area in the Northwestern US. The excitement that he showed with his car made it obvious that he was a brand evangelist. But after driving around for a while, not just someone like me, who is plugged into the automotive industry, but anybody would understand why the Tesla Model 3 is such a game-changer.

The vehicle is the electric carmaker's "cheap" car, priced at around \$50,000-60,000 (₹36 lakh to ₹45 lakh) on the road. It is a lot more affordable than the Model X Sports Utility Vehicle and the Model S large sedan, both of which cost upwards of \$100,000 (₹75 lakh), and competes against



cars like the BMW 3-series, Mercedes-Benz C-Class and Audi A4 in terms of size, functionality and price. And when you get into a Tesla for the first time, you realise how basic it is inside. This is nowhere near the luxury and the button-heavy nature of the current BMW 3-series. There are a couple of rotary dials on the steering wheel, power window switches and painfully small buttons to open the door and that is it. Oh yeah, there is a giant touchscreen as well, and the most intuitive voice-activated controls on any

car. Sure, other cars have touchscreens as well but Tesla's system is the smoothest and best system I have ever used, and for this I have to praise their software and user experience engineers. The user inter-

face actually feels proper and the voice activation works. Believe me, try and use voice activation on some newly launched cars in India and you will get where I am coming from.

I drove (a bit) but the traffic in the United States is so well-behaved that I let the car drive. Tesla's "Autopilot" genuinely has to be experienced to be believed. I have used automated lane-tracking and radar-assisted cruise control systems on BMWs, Mercedes-Benz, Audis and Volvos in Europe and the Middle-east. Nothing comes close to Tesla's camera controlled system, which actually "sees" cars in and around you using an array of cameras mounted all over the car including the B-pillar between the front and rear doors. No other commercially available car has a system where the car decides to change to the fastest lane. And acceleration was stunning, even in the single-motor model I drove (there is a sour-wheel drive dual-motor model as well).

Yes, range is an issue. Even on the long-range version that I experienced, both, not just with my brother-in-law but also other friends in Seattle. The stated 300 miles (approximately 500 kilo-

meters) of range is a more "real" 180 miles (300 kilometers) on a single charge, much like the electric cars available in India today that claim around 300 kilometers of range but have a more realistic 200 kilometers. But users understand that if you use features such as the autopilot, you drain the battery sooner. However, in the tech-corridor of the United States between San Francisco and Seattle, where Tesla sales have skyrocketed in the past few months (these two cities are the largest markets for Tesla) there are lots of public chargers and superchargers. The latter allow you to charge the car to 75-80 per cent in about 15-20 minutes. All the while, you can be watching your favourite show on Netflix. Sure, you can't do a cross-country drive on a Tesla just yet but across the world most cars are used for daily commuting. And one will rarely use more than 50 percent of the battery in a single day.

I left Seattle mighty impressed with the Model 3, it might be too much for India and if import duties are not rationalised, it might never come to India, but it shows what the future of vehicles will be. The future will be driven by software and simplicity. While it might be too soon to determine whether battery-electric or hydrogen powered fuel-cells will drive the cars of the future in India, the future is already here in the United States. And more than the Model 3, I also left Seattle with a whole new impression of Elon Musk, he should stay off Twitter possibly, but as a visionary, I don't think anyone else comes close.



Salaam-e-Dilli brings the traditional flavours of Old Delhi to your candle-lit tables at Le Meridien, Gurugram, says SHAMBHAVI SURI

DELHI-6 ON MY PLATE



Old Delhi has captured the imagination of food lovers for centuries. The best time to experience the wide variety of food that it has to offer is during the winters when the warmth of the sun, peeping from the winding lanes of Delhi-6, reaches you. It is only then one can enjoy a hot and authentic Indian meal, dripping with ghee. #ComfortFood.

Bringing this experience outside of Delhi-6, Le Meridien, Gurugram, has introduced its first pop-up restaurant, Salaam-e-Dilli. In an open area, its ambience of a lavish but limited seating looks warm and welcoming. The lanterns and candlesticks seem romantic and exclusive, as though making promises to the customers of a memorable evening. And to make the bitterly cold weather a tad bit cosy and bearable, tall patio heaters are provided near each table. "The idea of going to Old Delhi during peak winters to enjoy the widespread Mughlai cuisine, so that the food doesn't make one sweat but warm, is what inspired us to have an outdoor restaurant," says chef Talat Mehmood Khan.

