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## ₹25K cr bailout for homebuyers

Govt decision aimed to revive 1,600 stalled housing projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a big push to finance stalled housing projects, the Centre has decided to offer a mega bailout package of ₹25,000 crore. The Government will rope in State Bank of India (SBI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to fund the package that would revive nearly 1,600 stalled housing projects comprising 4.58 lakh housing units across the country.

The projects will include ones that have been declared bad loans or admitted for insolvency proceedings. The Government hopes that in addition to providing relief to homebuyers, the move will also create massive employments and boost the economy by creating demand in steel, cement, paint and ceramic sectors. The decision was finalised at the Union Cabinet at a meeting held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Announcing the decision, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Government will put in ₹10,000 crore in this alternative investment fund (AIF) while SBI and LIC would provide ₹15,000 crore, taking the total

### GOVT'S REAL-ESTATE PUSH

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The fund size would increase as sovereign and pension fund are expected to participate in this AIF that can be utilised even by the projects which have been declared non-performing assets or are facing insolvency proceedings, Sitharaman added.

The AIF, which was first announced by Sitharaman on September 14, will act as a "special window" to provide loans to over 1,600 incomplete affordable and middle-lower income housing projects.

Sitharaman said the scheme is a modified version of the September 14 plan. The key

change is allowing the AIF to fund projects that lenders may have declared as non-performing assets (NPAs) or which have been dragged to the NCLT for insolvency proceedings.

She, however, said only RERA-registered projects with positive net worth will be provided funds.

The AIF funds will be released in stages through an escrow account and will be contingent upon completion of the approved phase, she said, adding the size of the fund may be increased with the participation of sovereign and pension funds.

## Lawyers lock out courts

HC rejects cops' review plea, says 'no-coercive action against advocates' order only in 2 FIRs

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Four days after clashes between the Delhi Police and lawyers in Tis Hazari Court complex, lawyers on abstained from work for the third consecutive day on Wednesday and closed gates of all six district courts, including Saket and Patiala House courts, denying access to litigants in the courts.

Also, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed the Delhi Police review petition and said its November 3 order, not to take coercive steps against lawyers, was only in relation to the two FIRs lodged on November 2 with regard to the clash between the police and lawyers at Tis Hazari Courts Complex.

A Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar said there is no need for clarification of the November 3 order as sought by the Centre.

The Delhi Police's first application was filed on Tuesday after an on-duty policeman and a civilian were allegedly thrashed by advocates outside Saket Court premises on Monday and Tuesday. Another application was moved by the Centre on Wednesday seeking modification of the November 3 order by which two senior police officers connected to the clash were directed to be transferred.

The Bench disposed of both applications, saying a

judicial enquiry has already been initiated and the panel carrying out the probe would function uninfluenced by its observations in the November 3 order.

The High Court order stated that the bar and the police establishment represent and constitute, as it were, the preserver, and the protector of the rule of law. "They are but the two faces of the coin of justice. We are hopeful that if a sincere attempt is made in this direction, peace and harmony will ultimately prevail," the Bench stated in its order.

However, Bar Council of India (BCI) chairman Manan Kumar Mishra said no incident of violence involving lawyers, police and the public will be tolerated and action will be taken against the guilty. He also accused policemen of making provocative statements against judges and lawyers during their protests outside the police headquarters.

Meanwhile, in Rohini court, two lawyers allegedly tried to commit suicide on Wednesday. One lawyer took off his clothes and poured kerosene on his body threatening to immolate himself, while another advocate climbed atop a building on the premises.

Police said they did not receive any PCR call in connection with the two incidents at the Rohini court. The lawyers raised slogans while litigants were standing outside



Lawyers place a lock on the gate of Patiala Court during a protest in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

the gates of the courts.

While in Saket courts several litigants returned to their homes after they were not allowed to enter the court premises by the lawyers. "All gates are locked and lawyers are not letting us in. We have urged and requested them several times. I had a last day of filling my challan," said Amrik, a resident of Malviya Nagar.

The BCI said the lawyers will withdraw the strike and resume work from Thursday and action will be taken against the guilty lawyers.

## Delhi's spillover effect: 4 cops beaten up by lawyers in Alwar

PTI ■ JAIPUR

A group of lawyers of the Alwar district court on Wednesday beat up four police officials, including a woman constable and a Haryana cop, amid the persisting tiff between the men in 'khaki' and black robes in the national capital.

"The advocates beat up a woman constable, two male

constables of Rajasthan police and one head constable of the Haryana Police. The policemen were doing their job but advocates thrashed them," said Alwar Superintendent of Police Paris Deshmukh.

Deshmukh told PTI that four cases have been registered with two police stations in Alwar for thrashing of the four police officials on the district court premises.

### CAPSULE

#### UK COURT REJECTS NIRAV'S BAIL PLEA

London: In a setback to Nirav Modi, a UK court on Wednesday rejected a new bail application of the fugitive diamond merchant, who is fighting extradition to India on charges of nearly \$2 billion PNB fraud.

#### CONVERT STUBBLE INTO CNG: KEJRIWAL'S IDEA

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that it was commercially viable to convert stubble into CNG.

#### PAK STIFLING WOMEN'S VOICES: INDIA AT UNSC

United Nations: India lashed out at Pakistan for raising the issue of women's rights in Kashmir in the UN Security Council, saying the country represents a system that has been exporting terrorism and "regressive" extremist ideologies and "stifling" women's voices for narrow political gains.

#### TIGER FOUND TRAPPED IN RIVER AT CHANDRAPUR

Chandrapur: An injured tiger has been found trapped between some rocks in Sirna River in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district and efforts to rescue it were underway, a forest official said. The big cat is suspected to have injured its spinal cord after jumping 35 feet off bridge on the Sirna River.

## Pakistan peddles Khalistani agenda in Kartarpur corridor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

India has expressed its unhappiness on Pakistan's official video on Kartarpur corridor featuring three Sikh separatist leaders, including Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his military adviser Shabeg Singh, who were killed during the Operation Blue Star in 1984.

In Chandigarh, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said the video showed Pakistan's "hidden agenda" in opening the corridor. Officials of the Union Home Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi said they have raised protest with Pakistan authorities.

The video was released on Monday ahead of the inauguration ceremony of the much-awaited corridor, which will connect the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Punjab with Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan, just 4 kilometres from the International Border.

The video also showed a poster by a banned pro-Khalistani group, the Sikhs for Justice, which is pushing for



Sikh Referendum 2020 as part of its separatist agenda.

Commenting on the video clip, Amarinder said, "All this is what I have been saying from day one, that Pakistan has a hidden agenda here."

During the Kartarpur corridor talks, India had conveyed its strong concerns to Pakistan over the presence of a leading Khalistani separatist

## New Delhi raps Islamabad for video featuring Bhindranwale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

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India has asked Pakistan to clarify whether passport will be required to visit Kartarpur Sahib, Government sources said on Wednesday. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had tweeted that passport will not be required, but according to the agreement, passport will be needed.

## BJP to meet Maha Guv today as NCP backs out

PTI ■ MUMBAI

### Pawar says NCP-Cong will sit in Opp, Sena reiterates no rest till party gets CM chair

PN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The BJP on Wednesday said that its delegation would meet Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Thursday as the buck stopped with the single largest party after the NCP-Congress alliance put the onus on the saffron alliance partners to form the next Government in Maharashtra.

After having kept on repeating since Tuesday that the media would "get to hear good news anytime from now", senior State BJP leader and Finance Minister in the outgoing Government Sudhir Mungantiwar finally said that BJP president Chandrakant Patil and he would meet the Governor, on behalf of outgoing Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, on Thursday and brief him about the current political situation in the State.

If there is a change, the agreement has to be amended, the sources said.

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"You will get to hear good news any time. Mahayuti (BJP, Shiv Sena and allies) will form the Government. There is no need for people in Maharashtra to get worried. If a Government is formed it is going to be that of Mahayuti, whoever wants to think otherwise," he said.

Interestingly, Mungantiwar's statement that the BJP would provide "information" can in no way be construed that at its Thursday meeting with the Governor, the party will stake claim for forming a new Government.

Leave alone getting letter of support from the Shiv Sena that has a strength of 56 MLAs and enjoys the support of another six to seven MLAs, the BJP,

which has 105 MLAs of its own and claims to enjoy the support of another 15 independent MLAs, is still short of 25 MLAs to stake a claim for forming the Government.

At its Thursday's meeting with the Governor, the BJP will in all likelihood be exploring the possibility of getting an invite from Raj Bhavan to form a new Government in the State.

Despite Mungantiwar's claim, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said there is no change in his party's stand on sharing the Chief Minister's post on a rotational basis nor had the Sena received any power-sharing proposal from its senior saffron ally.

## Delhi on the mend as wind clears pollutants

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pollution levels dropped further on Wednesday in Delhi due to clearer skies and moderate wind with Air Quality Index (AQI) at 267, about 100 points down from Tuesday's count. The air quality improved from "very poor" category to "poor" category.

The situation will further improve on Thursday due to strong winds and rain. However, weather experts fear a cloud cover at night and drizzle could lead to deterioration of air quality for some time on Friday. But the air will keep on improving from Saturday.

The levels of PM2.5 — tiny particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter that can enter into the lungs and event the bloodstream — dropped to 107

micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) in the Delhi-NCR region.

Meanwhile, the System of Air Quality and Research (SAFAR) on Wednesday said that though Punjab recorded the season's highest farm fire count of 6,668 on Tuesday, its impact on Delhi's air quality on Wednesday was meager 3 per cent due to the favourable wind direction.

According to senior IMD scientist Kuldeep Srivastava, clear sky or absence of clouds allowed sunray to reach the ground, warming up the air close to the ground which cleared the pollutants.

The PM10 concentration was 226 ug/m<sup>3</sup> at 1.30 pm. The safe levels of PM2.5 and PM10 are 60 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and 100 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively.



Noted poet Kumar Vishwas recites his verses at the inauguration of Taal Mahotsava Mela-2019 in Bhopal on Wednesday

## CM meets Emirates Airlines' CEO for Indore-Dubai flight

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Wednesday called on Chairman and CEO of Emirates Airlines Group Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maqtoom and discussed starting Emirates flight for Indore-Dubai. Sheikh Maqtoom assured to take a decision in this regard soon. During this meeting at the airline headquarters, Chief Secretary SR Mohanty and other state officials were present.

During this meeting a detailed discussion was held between the Chief Minister and Maqtoom on the construction of logistics hub in Madhya Pradesh by the Emirates Group.

Besides, Chief Minister Kamal Nath held discussions with the representatives of Hyperloop One Company during his visit to Dubai. Discussion as regard to the establishment of Hyperloop based Cargo System in Indore-Bhopal-Jabalpur took place in the meeting.

Tanveer Sautal of a giant IT Company Synchroon Inc also met the Chief Minister Kamal Nath and held initial discussion on set-



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath meets Chairman and CEO of Emirates Airlines, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maqtoom, at the airline's headquarters, in Dubai on Wednesday

ting up an IT Park in Bhopal. A detailed project report pertaining to the establishment of IT Park will be submitted to the Madhya Pradesh Government by the Company soon.



# AHEAD OF SC VERDICT ON AYODHYA DC imposes prohibitory orders on social media

**Bhopal:** District collector has imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the CrPC on social media platforms and group messages in the wake of upcoming Ayodhya case verdict likely before November 17. After imposing the prohibitory orders in the State capital taking precautionary action district administration is letting no stone unturned and has taken to the social media which has been witnessed as one of the most critical tools in worsening the situation during emergency. Chhola Mandir police have arrested Jagmohan Sharma on

the charge of posting an objectionable comment on a particular religion after a complaint was lodged by group admin Rahul Sahu on October 24, 2019 against the accused. Police have registered a case under section 295 A of the IPC and arrested the accused. Taking cue from the incident, the district administration which has geared up for maintaining the law and order situation imposed section 144 of the CrPC on social media platforms. The imposition over social media would hold the administrator of the group responsi-

ble for any posting photograph, videos and comment inciting religious sentiment resulting in disturbing of communal fabric. The administrator has to inform the police regarding the comments and photographs which could incite religious sentiments. The police and administration have appealed to the citizens that they could inform police regarding posting of inciting or degrading comments or photographs over social media platforms WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram or could inform over 7049106300 regarding the same. **SR**

# 'Workers causing loss to Dist Cooperative Banks should be sacked'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

**M**inister for Cooperative Govind Singh has said that those officers-employees, who are causing loss to the District Cooperative Banks, should be dismissed and those who are doing a good job should be promoted. Along with this, recruitment process as per the rules should be initiated immediately to fill the vacant posts after obtaining necessary permission from the Commissioner Cooperative. Amount should be recovered from the people involved in financial misappropriation and also FIR should be registered against them. Govind Singh was reviewing the functioning of the District Cooperative Banks of Bhopal and Hoshangabad divisions at the auditorium of

APEX Bank on Wednesday. The Cooperative Minister mentioned that the District Cooperative Banks have an important role in the Cooperative Movement. Therefore, it is necessary to improve their financial condition. In the past years, their financial condition has worsened. By organizing divisional meetings constantly, the Senior Officers should review their functioning. The Commissioner Cooperative MK Agrawal has informed that excluding that of Sagar and Jabalpur, all other meetings have already been held and this process will continue in future too. Principal Secretary Cooperative Ajit Kesri informed that the Cooperative Banks mainly function to give short term loans to the farmers.

He stressed the need for recovering of loans in time. During the district wise review of the District Cooperative Banks, it has been found that the time barred (NPA) amount of all the banks is the highest. No concrete efforts have been made at the banks level to recover the loans. Minister Dr. Singh directed that time barred loans in maximum should be recovered in the next one year. During the district wise review of the Cooperative Banks, it has been found that Bhopal does have institutional deposit but individual deposit is almost nil. Efforts should be made to get individual deposit. Along with this time barred loans should be recovered. The amount of time barred loan in

Betul district is ₹143 crore. An amount of ₹100 crore will be recovered by June 30. Similarly, the amount of time barred loan in Raisen district is ₹148 crore and it was informed by the officer of the district that an amount of ₹48 crore will be recovered by end June. In the review of Rajgarh District, it has been found that the condition of the Cooperative bank is in doldrums because of the loan imbalance and financial irregularities. It has time barred loan of ₹183 crore. Singh directed for recovery in the cases of financial irregularities and for registering FIR. In Vidisha district, the time barred loans of ₹45 crore are remaining and the same should be recovered by next June. During the review of Hoshangabad district, the con-

dition was found critical. The district has time barred loan of ₹292 crore comprising mostly non-agriculture loan. Cases are also underway against many employees. In many cases, stay has also been given by the concerned Asst/ Dy Registrar. Taking all these matters seriously, the Minister Singh directed that the disciplinary action should be taken against such Asst/ Dy Registrar and their salary-increment should be stopped. It has been found while reviewing the Sehore District that the Cooperative Bank had time barred loan worth ₹38 crore in the year 2016-17, which has gone up to ₹280 crore in the year 2018-19. No concrete efforts have been taken by the bank as regard to recovery of loans.

# Lens on BSP MLA for threatening Treasury Officer

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

**T**he fire-brand Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA who in the past has lost cool on multiple occasions is under the scanner for threatening Treasury Officer Vivek Garhu at latter's office in Patharia of Damoh district.

A video doing rounds on social media shows the MLA Rambai Singh is slamming the officer over slackness in the utilisation of MLA's discretionary funds and security deposits saying if the officer wants money he can opt for posting somewhere else.



**Rambai in the past has publically slammed Government officers**

"If you do not leave on your own, I know how to make you leave from here, the MLA told the officer. The MLA had reportedly received the report that the officer was seeking bribe from the village sarpanchs to release government funds.

Rambai in the past has publically slammed Government officers.

In another incident, the police also booked Youth Congress leader Sanjay Yadav and another person in connection with threats issued to Janpad Panchayat Chief Executive Officer of Vijaypur in Sheopur district. Yadav is the nephew of Animal Husbandry minister Lakhan Singh Yadav.

Audio clips of the conversation went viral on Whatsapp on Tuesday. The CEO had complained to police of receiving life threats by Sanjay Yadav and his associate over non-fulfillment of one civil work in the janpad panchayat area. The work was earlier stopped over financial irregularities.