With the aroma of the tandoor in the air and the thought of kebabs on my mind, the first two plates arrive. The two kebabs — Chicken gilafi and Gosht seekh — are brought in a rustic-coloured plate with different oils leaving around it and served with some finely-chopped onion and green coriander chutney. After my first bite of the chicken gilafi, I realise the kebab is packed with spices. Well, it would be fair to call the dish a paradise of flavours. Though sharpness of the green chilli is quite evident in the kebab, the richness of the ghee aptly balances the level of spiciness, leaving behind a subtle heat on the palate. If the spices are too much to handle, a dip in the coriander chutney adds a freshness to the seekh, bringing the spice quotient down. While the Chicken gilafi is punched with spices, the Gosht (mutton) seekh kebab goes milder. It made me won-

der if anyone has ever had a Gosht seekh like this one before. The kebab melts in your mouth, the spices are well balanced and the fattiness from the mutton and the rich ghee that the kebab is poured with adds to the flavour. The charred smell from the tandoor is well defined, leaving a smoky yet buttery aftertaste, which makes you drool for more. This kebab is the definition for soul food.

Next up are Purani Dilli Murgh tikka and the Malai paneer seekh, served with chopped onions and green coriander chutney. My first thought is that the tikka was marinated in a spicy red paste — different from my idea of it as an ardent lover of the dish. This tikka has a creamier marination, which seems like a cross between a chicken tikka and a murghmalai tikka. As I dig my fork into it, it quickly falls off the bone. However, one bite of it, I realise that it's a creamy heaven. Its aftertaste is buttery and has some garlic flavour in it. It is for kebabs like these that food lovers from around the world fall in love with what Old Delhi has to offer. Well, this dish certainly does the place's speciality credo justice. The Malai paneer seekh, I feel, came to me as the right way to end the starters. The cheesy texture of the paneer and the doughy-ness of the white flour (maida) — which has been used as the binder of the kebab — cleanses all the spices off my palate.

Now, the main course makes its way. I refuse to agree that there could be a better substitute of Khameeri rotis to go with the traditional Mutton nihari. The nihari is served in a matka (earthen pot) and as I lift its lid, the aroma of fried onion and gin-

EVEN THOUGH I CANNOT STOP SAVOURING BIRYANI, TO END THE EVENING ON A SWEET NOTE, DELHI-6'S FAMOUS DESSERT, SHAHI TUKDA IS SERVED. DOING JUSTICE TO ITS NAME, IT IS ROYAL AND DECADENT. TOASTS, DIPPED IN SUGAR SYRUP, ARE LAYERED WITH RABRI AND PISTACHIOS, AND ARE SERVED HOT



ger captivate my senses. The dish is garnished with finely-sliced ginger and green chillies that act as major flavour enhancers. The mutton is so tender, it melts in my mouth at once. The rich flavour of the bone marrow is packed in the gravy of the nihari. And the fried onion adds a rustic flavour to it. And as always, the ghee reduces the heat of the chillies, leaving a mesmerising flavour on my tastebuds. The dish, cooked to perfection, represents what the culinary wizards of Old Delhi are famous for — bringing the heartiest food that leaves you in awe of it.

A whiff of cardamom comes through and before I realise, the Gosht biryani is served. The colour of the rice is saffron and the fragrance of the aromatics in the biryani is breathtaking. The mutton, like the previous one, falls off the bone and has the flavour of the spices infused in it. Every grain of this biryani has

the flavour of the khade masale (a combination of the essential whole Indian spices) — star anise, cinnamon sticks and cardamom — used to prepare the dish. Cooking a biryani with such delicacy and perfection is truly an art.

Even though I cannot stop savouring the biryani, to end the evening on a sweet note, Delhi-6's famous dessert, Shahi tukda is served. Doing justice to its name, it is royal and decadent. Toasts, dipped in sugar syrup, are layered with rabri and pistachios, and are served hot. This is an all-time classic and a speciality of Old Delhi. Certainly, the perfect way to end my evening too, making me realise that just as Old Delhi ensures that nobody will go home without a taste on their lips that one would remember for the rest of their life, Salaam-e-Dilli has been quite successful in replicating the experience.



Bake it till you make it

The perfect baked potato begins with russets

A fluffy baked potato is a glorious thing, but too often you slice into the potato and it is shiny and waxy, not light and creamy in texture.

Baking a potato is the easiest thing in the world, right? Then why are so many potatoes lacking in texture and flavour?

First, for the traditional baked potato that is going to be loaded with toppings, you must buy a Russet potato. Russets have a thicker skin and a beautiful starchy, snowy — almost meaty — interior that soaks up all your butter, cheese and sour cream. I love making smashed potatoes with red new potatoes or baby Yukon gold potatoes, but only a Russet will do for a "baked potato."

For my latest cookbook, *Steak and Cake*, I tested several popular ways of baking potatoes. I have friends who swear by wrapping the potato in foil before baking. I have always baked the potato without the foil but I tried both ways. I baked them at 350 degrees Fahrenheit and at 400 degrees too. The potatoes took a bit longer to bake at 350 but they were fluffier, and had a better crust and interior texture. Generally, when you cook anything at a higher temperature, the outside gets done before the inside. That means you risk an overdone exterior by the time the interior is cooked through. Potatoes are no exception. That's why I prefer a lower temperature. But if you like to bake your potatoes at a higher temp, do so. It is all about what works. The potato wrapped in

foil was waxy and had a hard texture even when fully cooked. The foil also prevents the skin from becoming crusty, which I think is the best part of a baked potato. If you are a fan of twice-baked potatoes, you have to bake them unwrapped or the skin/shell will be too soft to re-stuff.

When I bake potatoes, I preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and place a sheet of heavy-duty aluminum foil on the bottom shelf of the oven in case any of the juices drip. After washing and drying the potatoes, I coat them with either a little regular Crisco shortening or olive oil — both work well. Next, I prick them four or five times with a fork to let steam escape while they are baking. Sometimes, I sprinkle them with a little kosher salt to add to the skin's flavor, but it doesn't affect the interior. I place the potatoes in the centre of the oven, directly on the oven rack set over the foil. Drips are generally not an issue for Russet potatoes, but they are a big issue for sweet potatoes, which I bake exactly the same way.

After an hour of baking, I stick the end of a paring knife into the potato to gauge its doneness. It generally takes another 20 minutes to be perfect, but it depends on the potato's size.

A little tip for those who like to make twice-baked potatoes: Always bake three potatoes for two finished potatoes, so you can mound the filling over the top. I make them often for dinner parties since they are best made in advance and reheated just before serving. —AP

gorge us

Infinity, Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar presents Delhi Darbaar Food Festival which brings back the traditional food from Chandni Chowk Ki Galiyaan. The festival offers delicacies like Changezi murgh, Murgh korma, Dal gosht, Paneer taka-tin, Anjeer akhrot ka kofta, Murgh ki chaap, Palak patta chaat, Kalami wada chaat, Aloo tikki, Matar kulcha, Golgappa and many more. **Time:** 7 pm to 11 pm **Date:** Till January 25 **Price:** ₹1,999 plus taxes (per person) **Venue:** Infinity, Crowne Plaza, Mayur Vihar, Noida.

Enjoy the juiciest strawberries at Foodhall's Strawberry market, conceptualised specially to get your hands on the best of the produce of the season. The objective of the market is to offer guests the best of the seasonal picks of the year in a marketplace format. **Date:** January 18, 19 **Time:** 11 am to 9 pm **Venue:** Foodhall, DLF Promenade.

TK's Oriental Grill at Hyatt Regency marks its silver jubilee by offering an array of Japanese, Thai and Indonesian specialties along with champagne or sake. The restaurant also presents perfect amalgamation of authentic Far East cuisine and culture. **Date:** Every Tuesday **Venue:** TK's Oriental Grill, Hyatt Regency Delhi, Bhikaji Cama Place.

Ardor 2.1 has come up with a delectable Delhi6 Amenu that offers dishes like *Japani samosa*, *nagori* along with cocktails like *Halwa aaj manu bhai Chivas pilayega*, *Modi vs Mamta*, Starbucks VA Sardarbaksh and India's first winter beer, Delhi 6. **Time:** 12 am to 12 pm **Price:** ₹245 onwards (plus taxes) **Venue:** Ardor 2.1, Outer Circle, Connaught Place.

Koolchas presents its new winter menu which has been designed keeping the concept of bites-on-the-move in mind. It offers *Vada koolcha* and fusion *koolchas*, which can be accompanied with the beverages like Coffee *wali chai*, a distinct hot tea with the aroma of coffee flavour mixed with spices and herbs. **Price:** ₹510 for two **Venue:** Sushant Lok-1 & Sector 14, Guruguram.

La Roca, Aerocity, offers delicious Land heart-warming food along with delectable handcrafted cocktails. It offers delicacies like Baked Asian cottage cheese roll, *Kala murgh tikka*, Malabar fish *tikka*, Baked chicken and sundried tomato puffs, Lamb meatballs with crispy noodles, Veg *Massaman* curry with burnt garlic rice, Fettuccini with olive cream, Grilled fish. **Time:** 12 am to 12 pm **Date:** Till January **Price:** ₹1,200 plus taxes (for two).

Desiccated coconut: 5 gm
Fresh mint leaves: 1 gm

METHOD

- Boil low fat sweetened milk in a small stock pot and add *sabudana* until it softens and becomes starchy.
- Add saffron (*kesar*) for flavour and mix.
- Add Australian almond flakes, desiccated fresh coconut, silver balls and fresh mint on top for garnishing.
- Served the kheer in a glass jar as it keeps the flavours intact and reduces the chances of getting spoiled.
- Serve hot or chilled as per preference.