The loud mouth youth leader was captured in media cameras while he was explaining his clout at police station.

Reacting to the incident, the minister uncle claimed that

his nephew is a responsible leader of Youth Congress and stated that the government officer must have done something unusual so the youngster lost his cool. I would speak to my nephew on the matter, he added. Commenting on such incidents, BJP spokesperson Ranjneesh Agrawal alleged that Congress MLAs and ministers till now were treating the government as their private limited company and now their kin are threatening officers and assaulting government staffers. The Congress party must not forget that power is a means to serve the public and if they try to unleash terror, public would not spend much time in showing them their actual worth, said Agrawal.

# SISTec gives 10-day training to Motor Transport Officers

Bhopal:

Mechanical Engineering Department of Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) Gandhi Nagar is conducting a 10-day training to Motor Transport Officers of Shastra Seema Bal (SSB) on Strategy Diagnosis & Repair of Automotive Mechatronics & Mechanics. The training is conducted by Prof Sanjay Chhalotre, an expert in automobile engineering who will be sharing the technical and non-technical aspects of automotive engineering which will benefit the officers.

The training will also be comprised of theory sessions in morning followed by hands on training in practical sessions in afternoon. The training is

aimed to address diagnosis and repair of Automotive Mechatronics & Mechanics in traditional and hybrid vehicles to resolve problems, address crisis situation, preventive maintenance, sensor checks etc. In Mechatronics training will benefit the officers on Ignition System, Fuel Management System, air induction systems, mechanical electric sensor circuits etc whereas mechanics will focus on engine cooling system, engine lubrication system, transmission system manual and automatic, steering & axle system, brake systems, suspension systems, wheels system, pulling and lubrication system etc to solve problems and address crises situations.

The training got inaugurated by Keshwendra Principal SISTec, Swati Saxena- Vice Principal SISTec, BS Kushwaha, Sr Administrator and Prof Ravishanker V Choudhri, Head of Mechanical Department and will conclude on November 14 with doubt clearing session. Siddharth Sudhir Kumar Agrawal, Managing Director, Sagar Group, congratulated Team SISTec for organizing the training and contributing towards building nation. SISTec has been rated with AAA ratings by Career 360 and has bagged the prestigious ASSOCHAM Award for the 'Emerging Engineering Institute of the Year - Central India'. **SR**

# Woman raped, duped of ₹6L on pretext of marriage

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

**A** 30-year-old woman was sexually exploited for the past six years and duped to the tune of ₹6 lakh in the name of providing house at low price. Kolar police have registered a case and started investigation. According to the police, the victim was sexually assaulted and exploited by the accused Sunil for the past six years and during the period he assured victim of marriage and continued to sexually exploit her. The victim came into contact with the accused around six years ago and victim was lured by the accused of marriage. The two developed relationship and the victim was accompanied by the accused started to live with the accused

**ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE VICTIM WAS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AND EXPLOITED BY THE ACCUSED SUNIL FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS AND DURING THE PERIOD HE ASSURED VICTIM OF MARRIAGE AND CONTINUED TO SEXUALLY EXPLOIT HER**

where she was sexually assaulted. Later, when the victim asked her of marriage, the accused threatened her of life and escaped from his house. The victim approached Kolar police and lodged a complaint. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case under sections 376 and 506 of the IPC. The accused sexually assaulted the victim for the first time in November 2013. During the investigation police found that the accused

work as property dealer and lured the victim that his wife suffers from illness and he would marry her after wife's death. The victim later found that the accused has cheated her and he had only exploited her. In the past few years accused also duped her of Rs 6 lakh in the name of providing house at low price. Accused went absconding after the complaint was lodged by the victim. Search for the accused has been started and few places have been raided.

# MCTE Mhow TES 34 Course conducted

PNS ■ MHOW

**P**assing Out Ceremony of the Technical Entry Scheme (TES) 34 Course from Cadets Training Wing, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow was conducted on Tuesday with full military grandeur.

The Ceremony, presided over by the Chief Guest, Lt Gen Milind Bhurke, VSM, Commandant, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) and Colonel Commandant, Corps of Signals marked the culmination of three years of training of the Gentlemen Cadets (GCs) of the Passing Out Course and their transformation into young dynamic officers of Indian Army.

The medals were awarded by Lt Gen Milind Bhurke, VSM, Commandant, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) and Colonel Commandant Corps of Signals. In his address to the Gentlemen Cadets, the Chief Guest



congratulated the Passing Out Course on successfully completing the training and reminded them of what the nation expects from them, especially in view of the rapid technological advancements, prevailing counter

insurgency environment and the stellar role Army has been playing to ensure the territorial integrity of our nation.

The General Officer also complemented the Gentlemen Cadets of Passing Out Course for their excellent turnout and exceptional drill movements. WCC Shivam Singh was the proud recipient of the General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C) Army Training Command (ARTRAC) Gold medal and GOC-in-C ARTRAC Trophy for standing First in the overall order of merit.

WCQM Shubham Shahi was the recipient of the GOC-in-C ARTRAC Silver medal and the GOC-in-C ARTRAC Bronze medal was received by PCC Devvrat Kalia.

Arjun Platoon won the coveted GOC-in-C ARTRAC Banner for standing First amongst the four Platoons. These Gentlemen Cadets will now proceed to Officer Training Academy, Gaya for Passing Out Parade before getting commissioned as officers in Indian Army on December 07, 2019.



BJP activists hold torches as they protest against the State Government's decision over bifurcation of Municipal Corporation, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# 4 Nov chain snatching case: Two arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

**N**ishatpura police have nabbed two miscreants involved in robbery of gold chain from a woman in front of V Mart at Bhanpur on November 4 and recovered gold chain worth ₹55,000 and motorbike used in the crime on Wednesday.

Police said that during the investigation the miscreants were tracked and were identified as Majid Shah (19) and Salman alias Kaifi Khan (25) of Nishatpura.

The accused hold crime record. Majid has been booked by Koh-e-Fiza, Gandhi Nagar and Nishatpura police stations for robbery, assault and possession of weapons illegally.

Salman has been booked by Nishatpura and Teelajamalpur police stations for robbery, burglary and possession of weapons illegally. During the investigation police tracked the motorbike

used in the robbery and details of the bike are under investigation.

Acting on a tip off regarding youth involved in the robbery police team nabbed Salman with the bike used in the robbery and when he was quizzed he confessed that he had targeted a woman at V Mart and escaped with gold chain along with his aide Majid.

Based on the information Majid was tracked and arrested. From their possession police have recovered the robbed gold chain worth ₹55,000 and bike.

The Modus Operandi of the accused was to target lone woman carrying purse and mobile phone.

In the further investigation more crimes would be revealed from the three accused. Majid is a habitual offender of Nishatpura area and has been arrested for three cases of assault and threatening of life.

# Mystery shrouds death of 35-year-old woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

**A** 35-year-old woman was found dead late in the night on Tuesday at her house in Semra Kalan under Ashoka Garden police station area.

After the body was spotted by deceased Sunita Ahirwar's husband she was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead. Locals informed the police and on the receipt a police team reached the spot and started investigation.

The husband found the deceased lying over floor and took her to hospital. Police said that the doctors have claimed that the deceased died of poisonous insect bite as bite marks were found below the eyes of the deceased.

After the preliminary investigation the body was sent

**The husband found the deceased lying over floor and took her to hospital. Police said that the doctors have claimed that the deceased died of poisonous insect bite as bite marks were found below the eyes of the deceased**

for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation. The husband would be questioned in the further investigation, said police.

Meanwhile, a 36-year old man committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at

Satnami Nagar under Piplani police station area on Tuesday. According to the police, Satish Pal was found hanging at the shop and he was taken to hospital where he was declared dead.

Police said that the deceased Deepak Tandia was found hanging and later rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him dead. The reason behind the suicide would be investigated in the further investigation. Statements of family members are yet to be recorded which could help in revealing the reason behind the suicide.

After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and have started further investigation.

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# 'Chandalika' performed at Ravindra Bhavan



A scene from the play 'Chandalika' staged during ongoing International Literature and Arts Festival 'Vishwa Rang' at Ravindra Bhavan in Bhopal on Wednesday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The third day was marked by a spontaneous performance of play 'Chandalika'. The play was performed at Ravindra Bhavan here on Wednesday.

The play was directed by Usha Kanwal.

Omkar Singh Markam, Minister of Tribal Affairs Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh also attended the program. He was honored by the University Registrar, Vijay Singh by presenting memento.

Usha Ganguly said that few changes were made in the play to make it relevant with current situation. The basis of Chandalika's performance is the cycle of life which also includes the misbehavior happening with nature. The play also highlights the relationship between mother and daughter and many untouchable subjects of society.

This presentation of 1 hour and 20 minutes touched many aspects of life, about which

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore wrote.

The play performed well with the performers and the music convention. The play is slightly adapted from the original, retaining the original essence to captivate the audience. The use of Hindustani language works to touch the heart.

The drama narrates the tragedy of 'untouchability' in the country. The play is an adaptation from Rabindranath Tagore's work, 'Chandalika' based on a story from a Buddhist text.

This kind of discrimination between the urban and rural community has given an opportunity to the rise of exploitation and agitation among the people. It is a Bengali drama by Rabindranath Tagore focuses on this issue and a stern step took by a poor untouchable girl 'Prakriti'.

The play focuses on Prakriti on stage and she seems upset and demeaned. Suddenly the follower of Gautam Budh

'Ananda' appears before her and asks for some water to drink. She tells him of being an untouchable, but Ananda treats her as a normal human being.

Being captivated towards him and rejected Prakriti compels her mother to cast a magic spell on him. In the meanwhile, Prakriti's heart goes through a change and realizing her follies she asks her mother to take back the spell on the cost of her mother's life. She and her mother ask forgiveness from Ananda and he welcomes them in Buddhism.

The play followed the emotions of a human nature. While showing the conflict of love in its varied forms, the play showed the desolate reality of the society disparity, prejudice, exploitation and the universal search for love and happiness.

The audiences were awestruck by the performance of the artists. It was a mass treat for the audiences to watch the drama Chandalika with such beautiful performance.

# Artistic evening on 3rd day of Vishwa Rang festival

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The day three at the Vishwa Rang festival was a mix of various events, from Poetry sessions to soulful violin music to various discussions and music and drama, it had it all.

The day kicked off with the violin play by Amit Malik. He played various hymns like raam ka gungaan kariye, baaje muraaliya, vaishno bhajan and a lot more. The performance was highly applauded by the audience.

The day followed with the hindi poetry sessions. The two sessions drenched the hearts of poetry lovers, in which poets from all over the country shared their views on various topics in the best poetic lines. These sessions were chaired by senior poet Ritu Raj and Leeladhar mandloi.

Along with this, Chcellor

## The day kicked off with the violin play by Amit Malik

and Litterateur Santosh Choubey of Tagore University and many others were present. The young heart emperor Kavi kumar Anupam, who was conducting the session begin it with poems like Adhuran and Pita.

Great poet Muktibodh was revisited with a short film Aam Sambhava based on the poems of Gajanand Muktibodh. It showed his contribution to the Indian Literature.

With these sessions the book Shabd, Dhvani aur Drashya was launched. It is a compilation of interviews of 11 creators, painters, poets.

Meanwhile, in the afternoon a discussion session was held on the topic Backstage of Theatre at Swaraj Bhawan.

The session discussed and signified the importance of the backstage management activities. Highlighting the role of backstage in any play the guests Usha Ganguly the prominent theatre artist and Anoop Joshi the famous light director expressed their views by saying that once where the people from the backstage were not even called on stage but now the scenario has changed and without them it not even possible to imagine the theatre. They further added that the backstage contributes the most to any drama.

# Manisha gets gold at Mixed Event in Junior Asian Shooting C'ship

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy player Manisha Keer gave the country a gold medal at the Trap Junior Mixed Event in the 14th Junior Asian Shooting Championship held in Doha Qatar from November 3 to 14.

Academy player Manisha Keer earned the medal in the championship scoring 67 points and her partner Jaipur player Vivan Kapoor scoring 71 points.

Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Jeetu Patwari has congratulated and congratulated the performance of gold medal winning player Manisha Keer. He said that the daughters of Madhya Pradesh are showing excellent talent in international competitions and winning medals and increasing

the pride of the country and the state.

We are proud of the daughters of the state. Director Sports and Youth Welfare S. L. Thousen also expressed happiness over this achievement of Manisha. He has praised Manisha for her performance.

The sports director said that an international level shooting academy has been set up in the capital, through which the sports players of the state are being provided world class sports facilities.

It may be mentioned that Manisha Keer, a player of Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy, has earned a gold, a silver and two bronze medals in international competitions and 28 medals including 20 gold, one silver and three bronze in national competitions.

# One dies, three injured in road accident

Bhopal:

A 25-year-old Rajasthan based youth died while three others were injured after a pick-up loading van was hit by a mini-truck near Gurukul College under Berasia police station area in the wee hours on Wednesday.

According to the police four injured were rushed to hospital where one of the injured was declared dead. The deceased was identified as Jasram Gurjar of Alwar Rajasthan.

Deceased was driving the van bearing registration number RJ02GV6810 and was on its way from Rajasthan to Bhopal and at the time of the incident one more person was present in

the van who escaped with injuries. Police suspect that he was the owner of the goods and van but his statements are yet to be recorded.

Investigating Officer ASI PS Kirar said that at the time of the incident the road was deserted but due to darkness vehicles failed to spot other vehicle which caused the accident. It would be investigated that the drivers were inebriated state.

The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 304 A of the IPC and have started further investigation. SR

# Bushra sets new nat'l record at Nat'l Junior Athletics C'ship

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The player of Madhya Pradesh Athletic Academy Bushra Khan Gauri made a new national record.

Athletics Academy player Bushra Khan Gauri performed brilliantly and bagged gold medal for Madhya Pradesh by setting new national record. On the other hand, player Manju Yadav won a bronze medal.

On the last day of the 35th National Junior Athletics Championship played at Nagarjuna University Guntur, Andhra Pradesh from November 2 to 6, the sportspersons of Madhya Pradesh Athletics Academy performed brilliantly.

Player Bushra Khan of Madhya Pradesh won a gold and player Manju Yadav won a bronze medal.

It is to be noted that in the competition, Academy athlete Bushra Khan Gauri made a new national record by completing 2000 meters race for girls under-16 age group in 6 minutes 24.71 seconds and made Madhya Pradesh proud by winning gold medal.

Earlier in the year 2016, Amrita Patel of Uttar Pradesh set a national record

with a time of 6 minutes 25.66 seconds. In the competition today, the second medal of the academy, Manju Yadav of the under-18 girls category, won the bronze medal in Madhya Pradesh by completing the 2000 meter steeple chase race in 7: 33.95 minutes / second.

With these two medals, the players of the academy have given a total of ten medals in the competition to Madhya Pradesh, including five gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

# 'More work required in inspection system of tribal ashrams, hostels'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Minister for Tribal Welfare Omkar Singh Markam instructed the departmental officers to bring more improvement in the inspection system of tribal ashrams and hostels. He asked the officers to ensure hundred percent utilisation of the departmental budget.

Minister Markam was addressing the State level meeting of the departmental officers at Mantralaya on Wednesday. The Principal Secretary Deepali Rastogi and Director of Tribal Development Project Rakesh Singh were present at the meeting.

Minister Markam said that

the hundred percent sanctioned seats should be filled in ashrams and hostels of the state. He also directed the officers to maintain diary of their daily activities. Construction works of slum development were also reviewed in the meeting. Markam gathered information pertaining to the scholarship, distributed among the tribal students. He instructed to get the repair works completed in ashrams-hostels on priority. In the meeting, the status of budget allocated and expenditure during the last 3 years, work wise information about the sanctioned works and physical status of current works were also reviewed.



In view of the Dengue outbreak, the Government JP Hospital administration provided mosquito mesh to the patients in Bhopal on Wednesday

# Divyesh bags Gold in State-level badminton c'ship

Bhopal: Divyesh Malik of grade 12th of NRI Global Discovery Academy School bagged Gold in the State-level badminton championship organised by SGFI in Chindwada this year. He had been in the race for last four year.