Courtesy: Chef Anshu Raj, Caterspoint.

SPINACH KOFTA CURRY

WHAT YOU NEED

For kofta stuffing:

- Oil: 5 ml
- Black cumin seeds: 1 gm
- Ginger (chopped): 3 gm
- Green chilli (chopped): 1 gm
- Spinach (blanched): 50 gm
- Dried fenugreek: 1 gm
- Salt to taste
- Apricot: 10 gm
- Almond (chopped): 10 gm
- Cashew nut (chopped): 7 gm
- Prunes (chopped): 12 gm

For kofta:

- Peanuts (roasted): 13 gm

Sesame seeds (roasted): 10 gm
Coriander seeds (roasted): 4 gm
Cumin seeds (roasted): 2 gm
Kashmiri chilli (roasted): 8 gm
Fry cashew nut: 3 gm
Fresh coconut (roasted): 12 gm
Fried onion: 8 gm
Turmeric: 2 gm
Ghee: 35 gm
Garlic (chopped): 12 gm
Ginger (chopped): 9 gm
Onion (chopped): 35 gm

METHOD

For kofta stuffing:

- Heat oil in a pan, add black cumin seeds and allow them to splutter.

Now add chopped ginger and chilli. Then add spinach and sauté and cook it for three minutes.
Now mix rest of the ingredients and keep it for a while.

For kofta:

- Make paste of all the ingredients except *ghee*, ginger, garlic and chopped onion.
- Heat *ghee* in a pan, add chopped garlic and onion and sauté till onion turn light brown.
- Now add chopped ginger, the paste of roasted spices and cook on slow heat.
- Now add 500 ml of water and allow it to simmer for 25 minutes.
- Now add *koftas* in the sauce and serve hot.

Courtesy: Chef Aditya Jha at InQ.

BADAMI KESARIYA SABUDANA KHEER

WHAT YOU NEED

- Boiled soaked *sabudana*: 100 gm
- Low fat sweetened milk: 220 ml
- A pinch of saffron
- Australian almond flakes: 10 gm

CHOCOLATE STORY WITH CHILLI POPCORN

WHAT YOU NEED

- Chocolate brownie: 200 gm
- Pop corn: 50 gm
- Chilli powder: 1/4 tsp
- Chocolate sauce
- Melted butter: 1 tsp
- Chocolate ice cream: 2 scoops

METHOD

- Microwave the pop corn kernels.
- Add melted butter and chilli powder.
- Then crush the brownie and drizzle chocolate sauce.
- And now plate it with chocolate ice cream and serve.

Courtesy: Chef Nishant Chaubey at Street Storys.

RECIPES



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Courtesy: Chef Aditya Jha at InQ.

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

DEVILS CATCH PACK OF WOLVES

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

over the advancing Ruddy.

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

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

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

HD QUALITY

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



Gonzalo Higuain celebrates after scoring during the Italian Cup soccer match

AFP ■ MILAN

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

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

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

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

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

When his Argentine compatriot played a pass one little behind him, Dybala spun and floated the ball onto Higuain's chest and he strode forward and scored. "That was a goal of rare beauty, to see three or four exchanges like that at high speed. It was worth the price of the ticket," said Juve coach Maurizio Sarri.

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

and Dybala converted the penalty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Kylian Mbappe, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring goal

Mbappe returns to haunt Monaco

AFP ■ PARIS

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

The victory kept PSG eight points clear at the top.

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

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

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

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

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

It was a decision which paid dividends when Di Maria floated over a cross for Mbappe to score the opener.

Monaco goalkeeper Benjamin Lecomte denied Mbappe on two further occasions in the first half.

Neymar made it 2-0 from the penalty spot in injury-time after Kamil Glik had fouled Layvin Kurzawa.

Sarabia's goal was set-up by fellow substitute Marco Verratti

before Mbappe completed the rout of the club he had joined in 2015.

"With our four attackers, we can carry out our plan," added Tuchel.

"For Icardi, it wasn't a negative game. It's a good mix.

"Kylian and Neymar carry the ball a lot, Mauro is used to working with us, for the team, to open spaces.

"He hasn't scored in two matches, but he works. There are no doubts over him. He added: "The objective was to win the game, take the three points to improve our position.

"We have the best players but I also want to have the best team in each match." For Monaco coach Robert Moreno, the defeat was a sobering experience coming after Sunday's encouraging draw in the French capital.

"I am very happy and proud of my team," said Moreno after his first home game in charge saw Monaco's six-match win streak at Stade Louis II end.