The chase for gold was preceded with four year of silver in his bag. The school management has congratulated him for the golden achievement and encouraged him for his best performance in the Nationals level. SR



# Govt sets up State-level census coordination committee

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The State Government has set up a State-level census coordination committee to ensure coordination and planning of work between the Directorate of Census Affairs and various departments of the state government for the smooth and successful operation of the work of national importance of Madhya Pradesh State Census 2021.

The Chief Secretary has been made the Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Government Census Committee. Additional Chief Secretary General Administration Department, Additional Chief Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Additional Chief Secretary Planning Economic and Statistics Department, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Department, Principal Secretary Home Department, Principal Secretary Urban Administration and Development Department,

## The work of the upcoming Census 2021 will be completed in two phases

Principal Secretary Women and Child Development Department, Principal Secretary Public Relations Department, Principal Secretary School Education Department, Principal Secretary Tribal Welfare Department, Principal Secretary Public Health and Family Welfare Department, Principal Secretary Revenue Department, Secretary Home Department, Commissioner Land Records and Director R.C.V.P. Noronha Academy of Management and Administration have been made members of the committee. Director Directorate of Census Works, Madhya Pradesh Bhopal

has been appointed as the convener of the committee.

The work of the upcoming Census 2021 will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, the work of house listing and census of houses and updating the National Population Register will be completed in a period of 45 days from April to September 2020, as determined by the state government. In the second phase, the work of census will be done from February 9 to 28, 2021.

The committee will work to establish the required cooperation and coordination between the departments related to government in both the phases.

In committee's meeting, decision will be taken to ensure availability of employees to be engaged in census work, training of master trainer, field trainer and field staff of census as per scheduled programme till 31 December 2019 and finalisation of all proposals regarding change of boundaries of administrative units.

# 'Sponsor a Life' scheme started

Bhopal: Tribal Finance and Development Corporation has started the 'Sponsor a Life' scheme to provide employment opportunities in the private sector to the tribal youth of the state. CSR fund of the corporate sector will be used in

the scheme. Under the scheme, the Finance Development Corporation will select the youth for the professional course and get them admitted in any good institution. This institution will be selected through NSDC. SR

Bank of Baroda

DENA BANK

Arera Colony Branch  
Bhopal

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Notice issued under section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Rule 3(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned has issued notice on 05-07-2019 (sent by regd. Post) under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with Rule 3(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to you and to repay the dues mentioned therein within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice, which were returned undelivered on 17-07-2019 and I have reason to believe that you are avoiding service of demand notice on you. Now, therefore, notice is hereby given to you to repay the banks dues within 60 days from this Notice failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules and we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The content of the notice is as under.

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Secured Assets	Type of Credit Facility/Limit	Amount Outstanding Demand Notice Date
<b>Borrowers:</b> Shri Pratheep Nair and Smt. Sumeet Nair Flat No.- 01, Ground Floor Block No. 13, Shalimar Enclave, Arera Colony Bhopal (MP) Boundaries: East: Flat No. 08, West: Open, North: Block No. 14, South: Parking Space, Size of Flat: 761 sqft		Term Loan (Housing) ₹ 32.00 Lacs	D/s as on 30.06.2019 ₹ 28,78,393/- + interest & other charges 05-07-2019

Notice is hereby given to public not to transact / enter into any agreement and to mortgagors not to sell/transfer the above said secured assets without permission of the bank in terms of sec 13(13) of the act.

Date : 07-11-2019, Place : Bhopal Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

(आम-इशतहार का प्रारूप)

**कार्यालय SDM एवं कोतवाली सभाग मध्यप्रदेश**

क्रमांक 07/प्रवा/अतिजिद/ भोपाल, दिनांक 31.10.2019

आम-इशतहार

आम जनता को सूचित किया जाता है, कि पुलिस थाना कोतवाली जिला भोपाल में अपराध क्रमांक-119-19 धारा 25 पुलिस एक्ट में जप्त युवा सामग्री चार/दो पहिया वाहन विभिन्न कम्पनियों/अन्य माल क्रमांक 74 नग वाहन मेक / क्रमांक / जर्जर, एवं कबाड़ हालत में है, एवं कंडम को स्थिति में थाना प्रोग्राम कोतवाली में रखे हुए है।

उपरोक्त जप्तयुवा चार/दो पहिया वाहन /अन्य माल क्रमांक:-----धारा 25 पुलिस एक्ट में है। इन वाहनों के स्वामित्वदारों को आम इशतहार के द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है, कि दिनांक 14.11.2019 को उक्त जप्तयुवा वाहनों की नीलामी निष्पादित की जायेगी। निवृत्त तिथि के उपरान्त प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पत्रों में कोई विचार नहीं किया जावेगा।

सब डिवीजनल मजिस्ट्रेट  
हनुमानगंज उपसंभाग  
भोपाल ( म.प्र. )

G-18780/19

(आम इशतहार का प्रारूप)

**कार्यालय अनुविभागीय दण्डाधिकारी अनुविभाग हुजूर सभाग भोपाल**

क्रमांक 818/19 दिनांक 01.11.2019

आम-इशतहार

आम जनता को सूचित किया जाता है कि पुलिस थाना सूखीसेवायिका जिला भोपाल में अपराध क्रमांक 01/19 धारा 25 पुलिस एक्ट में जप्त युवा सामग्री दो पहिया वाहन हरोई डांडा स्प्लेंडर कंपनी कुल 01 नम मो.सा. क्रमांक एम.पी. 04 एम.डब्ल्यू. 1982 जर्जर एवं कबाड़ हालत में है एवं कंडम को स्थिति में थाना प्रोग्राम सूखीसेवायिका में रखे हुये है।

उपरोक्त जप्तयुवा दो पहिया वाहन क्रमांक 01/19 धारा 25 पुलिस एक्ट में है इन वाहनों के स्वामित्वदारों को आम इशतहार के द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 14.11.2019 को उक्त जप्तयुवा वाहनों की नीलामी निष्पादित की जायेगी। निवृत्त तिथि के उपरान्त प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पत्रों में कोई विचार नहीं किया जावेगा।

अनुविभागीय दण्डाधिकारी  
एस.डी.एम. तहसील हुजूर  
भोपाल ( म.प्र. )

G-18830/19

**SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED**  
"A MINI RATNA COMPANY"

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

1. NIT No: SECL/SGP/ISO(M)/e-Tender/35/19-20/455, date 22.10.2019, Tender ID : 2019\_SECL\_153610\_1, Location of work: Khairaha UG Mine of Sohagpur Area, Estimated Cost: 18,04,494 Description of Work: Installation and commissioning of main belt (1000 mm) with drive head accessories in B15 and B26 CM panel at seam VIB in Khairaha U.G. Mine of Sohagpur Area period - 180 days. Start date & time for submission of bid: 30.10.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 13.11.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 15.11.2019 at 11 AM. SO(Mining),Sohagpur Area

2. NIT No: SECL/SGP/MMW/OWT-096, date 01.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019\_SECL\_154574\_1, Location of work: Sohagpur Area, Estimated Cost: 5,00,000 Description of Work: Supply of Hard Wood Wooden Sleeper. Start date & time for submission of bid: 02.11.2019 at 06 PM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 23.11.2019 at 03.30 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 25.11.2019 at 03.30 PM. SO(MM),Sohagpur Area

3. NIT No: SECL/SGP/ISO(M)/e-Tender/35/19-20/457, date 02.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019\_SECL\_154587\_1, Location of work: Damini UG Mine of Sohagpur Area, Estimated Cost: 49,27,290 Description of Work: Roof bolting in ug by hiring of DGMS approved portable hydraulic roof bolting machine with wet drilling arrangement drill 1.5m to 1.8m length hole in roof with 27mm dia drill bit for anchoring 20/22 mm dia roof bolts with resing capsules and fitting of bearing plates and W-strap (as and when required) and tightening of nuts etc complete in underground 02 nos of depillaring panels. (i.e. VIBE 06 and VIBE 07 at Damini UG Mine of Sohagpur Area, period- 270 days. Start date & time for submission of bid: 11.11.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 27.11.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 27.11.2019 at 11 AM. SO(Mining),Sohagpur Area

4. NIT No: SECL/ISO(EnM)/e-TENDER/JK/VEH/19-20/18, date 01.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019\_SECL\_154500\_1, Location of work: Jamuna Kotma Area, Estimated Cost: 24,34,632 Description of Work: Hiring of 02 nos. Explosive Vans in perfect (tip top) working order and running conditions as per Indian Explosive Rule, each having capacity of 09-10 T for maximum period of 01 year (366 days) with driver having permit of CG & MP for transportation of Explosive Cartridges, detonators etc. one for Amadand OCM and One Amadand UG Mine of JK Area. Start date & time for submission of bid: 07.11.2019 at 02 PM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 22.11.2019 at 02 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 23.11.2019 at 02 PM. SO(E&M),Jamuna Kotma Area

Note: For details and submission of bid please visit website www.eprocure.gov.in, and e-procurement portal of CIL https://coalindiatenders.nic.in & www.secl-cil.in. In case of any Misprinting/ Error, details as per website document will be considered as final.

**COAL : PRIME SOURCE OF ENERGY**

## HARYANA ASSEMBLY Opp raps Govt for not debating on farm fires



MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Opposition leaders on Wednesday lashed at the BJP-JJP Government in Haryana for not allowing debate on issues related to stubble burning, purchase of crops on minimum support price (MSP), loan waiver for farmers, farmers' double income, withdrawal of criminal cases and immediate release of all youth who were booked for their alleged role in February 2016 violence besides other issues.

Addressing the Haryana Assembly on the last day of the three-day session, senior Congress leader Kiran Choudhary said, "I wanted to discuss important issues - stubble burning, purchase of crops on MSP, loan waiver for farmers, farmers' double income during calling attention motion but was rejected by the Government."

She said that Government talks about doubling the income of the farmers, forgetting that under their Governance crop of farmers is not being bought and

the farmer is forced to sell the crop at a paltry price. It is not cleared so far about waiving of farmers' loan and how Government would double farmer's income.

Choudhary alleged that Government called for the Assembly session but no question hour, no zero hour, no calling attention motion and no debate or discussion on important issues were allowed. "What is use of calling Assembly session on third day if above provision was not made," she questioned.

She further said that the parties involved in the coalition Government had made many promises such as loan waiver to farmers, zero-interest loan and old-age monthly pension of ₹ 5, 100.

All of these are missing in Governor's address. Moreover, the BJP had promised the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report before the last Assembly election but today, there was no mention of this report.

Indian National Lok Dal

(INLD) general secretary Abhay Chautala said, "I wanted to discuss on the issue of withdrawal of criminal cases and immediate release of youth who were booked for their alleged role in Jat agitation for reservation."

I wanted to know Government's stand on this issue. This was rejected by the Government."

He alleged that Government does not want to discuss on this issue. "I demand from the Government to withdraw the criminal cases and immediately release all youth who were booked wrongly for their alleged role in February 2016 violence during the Jat agitation for reservation," he added.

Senior Congress leader and former speaker Raghubir Singh Kadian also had demanded discussion on this issue. He said, "Earlier I appealed for withdrawal of such cases during the discussion on Governor's address in the first session of newly constituted assembly. Some youth college students who were wrongly arrested during the February 2016 violence and many others were still behind bars. Their families have been ruined in the last over three years."

He said, "As today is Assembly's first session, the State Government as a good gesture considering the humanitarian aspect, should immediately take a decision to withdraw cases against them. They have already suffered a lot. If cases are not withdrawn now, a message would go out that a person has no right to protest for his rights. Government in power should show some sensitivity by making this humanitarian gesture."

### ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED SINE DIE

The Haryana Assembly passed two Bills before the House was adjourned sine die on the third day after meeting for a short duration of around 30 minutes.

## Pithoragarh bypoll

# BJP candidate Chandra Pant files nomination Party releases list of 40 star campaigners



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party candidate, Chandra Pant, filed her nomination for the Pithoragarh Assembly by-election on Wednesday. The wife of late Cabinet Minister and Pithoragarh MLA Prakash Pant was accompanied by MP, Ajay Tamta and members of the Pant family while filing her nomination. Meanwhile, the party also announced its star campaigners for the Pithoragarh by-election.

Earlier, the party workers and supporters took out a rally for filing her nomination. MP Ajay Tamta, BJP State general secretary Rajendra Bhandari, party vice president Kedar Joshi, former BJP State president Bishan Singh Chahal and others were part of this rally.

It is pertinent to mention here that the BJP has expressed confidence in its candidate's chances of winning the by-election. Though she worked as a school teacher and lacks direct experience in administration, the

## BJP candidates dominate Block Pramukh polls

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Of the 76 candidates fielded by the BJP in the election for 89 posts of Block Pramukhs, 53 candidates have been elected to the posts. Citing this as a historic win of the party, the BJP State president, Ajay Bhatt, has thanked the public and party workers. He opined that the people had once again placed their faith in the BJP and rejected the Congress.

Bhatt said that 70 per cent of the candidates fielded by the party had been elected to the posts of Block Pramukh. Additionally, most of the independents who won the election are in support of the BJP.

clean image of her late husband and the works done by him before his untimely death

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat congratulated all the elected Block Pramukhs and added that the victory of BJP candidates proved that the people trust the BJP and that they had rejected the opposition parties for their negative attitude and actions. Thanking the people, he said that the election results will boost the speed of development.

The State Government is committed to fulfilling the public aspirations, he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the elections to the 89 posts of Block Pramukhs, BJP candidates were elected in 53 posts, Congress in 20 and independents in 16.

In June this year are expected to garner strong public support for the BJP candidate.

## BJP banking only on sympathy, says Pritam

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief, Pritam Singh, has claimed that the Congress party candidate Anju Lunthi would emerge victorious in the Pithoragarh Assembly by-elections. Speaking to the media persons at State headquarters of the Congress party on Wednesday he said that the BJP which has fielded Chandra Pant, the wife of former Finance Minister Prakash Pant is banking only on the sympathy factor to win the election.

The PCC chief, however, said that the people of Pithoragarh are mature enough to understand the design of BJP. He said that all the development works initiated by the former MLA Mayukh Mahar have been stalled during the present BJP regime. "In last three years, Pithoragarh has witnessed no development."

The people of Pithoragarh are very aware and have always shown eagerness for development. I am sure that people will vote for the Congress candidate there," he said.

Meanwhile Anju Lunthi, the official candidate of Congress party filed her nomination of Wednesday. She arrived in the collectorate premises with a huge procession.

The former MLA and local heavyweight Mayukh Mahar, former chairman of the Pithoragarh Nagar Palika, Jagat Singh Khatri and district president Trilok Mahar accompanied Lunthi during the filing of nomination papers.

The political analysts opine that the Congress party has made the Pithoragarh by election interesting by fielding Anju Lunthi.

They are of the view that by fielding Lunthi, Congress party has nullified the women card the BJP played by announcing the candidature of Chandra Pant.

## U'khand to host convention of presiding officers of legislatures

79th convention of presiding officers would be held from December 17 to 21 in the provisional State Capital



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla, Rajya Sabha chairman and speakers of all legislative bodies of the country would be held in which discussions on the parliamentary procedures would be held.

Elaborating further, he said that on the first day, a conclave of the secretaries of all legislative bodies of the country would be held in which discussions on the parliamentary procedures would be held.

This programme would be chaired by the secretary general of the Lok Sabha. On November 18 and 19, a two day conclave of the presiding officers would be organised.

In the conclave, apart from discussions on parliamentary

issues, deliberations would be held on challenges being faced by the country and their solutions.

The Speaker said that 400 participants are expected to participate in the event. From Lok Sabha secretariat 70 officers and employees would participate while around eight representatives would participate from every State Assembly.

Agarwal said that the objective of the conclave is to ensure uniformity in the parliamentary procedures in the country and establishment of high standards of parliamentary practices.

He said that the first such convention was held in the year 1921 at Shimla and this year 79th convention would be held in Dehradun.

The Speaker said that in the opening session all the members of Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha and members of parliament from the State would be invited.

## Traffic offences proving fatal in road accidents

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The recent death of a minor riding a two-wheeler at Mata Mandir Road has once again elicited focus on the apathy of people towards their own security and traffic offences being the prime reason behind majority of road accidents. Earlier in the month of October, at least three different cases of road accidents were reported in Dehradun, in which traffic offences such as suspected drunken driving, not wearing helmet and riding on wrong side of the road resulted in deaths of four persons.

Superintendent of Police (traffic) Prakash Chandra Arya said, "The purpose for amending Motor Vehicles Act and setting such high penalty rates was to make sure that the people if not by their sense of security, at least start obeying the laws out of fear of high amount of penalty. Even though they are

starting to complete their paperwork, awareness is lacking somewhere. It is unfortunate that even after our repeated attempts to make the citizens aware about traffic rules and the drastic difference obeying rules can make between life and death, such accidents are being reported."

When asked whether public apathy or lack of implementation is the problem, he said, "Till November 9, most of our force is busy in maintaining traffic operation smoothly. Definitely, we have not been able to focus on implementation as much as we would have liked, still we are continuously conducting campaigns and awareness drives from our level."

It is pertinent to mention here that in the past, senior officials of Uttarakhand State Transport Authority have also appealed to the general public to obey by the traffic laws rather than bickering about high amount of penalty.



A vendor arranges sugarcane for sale in the market ahead of Devuthani Gyaras in Bhopal on Wednesday Pioneer photo

## Jamshedpur Book Fair all set to be a treat for bibliophiles

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

The 35th Jamshedpur Book Fair will start from November 8 and would treat book lovers with a wide range of books in English, Hindi and Bengali. Gurmukhi, Odia and Santhali.

The Tagore Society is all set to make the event successful. The book fair like every year will have publishers from New Delhi, Calcutta, Odisha and other states and would

continue till November 17. Jusco managing director, Tarun Daga will inaugurate the event. General secretary of Tagore Society, Ashis Chowdhury said that book lovers eagerly wait for the annual fair.

Our basic idea is to promote rich literature of different languages and so were keen to have books of all regional languages at the fair.

He also went on to inform that all precautionary measures

such as installing CCTV, fire-fighters, dog squad have been made to ensure life and property during the fair.

"Our priority is more on quality publishers and not just quantity. We would like book lovers to come and enjoy books to cultivate a reading habit," said the secretary of Tagore Society. In view of the demands of the students, this time in fair textbooks and recommended books will also be available apart from regular books.



A massive fire broke out in a scrapyard in old city locality in Bhopal on Wednesday

Pioneer photo

## Bill to give ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies: Manoj Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Manoj Tiwari has said a Bill will be passed in the Winter Session of Parliament to give residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi ownership rights of their properties.

In a massive outreach programme, the BJP's Delhi unit has been telling people living in unauthorised colonies about the Narendra Modi government's role in helping them to get ownership rights of their properties.

In the Winter Session of Parliament, a legislation will be passed, and people living in unauthorised colonies will start getting ownership rights soon," Tiwari said at a public meeting in Saurabh Vihar under Badarpur Assembly constituen-

cy on Tuesday.

In a move that will benefit an estimated 40 lakh people, the Union Cabinet last month approved a proposal to grant ownership rights to people living in 1,797 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. "More than 40 lakh people living in unauthorised colonies are being given ownership rights of their houses by a historical decision of the Narendra Modi Government. Lakhs of people living in these colonies are happy because of this decision," Tiwari said.

Regularisation of unauthorised colonies has remained a major poll issue in Delhi for decades. The BJP and ruling AAP have been vying for taking credit for giving ownership rights to the people living in these settlements, before the Assembly elections due next year.



CEO of Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Limited (BSCDCL) Deepak Singh inspected the development work in progress of Arch Bridge at Kamlapati Ghat in Bhopal on Wednesday Pioneer photo



STALLED ETALIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN DIBANG

# FAC sub-committee to decide clearance

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shelved twice as it requires diversion of 1,165 hectares of 'luxuriant' forest land, the possibility of setting up the controversial 3097 megawatt (MW) Etalin hydroelectric project (HEP) in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley is being explored again.

Despite bringing to its notice that the ₹ 25,296-crore HEP has been proposed in the region enriched with flora and fauna — about 680 bird species have been recorded which is about 56 per cent of total bird species of the country — the Union Environment Ministry's expert committee on forest clearances (FAC) has now set up a sub-committee to decide the fate of the project. The FAC had held clearance to the project twice in the past — in 2015 and then in 2017.

As per the minutes of the meeting of the FAC held in October 17, 2019, the sub-committee will visit the site and check if the total land requirement could be further reduced. It would also "look into the concerns highlighted by regional office in its report especially related to tree enumeration process and the aspects highlighted in biodiversity assessments study by the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of



India (WII).

Report of subcommittee shall be exhaustive with appropriate recommendation so that FAC could take appropriate decision," said the minutes of the meeting posted on the Ministry's website.

Incidentally, the FAC in its 2017 meeting in February while putting on hold the clearance, had flagged the lack of studies on the project's impact on the region's biodiversity.

The committee had noted that while the Chief Conservator of Forest of the region mentioned

only a few mammals and plant species in his report, the region is a biodiversity hotspot. "This area has more biodiversity than any part of the country," said the panel referring to various reports that pointed out that the entire region falls under IUCN management categories III, IV, endemic bird area, global biodiversity hotspot, and key biodiversity area indicating its importance at the global scale.

The committee had said that since independent studies, that used camera traps, recorded 12 tigers and

eight clouded leopards in Dibang valley, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), too, should give its view on the issue.

The FAC had recommended conducting multiple seasonal replicate studies on biodiversity assessment by an internationally credible institute noting that the current study (Environment Impact Assessment) is completely inadequate in this regard.

However, on October 17, 2019, the panel observed that the recommendations of its last meeting (February 2017) has not been complied fully and the replies submitted in compliance of all observations were not satisfactory. "Moreover, FAC could not obtain viewpoints of representatives of user agency or State Government, as no one was present for consultation and clarification of doubts," it said.

The sub-committee is comprised of SD Bora and Dr Sanjay Deshmukh, both FAC members, GV Gopi of Dehradun-based Wild Life Institute of India (WII), representative of regional office, Shillong, IG National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) of the regional office (Guwahati) among others. However, no time period has been given to the panel to submit the report.

# Russia supports India's counter-terror efforts

## Defence Min Sergey Shoigu reaffirms his commitment on the visit of Rajnath Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Russia on Wednesday backed India in its fight against terrorism and reaffirmed its support to tackle the scourge by boosting India's defence capabilities and providing cutting edge technology. This assurance came during visiting Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Russian counterpart General Sergey Shoigu talks in Moscow. Singh is in Russia on a three-day visit started on Tuesday.

Giving details of the talks between the two leaders held under the aegis of the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC), Defence Ministry officials said here Singh held in-depth discussions on a range of international issues of common concern. Shoigu briefed Raksha Mantri on Russian operations in Syria.

The Russian side reiterated its strong support to India in the field of counter-terrorism and stated that it accords priority to New Delhi's security interests in the region. The Russian Defence Minister underlined Moscow's commitment to extend all possible support in enhancing India's defence

capabilities, including cooperation in advance and cutting-edge technology. Singh appreciated Russia's steadfast support.

Welcoming Singh on his maiden visit to Russia, Shoigu termed India as an exclusive strategic defence partner. Singh emphasised that the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries was further strengthened following the Vladivostok Summit in September 2019.

He highlighted the importance of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on manufacturing of spares, components and aggregates in India through joint ventures that would reduce cost, timelines of supply and result in progressive indigenisation. This agreement is expected to provide a major boost to the 'Make in India' initiative.

Responding to his invitation, the Russian Defence Minister assured robust Russian participation in DefExpo 2020, to be held in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow between February 5-8, 2020.

The Russian side affirmed its readiness to operationalise the joint venture Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited for the manufacture of world class Kalashnikov AK 203 rifles in India at the earliest. The factory was set up in Uttar Pradesh some months back and will manufacture these rifles for the army to begin with and then para-military forces and the police. The total cost of the joint venture is

about ₹ 7,000 crores. The two Ministers reviewed the progress of the two working groups on Military and Military Technical Cooperation. It was agreed that the forthcoming tri-service Indra Exercises will be a major milestone in military cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on the progress in implementing ongoing contracts concluded in the recent past. Russia also agreed to Singh's request to constitute specific working groups for after-sales support of key defence platforms. The ministers directed the respective teams to work closely for early conclusion of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support.

As a special gesture, the Russian Defence Minister requested Singh for participation of an Indian military Contingent in Army Parade on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War. Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin has already extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the celebrations. He also assured that an Indian contingent would be participating in the Parade.

Singh will visit St Petersburg on Thursday on the final day of his visit to Russia. His engagements include wreath laying at the Piskarevsky Memorial Cemetery there.

# CBI searches house of MP Cong MLA

New Delhi: During the nationwide operations against banking fraud accused, the CBI has searched the residence of Congress MLA Raghuraj Singh Kansana in Madhya Pradesh's Morena in connection with a bank loan availed fraudulently by his nephew. The searches were carried out on Tuesday.



The case. Kansa's nephew runs a warehouse for which he had taken a loan from the victim bank.

The CBI has booked Kansana's nephew Kushal Singh for allegedly availing loan from UCO Bank on the basis of forged documents causing a loss of ₹ 8.08 crore to the public sector lender. Besides Kushal, the agency has also named then chief manager of the bank R K Sinha as an accused in

the case. Kansa's nephew runs a warehouse for which he had taken a loan from the victim bank. After registering the case, the CBI team on Tuesday reached the ancestral house of the MLA in Morena, Madhya Pradesh to seek documents. The agency also searched the warehouse owned by Kushal Singh, owner of the warehouse fraud-

ulently issued warehouse receipts in the name of different persons for availing loan against those receipts and unauthorisedly released and removed pledged goods without having release orders from UCO Bank, according to the FIR.

He said most of such receipts were issued in the names of the warehouse owner's employees and relatives. During the physical inspection of stock by a team appointed by the zonal office of the bank, it was found that the stock of commodities was much less than what the warehouse submitted to the bank while pledging them for securing the loan, officials said.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electoral bonds worth of ₹6,128 crore were sold between March 2018 to October 2019 (when scheme was launched), with more than half that amount — a whopping ₹3,622 crore — sold just ahead of the May 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report, a total of ₹1,366 crore worth of electoral bonds were sold in March 2019, rising to ₹2,256 crore in April in the run-up to the elections in May 2019.

# Electoral bonds worth ₹6K cr sold between March '18 to Oct '19: ADR

The highest number of electoral bonds worth ₹1,880 crore were sold in Mumbai, followed by ₹1,440 crore in Kolkata, ₹919 crore in New Delhi and ₹383 crore in Hyderabad. The donors bought 1,459 electoral bonds of denomination of ₹10 lakh and 1,258 bonds of ₹one crore denomination. They purchased 318 bonds of ₹one lakh.

12 bonds of ₹10,000 and 24 bonds of ₹1,000 denomination. Parties redeemed electoral bonds worth ₹1,395.89 crore. Electoral bonds were launched on March 1 last year by the Modi

government as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties. The idea was to increase transparency in political funding and curb the usage of black money. The Centre subsequently notified the Electoral Bonds Scheme in January this year.

An electoral bond is like a Promissory Note, similar to a banknote, that is payable to the bearer on demand and free of interest. It can be purchased by any Indian citizen or a body corporate in India. An electoral bond may be issued in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh and ₹1 crore and

are available at specified branches of the State Bank of India.

A donor can purchase an electoral bond with a KYC-compliant account and can donate the bonds to their party of choice, which can then be cashed through the party's verified account within 15 days.

Any political party that is registered under Section 29 A of the Representation of People Act, 1951, and has secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last elections to the Lok Sabha or legislative Assembly will be eligible to receive electoral bonds.

## INSHORT

### CLAMPDOWN IN J&K 'NOT TEMPORARY', SC TOLD

New Delhi: Shutting down mobile, landline and internet services for 90 days in Jammu & Kashmir was "by no means a temporary measure" following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court was told on Wednesday.

### SC TO HEAR PLEA ON SLAIN COP PENSION

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear a plea seeking pension and compensatory appointment for policemen dying on duty as in the case of government servants.

### CONDOLENCE FOR IAS OFFICER SS DHANOA

New Delhi: The Bihar branch of IAS Officers' Association condoled the demise of former Bihar cadre IAS officer SS Dhanoa. Dhanoa was a 1954-batch officer and the father of Air Force ex-chief BS Dhanoa. The association in an extraordinary general meeting placed on record its deep appreciation of the services rendered by Dhanoa to the people of Bihar, where he retired as Chief Secretary.

## VACANCIES IN CIC AND STATE CIC

# SC seeks status report on filling up of posts from Centre, States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre and nine states to file a status report on filling up of vacancies in the central and state information commissions in compliance with its earlier orders.

A bench of Justices SA Bobde, S Abdul Nazeer and Krishna Murari asked the Centre and the nine states to file the status report in four weeks.

"In the meantime, the Union of India and the states shall submit a status report regarding filling up of the vacancies in question and a compliance report with regard to the directions given by this court vide judgment dated February 15, 2019 be also filed," the bench said in its order.

# Will respect apex court's verdict on Ayodhya issue: Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pinning hope that the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case will be based on "evidence and not faith", prominent organisation of Muslim clerics Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind on Wednesday said it will respect the apex court's ruling in the matter. The organisation also appealed to Muslims to abide by the top court's decision on the issue.

The Babri Masjid case is not just a case of land dispute but a test case of the supremacy of the law, Jamiat chief Syed Arshad Madani said at a press conference here on Wednesday.

"We believe SC will decide on the basis of law and not on faith," Madani said. "Every justice-loving person wants the case should be adjudicated on the basis of hard facts and evidence not on the basis of faith and belief," he said, adding that the Supreme Court also made it amply clear that it is only a title suit case.

"The debate in the court is



over, now we await the judgment. Our lawyer Rajeev Dhawan has made a very strong argument based on facts and we are confident that the decision will be in our favour. But, we have said time and again, the country is ours, the law is ours and the Supreme Court is ours. We have given evidence, whatever judgment is made, we will respect it," he said.

"We want to urge all citizens that they should respect the law and maintain peace in the country irrespective of whether the verdict is in favour or against," he said. Referring to his meeting with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in August, Madani said, the

basis of that meeting was maintaining Hindu-Muslim unity.

"I am happy that, while sticking to our respective views, we have agreed on the point that Hindu-Muslim unity should be maintained in the country at all times. They (RSS) are also trying for this and we are also trying," he said. Madani's remarks came a day after, senior RSS and BJP leaders reached out to prominent Muslim clerics and intellectuals and held a meeting with them during which it was stressed that irrespective of the nature of the court ruling there should neither be 'junooni jashn' (excessive celebration) nor 'haar ka hungama' (brouhaha over defeat).

The meeting was held at the residence of Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and was attended by RSS leaders Krishna Gopal and Ram Lal, former Union minister Shahnawaz Hussain, Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind general secretary Mahmood Madani, Shia cleric Maulana Syed Kalbe Jawwad and filmmaker Muzaffar Ali.

## ANTI-SIKH RIOTS CASE

# SC directs examination of Sajjan's health condition, seeks report in 4 weeks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed that former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, sentenced for life in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, be examined by a panel of AIIMS doctors, after he sought urgent listing of his bail plea on health grounds.

Kumar was awarded life imprisonment by the Delhi High Court on December 17 last year. The Supreme Court has also asked for a report in four weeks from the panel of doctors constituted by the AIIMS director.

A bench headed by Justice S A Bobde said it will hear the bail application of Kumar in the summer vacation next year.

On August 5, a bench headed by Justice Bobde had said it would hear Kumar's bail plea in May 2020 as it was not an "ordinary case" and required detailed hearing before any order is passed. "We are of the view that the

health condition of petitioner (Kumar) be examined by a panel of doctors constituted by the AIIMS director. Report the file in four weeks," the bench said.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Kumar, said he has been in jail for the past 11 months and has lost around eight to 10 kg of weight. He said Kumar has been suffering from various ailments and has serious health issues.

To this, the bench said losing weight does not mean that he is unhealthy but still "we will order examination of his health conditions by a panel of doctors".

Kumar resigned from the Congress after he was convicted by the high court.

The case in which he was convicted and sentenced relates to the killing of five Sikhs in Delhi Cantonment's Raj Nagar Part-I area of southwest Delhi on November 1-2 in 1984, and burning down of a gurdwara in Raj Nagar Part-II.