"It's a different result to Sunday but tonight we conceded three goals on the counter-attack and a penalty.

"At 3-1, we took risks but had we scored a second then the mental situation would have changed and the last few minutes would have been interesting."

Rennes are third in the table, five points behind Marseille and 13 off PSG after a 1-0 win over Nimes.

Adrien Hunou scored the winner in the 64th minute to ensure a sixth win in the last seven games.

Sania in Hobart semis

PTI ■ HOBART

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza's comeback from maternity leave continued to be a success as she entered the women's doubles semifinals of the Hobart International with Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok here on Thursday.

Sania and Kichenok defeated the American duo of Vania King and Christina McHale 6-2, 4-6, 10-4 in a contest that lasted one hour and 24 minutes.

The fifth-seeded Indo-Ukrainian combination will now lock horns with the Slovenian-Czech pair of Tamara Zidansek and Marie Bouzkova.

Zidansek and Bouzkova got the better of Canada's Sharon Fichman and Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko 6-3, 3-6, 10-4 in their last-eight stage clash.

Sania and Kichenok made a strong start and broke their opponents twice to take the lead. They also did well to save four break points in the opening set.

The second set went on serve till the eighth game

Sania and Kichenok defeated the American duo of Vania King and Christina McHale 6-2, 4-6, 10-4 in a contest that lasted one hour and 24 minutes. The fifth-seeded Indo-Ukrainian combination will now lock horns with the Slovenian-Czech pair of Tamara Zidansek and Marie Bouzkova

before King and McHale broke Sania and Kichenok to draw level in the contest. However, the third set



Sania Mirza in a file picture

Sania Mirza/Twitter

was a stroll in the park for Sania and her partner as they dominated their opponents with superior serves.

The 33-year-old Sania is returning to WTA circuit after two years. During her two-year break, she battled injury breakdowns before taking a formal break in April 2018 to give birth to her son Izhaan.

She is married to Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik. Before the ongoing event,

Sania last played at China Open in October 2017.

A trailblazer in Indian tennis, Sania is a former world No.1 in doubles and has six Grand Slam titles to her credit.

She retired from the singles competition in 2013 after becoming the most successful Indian woman tennis player. In 2007, she attained a career-high 27th position in the WTA singles chart.

Shapovalov falls to French qualifier Humbert in Auckland



Denis Shapovalov plays a return shot

ATP/Twitter

AFP ■ AUCKLAND

World number 13 Denis Shapovalov crashed out of the ATP Auckland

Classic Thursday, beaten in straight sets by French qualifier Ugo Humbert.

There was only one break in each set of the even-

ly contested clash with Humbert winning 7-5 6-4, clinching the victory with the Canadian's sixth double fault. "I'm really, really, happy, it's one of the biggest wins of my career," the 57th-ranked Humbert said as he advanced to a semi-final showdown big-serving American John Isner.

"I tried to play each ball, I tried to stay focused and my plans were working."

Isner survived on his thunderous serve with an impressive 25 aces to overcome Kyle Edmund in the opening quarter-final.

While Edmund had the better of the fourth seed for much of the match, Isner served his way out of trouble when it mattered and the Briton was unable to convert any of his nine break points.

Both sets went to a tiebreak before the American won 7-6, (7/5), 7-6, (7/5) and expressed relief at making the final four.

One step away

Prajnesh enters final round, Nagal crashes out of Australian Open qualifiers

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India's top-ranked singles player Prajnesh Gunneswaran is one win away from sealing a place in the Australian Open main draw after progressing to the final round of the qualifiers but it was curtains for compatriot Sumit Nagal here on Thursday.

Prajnesh, ranked 122 in the world, had to battle it out for one hour and 22 minutes to get past Yannick Hanfmann of Germany 1-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Prajnesh, seeded 17th in the qualifiers, will take on Ernests Gulbis of Latvia in the final round.

Gulbis defeated Argentina's Federico Coria 6-3 ,1-6, 6-2 in another second round qualifying match.

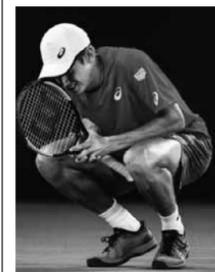
Prajnesh defeated local wild card Harry Bourchier 6-2, 6-4 in his opening round.

Earlier in the day, Nagal suffered a straight-set loss in the first round to crash out of the men's singles qualifiers.

Nagal, seeded 21st in the qualifiers, was shown the door by Mohamed Safwat of Egypt 7-6, (2) 6-2 after a one hour and 28 minute contest.

Ramkumar Ramanathan on Tuesday made an early exit along with lone Indian contender in women's singles qualifier, Anika Raina.