# Complete corporate insolvency resolution process of Jaypee Infra Ltd within 90 days: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a jolt to the Jaypee Group, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed completion of corporate insolvency resolution process within 90 days for Jaypee InfraTech Ltd and said the revised resolution plan will be invited only from NBCC and Suraksha Realty.



The apex court said the pendency of any other application before the NCLT or NCLAT, including any interim direction, shall be no impediment for the IRP to receive and process the revised resolution plan from the two bidders.

A bench of justices A M Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari said it is passing directions in an "exceptional situation" to do complete justice to home buyers, Jaypee group and banks concerned.

# Nirav Modi appears in UK court for hearing on new bail application

PTI ■ LONDON

Fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi, who is fighting extradition to India on charges of nearly USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case, on Wednesday appeared before a UK court hearing his new bail application.

Dressed in a blue sweater and freshly shaved, the 48-year-old was produced before Westminster Magistrates' Court in London to make another attempt at being let out on bail until his trial in May next year.

He has been in custody at Wandsworth prison in south-west London, one of England's most overcrowded prisons, since his arrest in March.

Modi was looking distinctly healthier than his previous appearance before the same court earlier this year.

"The bail application is at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Wednesday November 6. The grounds cannot be made public until the hearing," said a spokesperson for the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which represents the Indian government in the extradition proceedings in court.

Modi has reportedly claimed anxiety and depression in his latest application, with earlier bail applications at the court being rejected by Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot, and then also on appeal at the High Court in London, as he was deemed a flight risk.

His legal team has previously described their client's experience in prison as "damaging" and offered stringent electronic tag and other conditions akin to house arrest at his post Centrepoint apartment in the West End of London in an attempt to persuade the judge to grant bail.

"His experience in custody has been vivid and damaging...He is willing to abide by any bail conditions imposed by the court because Wandsworth is unliveable and makes the effective preparation of his case virtually impossible," his barrister Clare Montgomery had told Judge Arbuthnot earlier in the year.

They had also doubled the initial bail bond offer of 1 million pounds to 2 million pounds in an attempt to sway the court. However, Arbuthnot had concluded that Modi was wanted in connection with a "large fraud" and the doubling of security was "not sufficient to cover a combination of concerns that he would fail to surrender". In June, Modi's legal team took

his appeal against that ruling to the Royal Courts of Justice in London, where a judge was told about the diamond merchant's troubled state of mind in "confidential" documents.

"The circumstances he has had to endure at Wandsworth have been personally difficult and the confidential exhibits reflect the experience that has marked him deeply. The reality is that he is not the cold-blooded hardened criminal as claimed by the Government of India but a jewellery designer from a long line of diamond dealers, and regarded as being honest, careful and reliable," Montgomery told the High Court, adding that a number of individuals were willing to offer sureties and substantial sums to back up the claim that Modi is not a man who plans to run.

But in her judgment, Justice Ingrid Simler concurred with the Chief Magistrate that there were "substantial grounds" to believe that Modi would fail to surrender as he does possess the means to "abscond".

After considering all the material "carefully", the judge said she found strong evidence to suggest there had been interference with witnesses and destruction of evidence in the case and concluded it could recur if he was let out of prison.

There are no strict limits on the number of times Modi can apply for bail, but he would have to produce substantially modified grounds in a new application.

He has meanwhile continued to appear via videolink before the magistrates' court in London, appearing in a standard prison-issued grey tracksuit and mostly freshly shaved and upbeat. His next routine 28-day appearance required under UK law is listed for November 11, a date that still remains on the court's lists.

At a hearing last month, Judge Nina Tempia had confirmed that his extradition trial is scheduled between May 11 and 15 next year, with the case management hearings set to begin from February next year. Modi has been behind bars at Wandsworth prison since his arrest on March 19 on an extradition warrant executed by Scotland Yard on charges brought by the Indian government.

During subsequent hearings, Westminster Magistrates' Court was told that Modi was the "principal beneficiary" of the fraudulent issuance of letters of undertaking (LoUs) as part of a conspiracy to defraud PNB and then laundering the proceeds of crime.

# Massive increase in H-1B visa denial for Indian IT companies under Trump admin, says report

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump Administration's restrictive immigration policies have led to massive increase in the rejection of petitions for H-1B visas with the highest denial rate among major Indian IT companies, according to a study carried out by an American think-tank.

The study by the National Foundation for American Policy, based on data received from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) showed that denial rates for H-1B petitions, a popular among Indian IT professionals, have increased significantly from just six per cent in 2015 to 24 per cent in the third quarter of the current fiscal.

The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The study reflects that denial rate for H-1B visas is highest among major Indian IT companies, thus giving credence to charges that Indian companies are being unduly targeted by the current administration.

For instance, the denial rate of H-1B petitions for initial employment for Amazon, Microsoft, Intel and Google in 2015 was just one per cent. In 2019, the same increased respectively to six, eight, seven and three per cent.

The denial rate for Apple remained the same at two per cent.

During the same period, the denial rate jumped from four per cent to 41 per cent for Tech Mahindra, from six per cent to 34 per cent for Tata Consultancy Services, from seven per cent to 53 per cent for Wipro and from just two per cent to 45 per cent for Infosys, the study showed.

At least 12 companies that provide professional or IT services to other US companies, including Accenture, Capgemini and others, had denial rates of over 30 per cent through the first three quarters of fiscal 2019. Most of these companies had denial rates between two per cent and seven per cent as recently as in 2015, it said.

The denial rate for H-1B petitions for continuing employment was also high for Indian IT companies. For Tech Mahindra, it increased from two per cent to 16 per cent during the same period, while that of Wipro increased from four per cent to 19 per cent, and Infosys from one per cent to 29 per cent, the study showed.

On the other hand, the denial rates for H-1B petitions for continuing employment among major American companies were low — Amazon (from one per cent to three per cent), Microsoft (remained at two per cent), Intel (from one per cent to three per cent), Apple (remained at one per cent) and for Google, it increased from 0.4 per cent in 2015 to one per cent in 2019.

Noting that between 2015 and 2019, the denial rate for new H-1B petitions for initial employment quadrupled from six to 24 per cent, the National Foundation for American Policy said to put this in perspective, between 2010 and 2015, the denial rate for "initial" H-1B petitions never exceeded eight per cent, while today the rate is three times higher.



PAPER WITH PASSION

## For the sake of law

We need a semblance of order to believe the police is an enforcer. And judiciary is meant to complement that effort



For the common citizen, security comes from the rule of law and an assurance of justice when it is violated. That trust in law enforcers or the police and justice crusaders or lawyers was shattered completely in the Capital no less when the two sides fought like cats and dogs over a parking dispute that snowballed into an egoistic turf war. The lawyers claimed the court premises were their space and had the right to park a car anywhere, the police insisted it was unlawful. What's worse, both sides escalated a scuffle with galloping force instead of containing it. They urged their colleagues to an all-out war on the streets of Delhi, paralysing the city completely and making a mockery of the justice system, destroying it instead of restoring it, degrading the code of public service and morality that they are sworn to but apparently have no respect for. If an advocate slapped a constable at Tis Hazari, the frayed tempers spilt over with the cops retaliating and lawyers, in turn, thrashing them in Saket and Karkardooma district courts. The entire Delhi police rose in revolt in an unprecedented manner demanding action against the errant lawyers as the latter slapped cases on them and even ensured their suspension. This may seem like a bizarre outburst of fury but one that had been gathering volcanic force for quite some time, both in a never-ending tussle of heft within the criminal justice framework. First, lawyers, by virtue of their expertise in interpreting the law, have also developed an arrogance vis-a-vis constables and junior cops. Assaulting and intimidating them or even lesser privileged litigants have been reported with far too much frequency to take note of, the violations never being reported or redressed simply because victims don't want a court battle that the lawyers could trap them with. In the Tis Hazari case, the lawyers were able to get an urgent hearing in the Delhi High Court on Sunday that took suo moto cognisance of reports about the clashes. It also directed Delhi Police not to register any FIR against lawyers or take coercive action against them. It further ordered the Government to provide the best possible treatment to lawyers injured in the clash. This seemed one-sided and riled up the entire force. Many among them have rightly argued that if the court wanted to intervene, then it should have served a notice to the department and heard its views before passing any order. Ordinary constables certainly cannot afford to fight complex charges, fearing the fraternal spirit in courts could influence the magistrate, victimise them and ruin their careers. Lawyers, too, have gotten away with the comfort of knowing that they can use the law to their advantage and get away by threatening others. What else can explain lawyers assaulting even journalists during the hearing of JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar's sedition case at Patiala House courts in 2016? Such incidents of high-handedness have been sporadic across the country, arming the lawyers with a certain sense of invincibility. It is only now that their seniors and bar associations gave strongly come out against lumpenisation under the cover of law.

As for the Delhi police, this was just the last straw on the camel's back as they have been at the receiving end of authority for far too long and under far greater pressure than anywhere else to deliver, no matter the brutal long hours, the not so suitable conditions, the expectations of efficacy and the perennial criticism. For long, there has been a demand for police reforms and calls for their protection in the line of duty but to no avail. And though their code prohibits them from mass revolt, their collective demonstration showed up the wide gulf between their top brass and the lowest rung. So if they recalled the muscularity of former top cop Kiran Bedi, who had silenced lawyers during a similar row in 1988, it is because they feel a lack of urgency from seniors to address their grievances. So now they are clearly looking for more than flat reassurances, they want swift action. And their pride. For politicians, this is no time for using this shame as cannon fodder and for pointing fingers at each other. For the sake of justice, the offenders, no matter which side of the divide they belong to, in these brawls must be identified and acted against. And for Delhi, we need a semblance of order to trust that the police is indeed with us, for us always. That the judiciary is meant to complement that greater effort. Let us not be enemies of the State. For unjust law, as Gandhi said, is a species of violence itself.

## The love of cash

Even after demonetisation and digitisation, Indians stash more notes than ever before



Why do Indians love cash so much? That is a question that needs answering after a report emerged in the media that despite demonetisation, the proportion of cash as a share of total savings kept by Indians increased to a quarter of their overall reserve. In fact, a quarter of the currency notes in circulation are actually unproductive and stay at home. These figures were released by National Account Statistics and paint a worrying picture. This is because the cash that is saved up, rather hoarded for a rainy day, is an extremely inefficient way to use any asset because sitting inside a locker, under a bed or even stuffed inside a mattress, it is losing value every passing day. However, with the real estate market bubble bursting, the equity markets tepid and a loss of confidence in the banks have meant that many of India's non-professional and non-salaried middle and upper income classes have few investment options to grow money. And even though the markets have been climbing of late, there has been a lack of investor confidence as negative economic news percolates through to even lower-run small investors, thus creating a vicious cycle. The bursting of the real-estate bubble in particular has had a vicious effect, as property was for years the best way to deploy cash for many Indians.

To encourage Indians to circulate their hoarded cash and at least return to the previous 10-12 per cent levels of cash holdings as a proportion of their overall savings, the Government should encourage easy investment options in start-ups and also instill a renewed sense of optimism in banks. For one, the amount insured in every account of a scheduled bank, which currently stands at one lakh rupees, should at least be doubled or tripled. The collapse of the PMC bank, even though it was a loosely regulated cooperative bank, has further shaken the confidence of depositors. The gap between the actual and potential output of the economy, that has been referred to by several economists as a direct consequence of this, is not something that can be closed soon. Any action, such as further rate reductions by the Reserve Bank of India, because the money is there, is not being deployed. There is clearly a crisis of confidence, which is causing the problem, and may be the Finance Ministry could simply increase the limit for cash spending without the requirement for a PAN card from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh. That will jumpstart the consumer economy once again.

# The archives of Leh

It is perhaps not too late to put the history of India in its proper perspective and undo the blunders committed in the 1950s and 1960s



CLAUDE ARPI

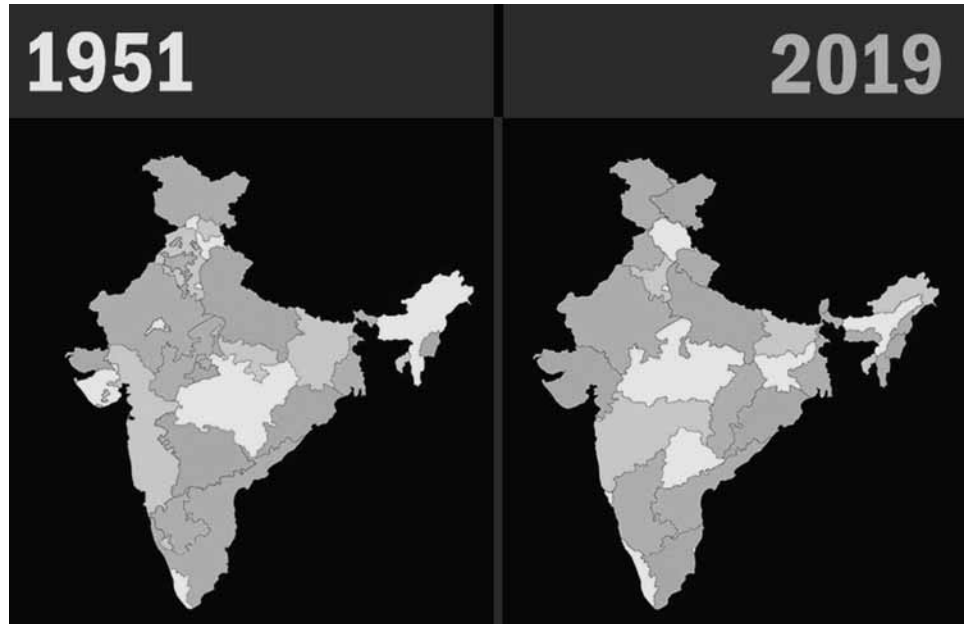
As an aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, the former State of Jammu & Kashmir has been reorganised into the new Union Territories (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The latter consists of two districts: Kargil and Leh. Subsequently, new maps have been prepared by the Surveyor-General of India showing the geographical outline of the new UTs; it is a welcome move by the Government to educate the people of India and the media (and hopefully, the biased foreign Press).

Interestingly, the Leh district of Ladakh includes the districts of Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chilhas and Tribal Territory of 1947, in addition to the known areas of Leh and, of course, the Aksai Chin, illegally occupied by China since the mid-1950s.

For several reasons, it is important that these maps have been updated. First there was often a discrepancy in the length of the Indo-China border on some Indian websites. Was the length 4,056 or 3,488 km? The first figure is the only valid one as Gilgit-Baltistan (formerly the Gilgit agency) is legally a part of India. The Indo-China boundary starts at the trijunction of Afghanistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Xinjiang to reach the Karakoram Pass and further runs through the Karakoram and Karatagh passes and along the Kunlun in the north, and through Lanak La and across the western part of the Pangong Lake and then along the ridge parallel to the Indus, before crossing the Indus south-east of Demchok. Hopefully the wrong figures will now be rectified.

The fact that large parts of Ladakh are today occupied by China explain Beijing's aggressive stance. Speaking of the creation of the two UTs, Geng Shuang, a spokesman of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the media: "China deplors and firmly opposes this. This is unlawful and void and this is not effective in any way and will not change the fact that the area is under Chinese actual control." He urged India to "earnestly respect China's territorial sovereignty and uphold peace and tranquility in the border areas."

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs did not leave the unwarranted attack unanswered: "We do not expect other countries, including China, to comment on matters that are internal to India, just as India refrains from commenting on the internal issues of other countries," declared India's Ministry for External Affairs spokesman. Referring to the Shaksam Valley, he pointed out that China "illegally" acquired Indian territories from Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir through the 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement. That infamous pact was signed by Pakistan's Minister of External Affairs and his Chinese counter-



part. The new maps will irritate China no end, as it virtually opens another sector along the Indo-Chinese disputed boundary.

A secret note prepared by the historical division of the Ministry of External Affairs mentioned that "any such agreement will be *ab initio* illegal and invalid and will not bind India in any respect." The note observed that the preamble states that the parties have agreed to formally delimit and demarcate the boundary between Xinjiang and the contiguous areas of Pakistan, the defence of which was under the actual control of Karachi; Pakistan based its right on the fact that these areas were under her "actual control." However, the Indian note explained: "Under international law, the right of entering into treaties and agreements is an attribute of sovereignty. Furthermore, a sovereign cannot presume to exercise sovereign functions in respect of territory other than its own. Having regard to the UN resolutions of January 17, 1948, August 13, 1948 and January 5, 1949 (UNCIP Resolutions) it is clear that Pakistan cannot (and does not) claim to exercise sovereignty in respect of Jammu and Kashmir."

Very few, even in India, realise the importance of this point. On March 5, 1963, speaking about China during a Calling Attention Motion in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister said: "In spite of its

“  
 THE LOGICAL FOLLOW-UP SHOULD BE TO REPATRIATE ALL THE ARCHIVES PERTAINING TO LADAKH AND THE GILGIT WAZARAT TO LEH, WHERE A PLACE SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO THEIR PRESERVATION; IT IS CRUCIAL AS THE HISTORY OF LARGE CHUNKS OF THE BORDER WITH CHINA LIES IN THESE RECORDS  
 ”

professions that it has never involved itself in the dispute over Kashmir or its absurd claim that the boundary negotiations have promoted friendship between the Chinese and Pakistani people and are in the interests of Asia and world peace, it is directly interfering in Indo-Pakistan relations. By doing this, China is seeking to exploit differences between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir question to further its own expansionist policy."

Of course, since then, China has become Pakistan's Iron brother, but the motivations have remained the same. Today's publication of proper maps should only be a first step.

The logical follow-up should be to repatriate all the archives pertaining to Ladakh and the Gilgit Wazarat, to Leh, where a place should be dedicated to their preservation; it is crucial as the history of large chunks of the border with China lies in these records.

During the negotiations of "the Officials of India and China" in 1960, the Indian side noted: "A systematic settlement of revenue for the whole of Ladakh up to the traditional alignment was made during the time of Mehta Mangal who was Wazir or Governor between 1860 and 1865; and this settlement was revised during the period of his successor Johnson (1870-1881) and Radha Kishen Kaul (1882). The lists of villages in both the Revenue Assessment

Report of 1902 and the Settlement Report of 1908 mentioned 108 villages, including Tanktse, Demchok, Chushul and Minsar... The Preliminary Report of Ladakh Settlement of 1908 made clear that these areas were part of Ladakh."

The Indian side submitted a large quantity of such documents. These records will show that India exercised control over the various frontier areas and collected revenues from the border villages till Independence.

These records should be kept in Leh; it should also include the history of the Gilgit Wazarat and other territories now shown under the Ladakh district and how Shaksam Valley was illegally offered to Communist China.

This would greatly help the project of the Ministry of Defence to write the history of India's borders, the project for which was recently announced: "The work will cover various aspects of borders, including tracing its making; making and unmaking and shifting of borders; role of security forces; role of borderland people encompassing their ethnicity, culture and socio-economic aspects of their lives."

It is perhaps not too late to put the history of India in its proper perspective and undo the blunders committed in the 1950s and 1960s.

(The writer is an expert on India-China relations)

## SOUNDBITE

Whether in public space or in courts, it is for the accuser to prove his charge that our Murali office is on land allotted to Dalits.



DMK president — MK Stalin

India is ready to explore opportunities and co-production of high-end defence equipment with Russia.



Defence Minister — Rajnath Singh

I have not heard from the AITA since Monday, so I am available and believe I am still captain unless I hear otherwise!



Tennis player — Mahesh Bhupathi

Humour, for me, is a natural and organic way of expressing myself. I struggled with how much of myself to reveal. So it was confusing.



Actor — Richa Chadha

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Treasure our children

Sir — This refers to the article "Just rescuing our children is not enough" (November 5). It is really deplorable to see underprivileged children being sexually abused, trafficked and exploited in every way that deprives them of their rights with regard to education and a happy childhood. This speaks volumes of the lackadaisical approach of our Government in a country where Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi has been rendering a yeoman's service to protect children from all sorts of exploitations. How can we achieve a \$5 trillion economy without children being nurtured and supported properly, so as to enable them to become a talented workforce in order to effectively contribute to nation-building?

Many children in India are either stunted or wasted due to our failure to provide nutritious food to them, hampering their growth physically as well as mentally. If the Central and State Governments further fail to take preventive and remedial measures to rescue and rehabilitate the children caught in the vortex of trafficking, child labour and sexual abuse, our plans to place our

### A nightmare in the making

Be it Watergate or the recent WhatsApp snoopgate, programmed break-ins have always occurred with the blessing of Governments, power brokers and seekers. American President Richard Nixon burgled the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate office complex in Washington in 1972. Nixon resigned before he was impeached. In the recent past, using an app provided by Dr Aleksandr Kogan of the University of Cambridge, Cambridge Analytica harvested personal data from millions of Facebook accounts without consent to create their psychographic profiles. WhatsApp, the messaging platform of Facebook, is now caught in an outrageous snooping scandal. Pegasus, a spyware developed by Israeli firm NSO, enabled "a jailbreak on the device" using the WhatsApp messaging platform "to read text messages, track calls, collect passwords, trace the phone locations, as well as gather information from apps including iMessage, Gmail, Viber, Facebook, Telegram, Skype" and more, secretly. According to the reports, the app acted as digital conduit for data to flow from the microphones and cameras in the cell phones. Professor Alan Woodward from the University of Surrey says, "The nightmare scenario would be if you could get something much more capable on to the device without the user having to do anything." Those targeted in India included civil rights activists, human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists. And politicians in the Opposition



camps, too, have raised the alarm about their phones being tapped. Yet, the Government has pretended and pleaded innocence about the spying. WhatsApp bluntly told the Government it had warned it twice in the past. The NSO website is quite categorical: "NSO products are used exclusively by Government intelligence and law enforcement agencies to fight crime and terrorism." At a time when people are weary of — rightly so — hidden cameras in trial rooms and toilets, this organised snoop has come as a rude jolt. It would be a nightmare if the spyware-guided cameras in our mobile phones shoot and send pictures and videos at will without us ever knowing it. True, it could be termed as a wild imagination but not an improbable supposition either.

Haridasan Rajan  
 Kozhikode

the future in terms of overall development and welfare of the people.

Narne Raveendra Babu  
 Hyderabad

### A welcome move

Sir — This refers to the report "India opts out of RCEP as core concerns unresolved" (November 5). India pulled out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on the ground that it would hurt farmers, businesses, workers and consumers alike. It is a wonderful step for the country, because the present form of RCEP agreement does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guiding principles of the free trade agreement. It also does not address satisfactorily India's outstanding issues and concerns regarding China and reduction of duties on goods from partner countries. In such a situation, India's decision to not pen the deal till all our concerns are met is a really wonderful and commendable step.

Seraj Ali  
 Bengaluru

Send your feedback to:  
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com



**FIRST COLUMN**

## Revealed: Why cops fear lawyers

Policemen are scared of lawyers because the latter have a weapon called *istagaasha* or criminal complaint, which the police have no control over



MARKANDEY KATJU

Recently, some policemen in the Capital were said to have been physically assaulted by lawyers in Tis Hazari, Karkardooma and Saket District Courts, which instigated them to hold a demonstration of several hours before the headquarters of the Delhi Police Commissioner near the ITO building demanding protection from such assaults. Several were seen carrying posters reading "Hum police hain, ghulam nahin (We are policemen, not slaves)." Their agitation has been supported by the media as well as police organisations all over the country. And, in what seems to be a feud that is spreading, there were fisticuffs between policemen and lawyers in an Alwar court too.

Now it seems strange that policemen, who do not seem to be scared of any other section of society (except, perhaps, politicians and the armed forces) are scared of lawyers. Lawyers don't carry batons and guns, as many policemen do, then why are the latter scared of them? Even when there is a police lathi-charge on lawyers, it is usually consequential to a prior assault by lawyers on policemen, either with fists or stones.

Policemen are not cowards, so if they are assaulted they are likely to retaliate, but usually they are not the ones who stir up an incident. The reason why policemen are scared of lawyers is that the latter have a weapon called *istagaasha* or criminal complaint, of which policemen are dreadfully afraid. A criminal case in India can be started in one of two ways, that is by filing an FIR (first information report) in a police station under Section 154 CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) or by filing an *istagaasha* before the Judicial Magistrate, under Section 200 CrPC.

Now policemen are not scared of an FIR because that is submitted to others of their own fraternity, and members of one's own fraternity tend to stand by each other and gang up against the common enemy, in this case the lawyers. So the matter is "manageable." But a criminal complaint before a judicial magistrate is an altogether different cup of tea. It is presented before a judge and lawyers and judges belong to the same legal fraternity. A magistrate's sympathy is, therefore, likely to be more with the lawyers who appear daily before him in court rather than with the policemen.

On receiving a complaint by lawyers of a police atrocity, whether true or concocted, the judicial magistrate will issue summons to the policemen accused under Section 204 CrPC and begin a criminal trial, which may end up by the accused policemen being sent to jail and/or their career damaged or ruined. So the moment a summons is issued against him by a judicial magistrate, a policeman is like a fish out of water, flopping about helplessly. That is the real reason why policemen are scared of lawyers.

Many lawyers have imaginative minds, which also scares Government servants. Let me give an example of one such diabolical mind at work. When I was a lawyer in Allahabad High Court (1971-91), there was a leading senior lawyer of Allahabad District Court (let us call him AB), who, though having a huge practice, never filed income tax returns and, of course, never paid any income tax.

Once, a young exuberant and upright Income Tax Officer was posted in Allahabad, who issued a notice to AB to appear before him. When AB appeared, the tax official said, "Mr AB, everyone knows you are a top lawyer in Allahabad District Court with a roaring practice. Yet you never file income tax returns and never pay any income tax", and having said so, made a best assessment and levied a huge demand on AB as tax and penalty. AB kept pleading that he was a poor lawyer with no practice and that he would be ruined by this huge demand as he had no assets, and so on, but to no avail.

A few days thereafter, the tax official received a letter from a lawyer (not AB) stating that his client, a young woman, had been impregnated by the tax official under a false promise of marriage which he had not kept, and now his client has delivered his child, for which he must pay a huge amount of compensation. Otherwise legal proceedings for rape and so on would be commenced against him.

The tax official was bewildered and shocked as he had never till then even had an affair with any woman, far less impregnating anyone. He went from lawyer to lawyer seeking advice, and ultimately someone told him to go to AB. He did and fell at AB's feet, apologising profusely. Consequently, a compromise was reached. The tax official recalled his order imposing tax and penalty on AB, and the legal notice too was withdrawn.

No wonder Government servants in India and cops, too, give lawyers a wide berth!

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

IF WE HAD THE NUMBERS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE WAITED FOR ANYONE. THE CONGRESS AND NCP DIDN'T CROSS THE 100 MARK. WE WILL STAY IN OPPOSITION.  
 —NCP CHIEF SHARAD PAWAR



HE (SHARAD PAWAR) IS RIGHT. THE PARTY WITH 105 MLAS SHOULD FORM THE GOVERNMENT IN MAHARASHTRA.  
 —SENA LEADER SANJAY RAUT

# Revolutionise the farm sector

We need a structural change which will take care of all sections of the agri sector. Indian agriculture is plagued with problems so deep that if not cured, they will ruin the economy



ABHISHEK RAJA

India is about to welcome the fifth generation telecom network "5G" or the fourth industrial revolution, popularly known as "Industry 4.0", but agriculture is still struggling. It is languishing because the Green Revolution, the White Revolution, the Silver Revolution and the Blue Revolution and so on, were ages ago.

Now we need a new structural revolution which will take care of all sections of the farm sector, as agriculture in the country is currently plagued with some serious problems which are so deep that if not cured, they might affect the whole economy. India has around 12 crore small and marginal farmers. Out of these, most are at the mercy of moneylenders, or other sources of finance that are too expensive for them to afford. Even after 70 years of Independence, the pathetic financial position of the "annadata" (food provider) is shocking. The Government has, historically, mandated that banks ensure that 18 per cent of all their lending is given to farmers. And, to ensure that farmers get loans at low rates of interest, the Government pays a certain proportion of the interest to banks directly while the farmers pay the rest. This "subvention" cost the Government ₹3,045 crore in FY18 and, as compared to that, the FY20 Budget target is 37 per cent higher at ₹8,000 crore.

A report by a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) internal working group on agriculture credit, however, points to major problems in how the scheme is working — in which case — the Government probably needs to look at completely recasting it.

The good news here, of course, is that while formal bank credit was just around 10 per cent of total farm credit in 1951, this is up to around 70 per cent today. But, and here's the problem, the concessional farm credit that is given by commercial banks — mostly in the public sector — is many times greater than the inputs bought by farmers. So what are the loans being taken for?

In all probability, as the researchers at ICRIER (Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations) and other institutions have surmised, over the years, since the loans are at vastly subsidised rates, they are probably being diverted to non-farm users. It is not clear if this is done by bank managers alone or whether the farmers are also part of the deal.

The RBI found that in some States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Punjab, bank credit is higher than the cost of inputs by farmers. Whereas in some States like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, farmers are not getting credit even to meet their input requirements.

Interestingly, a study by Tata Institute of Social Sciences' R Ramakumar and the RBI's Pallavi Chavan had found that in FY09, as much as 46 per cent of the loans by banks were made after the Rabi sowing had ended.

The RBI study also found that while livestock, forestry and fisheries contributed around 38-42 per cent of agriculture output during 2014-16, this sector got just seven per cent of the total agriculture credit. Clearly, this is an issue that needs addressing.

The RBI study also found disparity in the number of small and marginal farmers and loans issued to them, as in some States it seems that



THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CREATE AN INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM, WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL MINISTRIES CONCERNED, TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR PRICE AND DEMAND FORECAST, USE OF FUTURES AND OPTIONS MARKET, EXPANSION OF WAREHOUSE DEPOSITORY SYSTEMS AND TO TAKE DECISIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC EXPORT AND IMPORT-RELATED MEASURES

loans are not issued to them and are issued to big farmers.

This policy has created a new set of problems, which has resulted in compromise on investments on long-term agriculture. The short-term crop loans now comprise 75 per cent of all agriculture credit as compared to 51 per cent in 2000. When overall investments in agriculture are slowing — investment-to-farm-GDP fell from 18.2 per cent in FY12 to 13.8 per cent in FY17 — it is a matter of concern. Within this, the share of the Government has fallen even more sharply and this needs to be corrected.

Ideally, the Government should stop subsidised loans and instead, give the subsidy directly to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT); once subsidised loans are not available from the banks, the practice of phantom loans will also stop. Over time, all agriculture subsidies should be trimmed and money should be invested in creating irrigation or other facilities that benefit the sector more.

We need to make agriculture and farmers smart by revolutionising the sector to the extent that it stays relevant in this digital era. This can be done if we start working on the basics of farming but with the help of technology. Farming has to be sustainable in the wake of climate change and degradation of our agricultural ecosystems. We need to re-look at agriculture with the farmer at the centre. Recently a high-powered committee of Chief Ministers was constituted for the "transformation for Indian agriculture." So I would like to put forward some suggestions which could help revolutionise agriculture.

We have to work on multiplication of seeds as it is easy and most of our staples are self-pollinated crops. Excess usage of fertilisers and pesticides is polluting surface and sub-surface aquifers and our food chains have chemical residues. People are growing health-conscious and thus there is increase in

the demand of organic foods. But views on managing soil health and fertility vary widely between soil scientists and indigenous knowledge experts. Science is shy to research how indigenous knowledge systems work on farmers' fields.

Organic farming by Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Village Producers' Organisations (VPOs) in large clusters, preferably of 1,000 hectares each, should be encouraged. Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) should also be encouraged to take up organic agriculture in clusters under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Our ecology supports cultivation of highly-specialised medicinal and aromatic plants. India is home to a large number of small and cottage industries that manufacture perfumes, essential oils and other associated products. The Government should support organised cultivation and associated industry.

There are integrated crop-management systems that help in restoring ecosystems by predominantly using organic inputs.

Zero-budget natural farming is one such system. The way forward is to develop area and crop-specific sustainable agricultural practices and taking them to farmers.

Rainwater harvesting should be a national mission. Every year, India suffers with floods and drought simultaneously. Rainwater, when harvested appropriately, will reduce the pace of water flow, enabling it to seep through and charge aquifers.