De Minaur out of Australian Open with abdominal tear



Alex de Minaur in action

Alex de Minaur/Twitter

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

A devastated Alex de Minaur withdrew from the Australian Open Thursday with an abdominal tear, describing it as "really serious".

The world number 21 and Australia's top player pulled out of the Adelaide International with the same problem and has not been able to recover for his home Grand Slam.

"It's not great. Not



PV. Sindhu in action

PTI/File Picture

PTI ■ JAKARTA

World champion shuttler P V Sindhu suffered a quarter-final defeat at the hands of Sayaka Takahashi of Japan in a closely-fought women's singles contest to bring curtains on the Indian challenge in the Indonesia Masters here on Thursday.

Sindhu frittered away a one-game lead to lose 21-16, 16-21, 19-21 in a thrilling quarter-final match that lasted one hour and six minutes.

World number six Sindhu had a 4-2 head-to-head record against the 14th ranked Japanese before Thursday's match.

Takahashi had defeated another top Indian, Saina Nehwal, in the second round.

With the defeat of Sindhu, India's campaign in the BWF Super 500 tournament came to an end.

World championships Bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth, Kidambi Srikanth and Sourabh Verma crashed out of the tournament in the second round on Wednesday.

Indians thus continued their poor form after making

early exits in the Malaysia Masters last week. Sindhu and Saina had reached the quarter-finals in Kuala Lumpur but none of the men's singles players could cross the second round.

Sindhu began well, breaking away 11-6 in the first game. The Japanese later caught up with the Indian and took the score line to 11-12. But Sindhu was in no mood to allow her opponent to claw her way back and she was 16-15 up. She took the remaining five points with ease to take the first game.

going to lie. Obviously it's a week of the calendar that I really look forward to and put in all the hard work for, so it's pretty devastating to miss out on my home Slam," he said.

"I wanted to go out there and play, even though I've got a four-centimetre grade two tear. So it's not a joke -- it's something really serious.

"Getting out of bed hurts, everyday activity it hurts," he added.

De Minaur helped Australia to the semi-finals at the ATP Cup earlier this month, winning two of his four singles matches and pushing world number one Rafael Nadal hard in an engrossing three-setter.

Nicknamed 'Demon', the 20-year-old had a breakout year in 2019, winning titles at Zhuhai, Atlanta and Sydney, to move ahead of Nick Kyrgios as Australia's top player.

KOHLI TO BE BACK AT NO 3 In current situation, you should be ready to bat anywhere: Iyer

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Skipper Virat Kohli is set to be back at his regular number three position after the strategy of coming two-down boomeranged in the lung-opener as India take on a resolute Australia in the must-win second ODI here on Friday.

India go into the game 0-1 down after Australia registered a 10-wicket win in the lung-opener at Mumbai, courtesy David Warner and Aaron Finch, who hit unbeaten hundreds.

In a bid to field all three in-form players — Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and KL Rahul —, Kohli dropped himself down the order but the plan backfired spectacularly as he was unable to convert his start.

Opener Dhawan later said he was ready to bat at number three if asked by the team management, but since Kohli has been successful at that position, the skipper would be more than willing to walk in one-down.

Kohli batting at three also provides stability to the middle-order.

With a concussed Rishabh Pant out of the second game, Rahul is a certainty as he will keep wickets.

So, like in the last game, Rohit and Dhawan, who made a dogged 74 off 91 balls in Wankhede, could open, and there could be a toss-up between Rahul and young Shreyas Iyer at number four. Iyer had a rare failure on Tuesday.

Pant's absence could pave the way for the inclusion of Karnataka batsman Manish Pandey, who made optimum use of the opportunity that he got in the third T20 against Sri Lanka in Pune.

It would also be interesting to see which among the experienced Kedar



India's captain Virat Kohli bats during a practice session

Jadhav and rookie Shivam Dube makes the squad.

Rohit, who had a phenomenal 2019, failed in the first game, but given the form he is in, the opener is expected to bounce back strongly here.

Ditto for Kohli, who is just one hundred short of equalling cricket

icon Sachin Tendulkar's record of most hundreds on home soil for India.

The bowlers led by Jasprit Bumrah had a forgettable outing at the Wankhede and they would be more than eager to make a strong comeback and prove their mettle.

Bumrah, since his comeback,

has not been as effective as earlier and he would like to change the perception.

It would be interesting to see whether India play Delhi speedster Navdeep Saini or persist with Shardul Thakur, who gave away 43 runs in Mumbai.

Ravindra Jadeja looks a certainty and so the choice would be between chinaman Kuldeep Yadav, who conceded 55 runs in the first ODI and Yuzvendra Chahal as the lead spinner.