For better price realisation, farmers need to make decisions based on prices likely to be available after harvest. The Government should also create an institutional mechanism, with participation of all Ministries concerned, to develop appropriate policies and practices for price and demand forecast; use of futures and options market; expansion of warehouse depository

system and to take decisions about specific export and import-related measures.

Though more than 86 per cent of India's farmers are small and marginal, they are not always in a position to directly transact at Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) and other wholesale markets. Therefore there is a need to develop and upgrade rural markets into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GRAMs). Also, the Government should work on strengthening the electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM), an online trading platform for agricultural commodities.

India has mastered all systems for crop production, including loans for growing crops. But as crops are perishable items if they are not sold on time, pressure starts mounting on farmers. This pressure leads to distress sale. Now, the focus must shift to credit for post-harvest, which can stop distress sale by farmers.

As India is primarily an agriculture-based country, our districts can specialise in some or other agricultural produce and be known for it. But special attention is lacking in this regard. There is a need to develop cluster-based models in a scientific manner for identified agriculture produces in our districts in the same manner as we have developed models for the industrial sector.

Cultivation of horticulture crops in clusters brings advantages of scales of operations and can spur establishment of entire chains from production to marketing, besides giving recognition to the districts for specific crops.

India's farm export potential is as high as \$100 billion against the current exports of \$32-35 billion. If these suggestions are incorporated, we will achieve the \$5 trillion economy target ahead of time.

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

# Ineffective climate pledges spell doom

Environment change summits have become annual high-visibility events where discussions and debates are held and pledges are taken by countries, but thereafter it is business as usual



KOTA SRIRAJ

Delhi's trial by pollution is akin to a trial by fire for all the citizens, especially the elderly and children. The days are exceedingly smoggy and sunlight is disappearing among various layers of harmful pollutants in the atmosphere.

The state of the environment today in Delhi is the result of our actions and inactions, both. While various anthropogenic actions are stoking the pollution levels in our lives, inaction in taking concrete steps to limit and stem the spiralling pollution levels is only worsening matters. The problem of inaction in containing pollution

levels and if possible reversing climate change in the process is a serious matter that is now pushing our environment into an irrecoverable tailspin.

Apart from man-made reasons for pollution, the fact that humans are not taking serious and effective action is damaging the environment more and strengthening the devastating effects of climate change.

The glaring deficiencies in action arise when climate-related pledges are undertaken but seldom executed in all seriousness. This aspect of the fight against climate change has come out in a recent report titled the *Truth Behind the Climate Pledges*, released on November 5 by the United States-based Universal Ecological Fund. Fundación Ecológica Universal (FEU-US) is a partner of the older Argentinian organisation with the same name. The report disclosed that during the course of the research, it was found that

almost 75 per cent of the 184 pledges made by various countries under the Paris Agreement were insufficient to slow climate change.

The report classifies pledges, which commit to reducing 2030 emissions by over 40 per cent compared to 1990 levels as "Sufficient" and 20-40 per cent reduction pledges as "Partially Sufficient."

Pledges with mitigation targets under 20 per cent or those with conditional commitments, where the country is implementing at least 50 per cent of the pledged mitigation actions from their own resources, were deemed "Partially Insufficient." Those with no targets for absolute emission reduction and those which rely on international financing more than 50 per cent of their mitigation actions were deemed "Insufficient."

The fact that the report's research could not find a majority of the pledges being "suffi-



cient" or better still more than "sufficient" is a cause for concern because the state of the environment in the face of rapid climate change needs more than "sufficient" efforts to make a positive difference.

The only countries that could qualify for carrying out their pledges in a sufficient manner were 35 in number. Out of these 35 nations, 28 belonged to the European Union and seven were other nations.

While the pledges of 12 countries, including Australia,

Brazil, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and North Korea were deemed partially sufficient, pledges made by eight other countries were deemed partially insufficient. The rest of the pledges, totalling 125 largely-developing countries with the US being a notable exception, were deemed insufficient.

This shows the wide disparity in efforts and how seriously these pledges are being taken and followed up. But there is a different kind of disparity at work here, too. The EU and the

USA, with their share of high historic emissions and being developed nations, have financial and other resources as accumulated wealth at their disposal and as a result are able to do much more to mitigate climate change on the same platform. This advantage the developing nations do not have. As a result, there is glaring disparity between what the developing world can achieve against their pledges and what the developed world can showcase as efforts taken under their pledges.

The international community must recognise this imbalance and set out to find a formula that empowers all to take equal measures and actions. Climate justice also demands that historically rich emitters must shoulder a substantially higher share of that burden to reduce climate change.

India, in its role as an emerging economic power, must highlight and champion the

cause of the inequitable conditions at the global climate change mitigation forum. As a part of its effort, the Indian leadership must make a strong case of how the developed nations must come forward in not only doing more than the developing world to slow down climate change, but must also assist the emerging nations on advisory and resources support wise and help fight the advance of climate change.

Climate summits have become annual high-visibility events where discussions and debates are held and pledges are taken but thereafter it is business as usual.

This has to change and India can and must become the catalyst that brings about this awakening and change because a pledge taken has to be kept, especially if it is taken for another Earth.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



**FOREIGN EYE**



**NEED TO RESTORE FAITH OF PUBLIC**

A special Assembly, running in tandem with the new British Parliament, could help provide a much-needed bridge between Westminster and the public of the United Kingdom. British MPs have already committed to part-funding a citizen's assembly on climate change emergency next year. The next British Government should go further and take forward the proposal of a constitutional convention.

(The Guardian editorial)

## SHARING INFO ON ARMY Honey-trapped Raj jawan held for link to ISI

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan Police's intelligence unit on Wednesday arrested a soldier, who was honey-trapped by an agent of Pakistan's ISI, for allegedly sharing confidential and strategic information about the Indian Army with her, officials. The soldier, Vichitra Behra, was posted in Rajasthan's Pokhran and was under surveillance. He, along with another soldier, was detained on Tuesday over suspicion of espionage, they said.

It was observed that Behra was in contact with the female Pakistani agent through Facebook and WhatsApp and was passing on confidential information about the Indian Army to her, a top intelligence officer said.

He said the accused soldier was sharing information in exchange for money. According to the officer, Behra revealed during interrogation that the Pakistani agent had befriended him about two years ago. Initially she used to chat with him on Facebook and was also in contact with him through video calling. The agent seduced Behra into revealing confidential information. She used to deposit money in his bank accounts if the information was found correct, the officer said.

Investigation was initiated against the soldier after registering a case under the Protection of Confidential Information Act and he was arrested subsequently. Further investigation in the case is underway, he said. **PTI**

## Rly services in Kashmir to resume from Nov 11

Authorities order track inspection

PNS ■ JAMMU

**A**fter remaining suspended for more than three months since August 5, rail services are set to be resumed in Kashmir Valley from November 11.

The decision to suspend the train services was taken to ensure safety of passengers and railway property.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Basem Ahmad Khan on Wednesday directed the Railway authorities to restore the train services in Valley from next week.

According to official sources, "the railway authorities have been directed to conduct a thorough track inspection within three days, which will be followed by a trial run on November 10 and the resumption of services from November 11".

A high-level review meeting was attended by IGP Kashmir zone, SSP Srinagar, SSP Railways, Additional Commissioner, Kashmir, ADC



Srinagar, Chief Controller, Northern Railways, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern railways and other concerned officials.

Besides, DC Baramulla, DC Anantnag, DC Pulwama, ADC Budgam, SSP Sopore, SSP Awantipora, SSP Pulwama, SSP Baramulla and SSP Budgam attended the meeting through video conferencing where their feedback was gathered by the railway authorities on the prevailing ground situation in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

On an average, 30,000 passengers used to travel between Banihal to Baramulla on daily basis. In the absence of rail services, the railway authorities incurred heavy losses to the

tune of several crores.

According to official sources, "in the last three years, the train services remained suspended for over 300 days, highest being 135 days in 2016".

The situation improved relatively in 2017. Train services remained suspended for only 25 days during the whole year while in 2018, the train services were shut down on 92 days, incurring losses to the tune of 1.2 cores.

In 2019, the train services remained suspended for over 100 days at different intervals.

In the aftermath of killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander, angry protesters had targeted railway property and vandalised bogies parked on the tracks.

## FIRST SNOWFALL OF UT



A vehicle moves on a snow-covered road during seasons first snowfall at Gulmarg in Baramulla on Wednesday **PTI**

## Higher reaches of Kashmir receive season's first snowfall

**Srinagar:** Higher reaches of Kashmir including Gulmarg and Sonamarg tourist resorts received first snowfall of the season on Wednesday while the plains were lashed by rain, bringing down the mercury by more than 10 degrees.

"Snowfall was witnessed in higher reaches of Kashmir valley including Gulmarg and Sonamarg in the wee hours today (Wednesday) while the city and other plains were lashed

by rainfall," an official of the MET department said.

This was the first snowfall in the inhabited areas of the valley.

The change in weather normally brings cheers to the faces of the people associated with tourism but they have their fingers crossed in view of the prevailing situation in the valley in the wake of abrogation of Article 370. "We do not know if the tourists will come to Kashmir

this winter, although indications are that we will receive plenty of snow this season," Basharat Ahmad, a travel agent, said. The downpour in the plains has significantly brought down the day temperature in the city.

While the maximum temperature recorded on Tuesday was 18.6 degrees Celsius, the city recorded just 5.6 degrees Celsius at 3.30 pm on Wednesday, the MET department official said. **PTI**

## WESTERN RAILWAY

**Tender Notice No. C 781/11/SLR/09/2019 dated 06.11.2019**  
Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Western Railway, Mumbai Division, Mumbai Central for and on behalf of The President of India invites open e-tender, for leasing of SLR/VP/PU on single trip/round trip basis on payment of lumpsum rates for loading/unloading of parcels in specific trains for a period of 5 years. Leasing Contract of 3.90/4/23 tonnes space in SLR/VP/PU Compartments of the trains mentioned below. (Period Of Contract = 5 years).

Earnest Money Deposit shall be accepted only through online Net Banking or E-payment gateway.

Sr. No.	Train No.	From/To	RP (in ₹)	Sr. No.	Train No.	From/To	RP (in ₹)
01	19707-FSLR-I	BDS-JP	12087	02	19707-RSLR-I	BDS-JP	12087
03	19045-FSLR-I	ST-CPR	25758	04	19045-RSLR-I	ST-CPR	25758
05	19045-FSLR-II	ST-CPR	25758	06	19051-RSLR-I	BL-MFP	17500
07	19053-FSLR-I	ST-MFP	29708	08	19053-RSLR-I	ST-MFP	29708
09	12971-FSLR-II	BDS-BVC	4380	10	12989-FSLR-I	DDR-AII	2745
11	12989-FSLR-II	DDR-AII	2745	12	12490-FSLR-I	DDR-BKN	6649
13	12490-RSLR-I	DDR-BKN	6649	14	22947-FSLR-I	ST-BGP	26742
15	22947-FSLR-II	ST-BGP	26742	16	22947-RSLR-I	ST-BGP	26742
17	12911-FSLR-I	BL-HW	10063	18	12911-RSLR-I	BL-HW	10063

01 12925-26 BDS-ASR-BDS 228535 per round trip for 23 Trains (Additional VPU)

Date & Time of submission of Tender:- up to 29.11.2019 at 15:00 hrs through online [www.irgse.gov.in](http://www.irgse.gov.in) only. Date & Time of opening of Tender:- up to 29.11.2019 at 15:30 hrs.

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## SIT files 4,700-page chargesheet in Chinmayanand case

**Shahjahanpur (UP):** The Special Investigation Team probing sexual harassment allegations against former Union minister Swami Chinmayanand and a related extortion case filed a voluminous charge sheet on Wednesday in the two cases in a court here.

"The SIT has filed a 4,700-page charge sheet and case diary in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Omveer Singh," Chinmayanand's lawyer Om Singh told PTI.

"We will study the charge sheet and the mobile call detail record," the lawyer said.

During the probe, the SIT recorded statements of 105 people and collected 24 physical and 55 documentary evidence.

The contents of the charge sheet were not immediately available as the probe team has to file a final report in form of an affidavit in a sealed cover in the Allahabad High Court on November 28.

Chinmayanand is lodged in the jail following the case lodged against him by the law student under section 376C of the IPC, an offence pertaining to the abuse of one's position by a person in authority to "induce or seduce" a woman under his charge to have "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape".

The four accused in the extortion case are the woman law student who had charged Chinmayanand with sexual harassment, Sanjay, Vikram and Sachin. All of them are in jail.

IG-rank officer Naveen Arora, who is heading the SIT, had said on Tuesday that BJP leaders DPS Rathore and Ajit Singh have also been made accused in the extortion case.

Chinmayanand, the law student, and some others were also brought to the court on Wednesday after the charge



sheet was filed.

The law student and her three male friends were booked under sections 35 (criminal act done with a criminal knowledge or intention), 385 (extortion), 506 (criminal intimidation), 201 (disappearance of evidences) of the Indian Penal Code and section 67 of the Information Technology Act.

The 72-year-old Chinmayanand also faces the charges of stalking under section 354 D, wrongful confinement under section 342 and criminal intimidation under section 506 of the IPC.

The SIT was constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government on the orders of the Supreme Court in September to investigate the charges levelled by the woman, who was then a postgraduate student at a college run by Chinmayanand's trust.

The woman went missing on August 24, a day after she posted a video on social media alleging that a "senior leader of the sant community" was harassing and threatening to kill her.

Her father had filed a complaint with the police, accusing Chinmayanand of sexually harassing her, a charge refuted by the former Union Minister's lawyer who claimed it was a "conspiracy" to blackmail him.

Chinmayanand was later arrested on September 21. **PTI**

## Miscreants, terrorists resorting to fear-mongering in J&K: Police

**Srinagar:** Miscreants and terrorists are indulging in fear-mongering in Kashmir to put down any resistance to the unannounced shutdown, which has now entered its fourth month, police said on Wednesday.

"There have been consistent efforts to enforce shutdown in areas where shops are open or roadside vendors are plying their trade. The anti-peace elements are trying to keep people indoors," a senior police official said.

The official said two grenade attacks in the city's busy Goni Khan market and Kaka Sarai areas were an indication that there were concerted efforts to keep the shutdown going.

One street vendor was killed while 35 others were injured in the grenade attack at Goni Khan market on Monday as the shops in the area were open beyond the 12:00 pm self-imposed deadline for closing the markets. Six security force personnel were injured in

the attack at Kaka Sarai last week. Several shops, falling in the areas which have defied the shutdown, have been damaged in the mysterious fire incidents.

While police have been maintaining that these fires were caused by "electric short

circuit", some of the owners suspect foul play by the miscreants.

"We have already lost our capital...I do not want any physical harm now," the owner of a shop, which got damaged in a fire incident at Batamloo recently, said on condition of anonymity. **PTI**

## 3 arrested for threatening locals using LeT, Hizbul posters in Awantipora

**Jammu:** Three persons were arrested on Wednesday for "threatening and intimidating" locals in South Kashmir's Awantipora using posters issued by proscribed terror outfits Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, officials said.

"Three persons were arrested and incriminating materials including threat posters were recovered from their possession," a senior police official said.

Initial investigation into the matter revealed that these individuals were involved in publishing and circulating threat posters in Ladhoo area of Khrew Awantipora, 33 km from Srinagar, he said.

An FIR under relevant sections of the law has been registered against them, he said.

The three have been taken to the police station and incriminating materials recovered from them taken into records for the purpose of investigation, the official said. **PTI**

## Court rejects bail pleas of six accused in Elgar Parishad case

**Pune:** A sessions court here rejected the bail pleas of six accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case on Wednesday.

Rona Wilson, Shoma Sen, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Varavara Rao and Sudhir Dhavle had filed the bail applications, arguing that the police had not produced any substantial evidence against them.

The prosecution opposed the pleas, saying there was material to show links between the accused and Maoists.

According to Pune Police, inflammatory speeches delivered at the Elgar Parishad conclave held here on December 31, 2017 triggered caste violence at the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial in the district the next day (January 1, 2018).