On the other hand, a high on confidence Australia will be looking to seal the issue to register back to back series wins in India, a rare feat for any visiting team. The Finch-Warner combination will look forward to carry the momentum.

Their middle-order comprising the experienced Steve Smith, in-form Marnus Labuschagne, Ashton Turner and Alex Carey looks more or less settled.

If all of them fire in unison, along with the openers, then it will hard for the opposition bowlers.

However, it will be quite a test of their middle-order at the Saurashtra Cricket Association stadium.

Australian bowlers also showed at the Wankhede, why they are considered among the best.

Led by pace spearhead Mitchell Starc, they bundled out India for a sub-par 255 and Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins would be raring to go once again.

Spinners Adam Zampa and Ashton Agar, not only contained the runs, but provided crucial breakthroughs and are expected to play a similar role again in the middle overs.

The track here is expected to be

Bhuvneshwar undergoes sports hernia surgery in London, rehab in NCA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Injury-plagued Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has undergone a sports hernia surgery in London and will begin his rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) after returning to the country, the BCCI said on Thursday.

The Board did not specify any timeline for his recovery but it is learnt that he will return to action during the Indian Premier League (IPL), which is scheduled to start on March 29. Bhuvneshwar plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the T20 event.

"Fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar travelled to London on 9th January and underwent a successful sports hernia surgery on 11th January. He was assisted by Team India physiotherapist Yogesh Parmar," read a statement from Board Secretary Jay Shah.

"Bhuvneshwar will now return to India and commence his rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru," it added.

He was not named in the T20 squad for the upcoming tour of New Zealand due to the injury.

a belter and India can draw confidence from the home series against New Zealand in 2017, when they won 2-1 after losing the opener, co-incidentally in Mumbai.



Shreyas Iyer celebrates with Virat Kohli

BCCI/Twitter

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Shreyas Iyer on Thursday said the current competition in the Indian team demands one to bat at any number after he did not get to play at his usual number four spot in the first ODI against Australia.

Iyer returned to India's limited overs set-up following the 2019 World Cup and has done well at number four.

"In this situation, you should be ready to bat at any number because it is really important to play in the team,

(considering) the competition which we have now right now," 25-year-old Iyer told reporters ahead of the second ODI here.

The stylish batsman also said that the team is looking forward to more experimentation.

"We can't give any reasons of batting at any particular number. Yes it is really important for us to be focused and not to cry about why we haven't been batting at a similar position. Experimentation is something we are looking forward to. Hopefully, we will get a good number for each batsman."

"This is the time we should try and experiment things and hopefully it will work-out in the future," said the Mumbaier.

A middle-order collapse in Mumbai exposed India's weakest link but Iyer said that it was part and parcel of the game.

"Well it happens sometimes and you are not prepared. The country was not prepared to see us collapsing in such situations but it is a part and parcel of the game," said Iyer on the collapse.

"You have to take it in your stride and move forward. As a team we have been doing really well throughout the season and it was just one of the matches where you completely collapsed...There is lot of learning from there," said Iyer.

Need to have a strong character to get better of Kohli: Zampa

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Australian leg-spinner Adam Zampa on Thursday said one needs to have a "strong character" to get the better of a class act like India captain Virat Kohli, who he has dismissed six times in limited overs cricket so far.

Zampa said despite enjoying an upperhand over the Indian captain in limited-overs, Kohli is a hard nut to crack.

"It's going to be an attacking approach. I think if you're on the back-foot and have a defensive mindset then that's when he (Kohli) can get on top of you. The most important

thing playing in places like India against these guys is to have a little bit of character," said Zampa ahead of Friday's second ODI here.

Zampa has dismissed Kohli four times in ODIs and twice in T20s.

"You probably know you're going to get hit for boundaries but it can really get worse if you make that affect you. I have got him a few times now but I don't think there is anything in it. He still scores at over 100 (strike rate) against me," the 27-year-old spinner said.

"He is a very hard guy to bowl to. He's one of the toughest guys I've ever had to bowl

to. After game one (first ODI), he will be even more switched on. It will be a big challenge," said Zampa, who has 66 ODIs wickets from 49 games.

Steve Waugh had said in the past that Kohli has not shown enough respect to Zampa, but the leggie disagreed with the former Australia skipper.

"I don't think he (Kohli) doesn't respect me. I don't think that's correct (referring to Waugh's statement)."

Zampa said Australia has managed to find out Kohli's weak point.

"We basically just found that Virat finds leg-spinners

hard to line up early in his innings. He's such a great starter, even the other day he was 16 off 14. How much energy he brought to the crease, his running between the wickets, some of the cover drives he played off the quicks," he said.

"I think it's important to try and have a game plan against him. So we figured out before the last game that it would be good to start with leg-spin to him."

"I've got him out four times in the last year or so it's nice to have that confidence to bowl to him at the start of his innings," said Zampa, who is on his third tour to India.

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Australia captain Aaron Finch has no doubts that India will "fight back" in the second ODI here Friday after being battered in the series-opener in Mumbai.

Australia gave the hosts a reality check with a crushing 10-wicket win in the lung-opener on Tuesday, riding on David Warner and Finch's unbeaten hundreds.

But Finch said it would be silly to take India lightly as they boast of world-class players.

'India to fight back hard in second game'

"That was a pretty good performance. I think our fielding was a little bit sloppy but all in all we are really happy with how the boys went," he was quoted as saying by *cricket.Com.Au*.

"They (India) will fight back no doubt. They are a great side, got some world-class players," Finch said talking about what to expect from Friday's match.

Asked about his opening partner's batting display, the Australia skipper

said: "He (Warner) is playing unbelievably well I think. It's so hard to bowl to him once he gets in. He hits the ball all around the ground, so stopping him from scoring is so hard."

"He is so clear with how he is going to bat, his footwork is pretty good. His mental state is unbelievable when he is out in the middle. He is so clear with his thoughts and his game. He is in top shape."



Ireland stun WI by four runs

AFP ■ ST. GEORGE'S

Ireland rode a career-best 95 from opener Paul Stirling before keeping their nerve in a nail-biting final over to pull off a four-run win over world champions West Indies in the first of a three-match Twenty20 series on Wednesday.

The burly Stirling steered Ireland to 208-7 in their 20 overs.

However, the home side appeared comfortably on course for victory — bringing up their hundred inside 10 overs with just two wickets down — until the game was decided in the last over.

Needing 15 to win, all-rounder Josh Little (3-29) got rid of the dangerous Dwayne Bravo, one of two wickets to fall in the last over.

With five needed off the last ball and seven wickets down, Hayden Walsh could only wave his bat into thin air in a desperate attempt to win the game.

It was only Ireland's second victory in T20 cricket over the West Indies who went into the game having swept the ODI series 3-0.

"Everyone is ecstatic, we came so close in that second ODI (lost by one wicket) and it maybe affected us in that third ODI, so to show the bottle and come out against one of the top teams in T20 cricket and get a win was great for the vibe of the team," said Ireland skipper Andrew Balbirnie.



Runaway favourites Ind ready for High Five

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

A few precocious talents, hardworking teenagers and a chunky lot which might fall by the wayside in times to come will form an eclectic 16-team mix in the melting pot called ICC Under-19 World Cup starting on Friday.

Defending champions India will be overwhelming favourites to win the junior global meet for the fifth time with at least six players, including skipper Priyam Garg having played senior cricket (first-class, List A or T20).

Not to forget four players — Yashasvi Jaiswal, Garg, Ravi Bishnoi, Kartik Tyagi—who have already landed fat contracts in the IPL.

India have been the team to beat on the junior cricket

circuit since Virat Kohli's team dominated the proceedings in the 2008 edition.

While there will be future stars in Pakistan, Australia, England and New Zealand teams, the presence of Japan and Nigeria will certainly have its own curiosity value.

In fact Japan are clubbed with India, New Zealand and Sri Lanka in group D.

The Japanese team mostly has South Asian expats with names like Tushar Chaturvedi, Yugandhar Retharekar, Ishan Fartyal, Debasish Sahoo helping out the likes of Kazumasa Takahashi, Masato Morita and Shu Noguchi.

The Nigerian team, which is clubbed in a difficult group comprising Australia, West Indies and England, has more local flavour in the presence of

Sylvester Okpe, Oche Boniface, Ifeanyi Chukwu Uboh and Olayinka Olaleye.

The tournament starts with hosts South Africa taking on Afghanistan in the 'Diamond City' of Kimberley on Friday, followed by Australia's big-ticket game against West Indies on the very next day.

Australia like India have a number of players, who have already played senior level cricket with one prominent name being former death over specialist Ian Harvey's nephew McKenzie Harvey, who has played 2 List A and 13 T20 games.

Similarly England have Ben Charlesworth with an experience of 11 first-class games to his credit while a few of his teammates have also played for their respective counties.

दो बूंद हर बार
पोलियो पर जीत रहे बरकरार

पोलियो को लौटने का मौका न दें। अपने बच्चे को पोलियो की खुराक दिलाएं ताकि उसे मिले पोलियो से पक्की सुरक्षा।

पोलियो वक़्त 19 जनवरी 2020

5 साल तक के हर बच्चे को हर बार पोलियो की खुराक दिलाएं

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