The conclave had the backing of Maoists, the police claimed, while arresting several Left-leaning activists and writers in the case in June and August of 2018. **PTI**

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead at Gaushal Road, near DCM primary school on patri Kishan Ganj Delhi in the area of P. S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi on 22.10.2019. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 71-A, dated 22.10.2019** at P. S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age: 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'2", Face: Oval, Build: Thin, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Yellow colour Shirt & White T-shirt & Red colour half pant.** If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
P. S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi  
DP/6708/CD/19 Ph.: 011-23613252, 8750870429

## SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl **namely Soniya, D/o Deshraj, R/o: H.No.-582, Village-Mukhmalpur, Alipur, Delhi, Age: 21 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Build: Medium, wearing Chocolate colour Suit & Red colour Salwar and Pink colour Hawai Chappal in feet,** has been missing from the Area of P.S. Alipur, since 23.09.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 15-A, dated 10.10.2019** has been registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
P. S. Alipur, Delhi  
DP/736/ON/19 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl **namely Anima D/o Upender R/o H.No. D-1/264, Pratap Vihar, Part-3, Kirari, Delhi, Age: 17 yrs., Height: 5', Wheatish complexion & Long Face. Wearing Yellow Colour suit and Salwar and Black colour Sandal in feet** has been missing/kidnapped since 12.10.2019 from the area of PS Aman Vihar, Delhi.

In this regard a case **FIR No. 568/19 Dated: 23.10.2019 U/s 363 IPC** has been registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

**S.H.O.,**  
P.S., Aman Vihar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 011-24368641  
DP/3425/RD/19

## Blockade on despite Sec 144, Dy CM to meet Bru refugees

**Agartala/Aizawl:** Despite the imposition of prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC, Bru refugees living in relief camps in Tripura continued the road blockade for the seventh day demanding resumption of free ration to them.

Leaders of three Bru organisations in the Tripura relief camps, however, said they have withdrawn the blockade on Tuesday afternoon but the people are adamant to continue with the agitation and would lift it after immediate issuance of ration and cash-dole.

A team headed by Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Debverma would meet the displaced people on Thursday to find out an amicable solution as road communication from

Ananda Bazar to Kanchapur via Dasda in North Tripura district has collapsed due to the blockade, an official said.

"Prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC was imposed at Anandabazar on November 4 night and that is still in force. Personnel of the CRPF, Tripura State Rifles and the state police were deployed there. But we are yet to use force (to lift the blockade)," North Tripura Superintendent of Police Bhanupada Chakraborty said.

No untoward incident was reported till now, he said.

An organisation of Bru refugees on October 29 threatened to launch the indefinite roadblock at Anandabazar, known for a prominent market in that area where two relief camps are located. The block-

ade commenced from October 31.

The Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) had claimed on Monday that six people including babies have died in relief camps since October 29 "because of starvation" after the Centre stopped the supply of ration and cash dole to the 35,000 odd refugees for October.

Tripura government, however, said four Bru inmates of the relief camps have died so far and medical teams have been sent there.

Senior Tripura government officials including Additional Chief Secretary Kumar Alok met the Bru leaders on Monday and urged them to withdraw the blockade. **PTI**

## Reconsider decision to cancel Tipu Sultan's birth anniversary celebrations: K'taka HC to BSY Govt

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday directed the State Government to reconsider its decision to cancel the birth anniversary celebrations of Tipu Sultan, the controversial 18th century ruler of the erstwhile Mysore Kingdom, but declined to stay the order.

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice S R Krishna Kumar, issued the order while hearing a PIL challenging the Government's decision to cancel the November 10 Tipu Jayanti celebrations as a State event.

It directed the Government to reconsider its decision in two months.

"It should not look like the decision was taken arbitrarily," the bench observed, adding that it felt that the state took the

decision without considering the reasons mentioned in the previous decisions to celebrate Tipu Jayanti.

The State Government told the court that it had not banned private celebrations.

Noting this, the court directed the Government to provide protection to such celebrations and ensure peace.

Soon after coming to power in Karnataka, the BJP Government had in July scrapped the celebration of Tipu Sultan's birth anniversary.

The party had been opposing the annual event since it was started by the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in 2015.

Following which the government formed a committee to look into it and submit a report.

BJP and right-wing organisations have been strongly opposing Tipu Sultan, calling the erstwhile Mysore king a "religious bigot".

Tipu Sultan was considered an implacable enemy of the British East India Company. He was killed in May 1799 while defending his fort at Srirangapatna against the British forces.

Tipu Sultan, however, is a controversial figure in Kodagu district as the Kodavas (Coorgis), a martial race, believe thousands of their men and women were seized and held captive during his occupation and subjected to torture, death and forcible conversion to Islam. **PTI**



# Sena activists vandalise insurance firm office

Seek settling of farmers' claims

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena activists on Wednesday vandalised a branch office of the IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company at Camp area in Pune, in protest against the delay in settling the claims of crop damage caused to them during the recent unseasonal rains.

The Sena activists, led by the party's Pune unit chief Sanjay More, barged into the branch office of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company located at Mangaldas Road in the Cantonment area at 11 am and raised vociferous slogans against the delay in settling the insurance claims of the farmers affected by the unseasonal rains.

Sena activists, who were carrying saffron flags with them, went on a rampage inside the insurance company's office, by smashing the window panes glass dividers, destroying the office furniture and cabins.



Shiv Sena party workers vandalise insurance company IFFCO Tokios office in Pune on Wednesday

The Shiv Sena activists' rampage at the IFFCO Tokio's branch office came a day after Sena president Uddhav Thackeray warned the insurance company against delaying settling claims of farmers affected by the heavy unseasonal rains across the State.

Talking to media persons, More said: "This is just the beginning. We will stage similar protests in typical Sena style at other insurance company offices in Pune and Mumbai. It is in the interest of the various companies that they settle the

insurance claims of the farmers as quickly as possible."

More said that the Sena had written letters to various insurance companies, including IFFCO Tokio and Bajaj Allianz, asking them to settle the farmers' insurance claims quickly. "We are confident that our today's will go as a strong message to various insurance companies that the Sena means business. We will not tolerate any delay on the part of insurance companies in settling the farmers' insurance claims," the Pune Sena unit chief said.

# Hope there is no repeat of 1992 post-SC verdict on Ayodhya: Pawar

Mumbai: With the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case expected this month, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said none should take law into their hands whatever be the eagerly-awaited ruling.

Pawar said no section of the society should see the verdict as being against it and stressed there should be no repeat of the situation that prevailed in the country post- demolition of the Babri mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya town nearly 27 years ago.

Communal riots were witnessed in parts of the country, including Mumbai, after the demolition of the medieval-era mosque in December 1992.

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi is expected to deliver the verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case before his retirement on November 17.

"No section of the society should perceive Ayodhya verdict as being against it," Pawar told reporters here.

The former Union minister said "it is good" that those

supporting construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site and those associated with the Babri Masjid Action Committee, a party to the case, are ready to accept the court's verdict.

"Whatever be the verdict, no one should take law into their hands. The situation which prevailed after the Babri Masjid demolition should not be repeated."

"I would like to urge state governments, too, to remain alert," he said.

Meanwhile, Pawar expressed concern over the violent clashes between advocates and Delhi police personnel in the national capital a few days ago.

He said attacks on the people in uniform may dent their morale and urged Bar Council of India chairman Manan Kumar Mishra to take initiative to restore normalcy.

"The Central Government cannot shrug its responsibility in this case. It should look seriously towards the episode," he said.

# 20 students taken ill after mid-day meal in K'taka

Bengaluru: About 20 students fell ill after consuming mid-day meal in a State-run school in Karnataka's Chitradurga district, an official said on Wednesday.

"The incident occurred on Tuesday afternoon, when about 20 students fell ill after consuming the meal served in the

co-education school at Chennamma village in the district," Chitradurga Chief Executive Officer (CEO) C Satyabhama told IANS on phone. Chitradurga is 200km northwest of Bengaluru.

The students were taken to a state-run hospital for treatment after some complained of

upset stomach and some vomited. They were discharged in the evening as they were out of danger. "Sample of the dishes have been sent for lab testing as a lizard was suspected to have been found in one of the vessels in which rice was cooked. We are waiting for the report," Mr Satyabhama added. IANS



Children from a Government primary school being treated at a hospital as they fall ill after consuming mid-day meal at their institution in Chitradurga district on Wednesday

# Cyclone 'Maha' weakening but to cause rain in parts of Maha

Mumbai: Severe cyclonic storm 'Maha' is weakening, but it will cause light to moderate rain on Thursday in parts of Maharashtra, the met department said on Wednesday.

Madhya Maharashtra, Thane and Palghar districts will receive light to moderate showers on Thursday due to the cyclonic storm hovering in the Arabian sea, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

"The severe cyclonic storm Maha is weakening but moving towards the coastal areas of Gujarat. Its impact will be in the form of light to moderate showers in Madhya Maharashtra as well as Thane and Palghar districts, it said.

"It will turn into a deep depression by Thursday morning, which means lessening of its severity, an IMD official said.

Meanwhile, Thane and Palghar district administrations have stepped up preparedness to deal with any eventuality in view of the cyclonic storm.

While the Palghar district administration had already ordered closure of educational institutions between November 6 and 8, the collector of Thane district directed officials on Wednesday to take a call depending upon situation. PTI

# Hold polls if confident about J&K decision: Cong leader to BJP

Jammu: AICC general secretary Ambika Soni here on Wednesday attacked the BJP, saying it should hold elections in the newly carved union territory if it felt the decision taken by it were democratic and the situation normal.

Soni was here to consult the state party leadership on the nationwide agitation against the "economic crisis" and said the demand for the restoration of the statehood would be the bottom line for the protests in the Jammu region.

In a reference to the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, she asked, "How many promises have been fulfilled after the decisions were taken three months ago."

Soni, who was accompanied by senior party leaders, including the party's J-K president G A Mir, said people were under detention and based on her personal experience after landing here on Tuesday, she didn't see the Internet functioning.

"If the situation is normal, how long will you keep the former chief ministers detained? If you have taken a

democratic decision, why you don't take the opinion of people by holding elections," she said, adding that whatever happened, happened in an "undemocratic way and in a haste".

"It was done after lending ear to misconceptions (created about Jammu & Kashmir)," she said.

Asked whether she supported elections before the restoration of the statehood, the Congress leader said, "My willingness does not matter."

"We had a meeting of senior party colleagues and activists this morning and we are meeting again later in the afternoon."

What I have learnt is that people are very disturbed as it has happened for the first time in the history of our country that a state was bifurcated into UTs," she said. Soni said she was informed that people were "feeling humiliated" and "very concerned" about their future as the decisions with regard to J-K were taken in an "undemocratic way without taking them into confidence". Soni said people wanted that the statehood be restored. PTI

# Maha crop loss: Farm leaders demand survey by drones

Nagpur: With Maharashtra staring at agrarian crisis, farm activists in Nagpur on Wednesday demanded that survey of crops damaged in recent unseasonal rains be conducted through drones and satellite.

The demand was raised by leaders of Shetkari Sanghatna and Vidarbha Rajya Andolan Samiti' who staged demonstrations at the Nagpur district

collectorate. Their leaders claimed that such surveys would cut down the administrative delays in farmers getting the compensation.

They also argued that farmers need to clear their fields for Rabi (winter crop) sowing.

The leaders demanded that the affected farmers be paid a

compensation of ₹30,000 (per acre) for growers of cotton, soyabean, paddy and vegetables, and ₹50,000 per acre for losses caused to orchards of oranges and other fruits.

Former president of Shetkari Sanghatna and convenor of the Samiti, Ram Neole, said many activists were detained and released later in evening. PTI

# PM fixes 2020 deadline for completion of Udhampur-Baramulla rail link

Jammu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took stock of the progress of ambitious Udhampur-Baramulla rail link project and gave explicit instructions to expedite the work and complete it by next year, an official spokesman said.

PM Modi fixed the 2020 deadline for the ambitious project connecting Srinagar to Indian Railways network while chairing his 31st interaction meet through PRAGATI with

secretaries of various Union ministries and chief secretaries of various states and Union territories, the spokesman said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam also participated in the video conference as the prime minister reviewed nine projects related to 16 states and the Union Territory of J&K.

The Prime Minister reviewed the progress of infrastructure connectivity projects, including that of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), and gave explicit instructions on speedy completion of the project by next year, the spokesman said. Reviewing the progress of

Aspirational District Programme, the prime minister was apprised of 49 performance indicators including the best practices in grafted Walnut and High Density Apple Plantation in Kupwara district of north Kashmir, the spokesman said.

Calling it an act of "national service", Modi emphasised on the need to decide on timelines to bring the backward districts up to the national average.

He also stressed that young officers must be deployed in aspirational districts, the spokesman said. He said Prime Minister was also briefed about the progress in National Agriculture Market platform which has helped in better price discovery. PTI

# India, Bhutan hold meeting on malaria elimination

Guwahati: India and Bhutan held a meeting here on Wednesday on malaria elimination in both sides of the international border.

Specific action plans for 9 districts of India and 10 districts of Bhutan along the border have been developed at the meeting. Addressing the meeting, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) Director Dr Neeraj Dhingra provided an overview of the progress towards malaria elimination in India by 2030.

Malaria cases in the country have reduced from over one million in 2016 to around 4,19,000 in 2018, he said. The country aims to achieve zero indigenous case by 2027, sustain it thereafter and secure malaria-free certification by WHO in 2030, Dr Dhingra said.

He also appreciated WHO for supporting and coordinating the meeting between India and Bhutan.

Union Health Joint Secretary Rekha Shukla said though India made a massive improvement in eliminating malaria, more needs to be done to contribute towards eliminating it in Bhutan and other bordering countries.

In doing so, she emphasised the importance of strong collaboration and people to people interaction at local level across the international borders and with other sectors.

These include real time sharing of information, joint planning, and innovative approaches to deliver the interventions and synchronisation of implementation of interventions across the Indo-Bhutan border, Shukla added. PTI

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL) PLANT SDW S/E  
SRINIWASPURI, NEW DELHI: 110065

Press N.I.T. No. 28 (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Construction/Restoration of damaged stone boundary wall by RCC Work and allied Civil works at Brahmapuri SPS 2019_DJB_183347_1	Rs. 26,57,796/-	04/11/2019	25/11/2019 up to 3:00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Sd/-  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 506/2019-20 EX. ENGINEER (CIVIL) PLANT SDW S/E

**ICICI Home Finance** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-110055

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(H)
1.	Virpal Singh (Borrower)/ Sneh Lata (Co Borrower)/ NHRW/00000844451	Mustli No.- 40, Kila No.- 22/1/2 (0-3), 23/1/1/1(0-4) Dharuhera Tehsil, Rewari, Dist- Rewari, Haryana. Measuring 7 Marla. It's 27th Share i.e. 2 Marla i.e. 53 Sq Yard	Rs. 16,92,895/- (As on Oct 30, 2019)	Rs. 17,20,000/- Rs. 1,72,000/- Rs. 000/-	Rs. 15, 2019 from- 02:00 P.M. to- 12:00 Noon onwards	November 29, 2019 from- 12:00 Noon onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://e-auctions.samil.in>) of our auction agency "Shriram Automall India Ltd.". The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till November 28, 2019 before 05:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 or to our marketing agent "Shriram Automall India Ltd." at Shriram Automall India Ltd., 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 on or before November 28, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd." payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact Secured Creditor on 957549734 or Shriram Automall India Ltd on 9910453434. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Secured Creditor/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: November 07, 2019  
Place: Delhi.

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
CORRIGENDUM TO E-AUCTION  
SALE PROGRAM DURING NOVEMBER 2019  
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Please refer to this office e-Auction Sale Notification No. SIII/Auction Program/NOV-1/2019-20 Dt. 18/10/2019. E-Auction Sale Program scheduled to be held in DHD division on 09/11/2019 has been cancelled due to maintenance work carried by CRS. New assigned date is 14/11/2019. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Please visit Western Railway Website of Material Management Department i.e. [www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in) as well as on [www.treps.gov.in](http://www.treps.gov.in) e-auction portal for further information.

Like us on [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby informed that we Sunil Solomon Khan and Parvez Victor Khan R/o 3379, Christian Colony, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005, are the bonafide owners of the Property/Plot No. 3379 Moga Basti, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, lost original Perpetual Lease Deed Registered Vide No. 1961 & Book No. 237-239 on 19.09.1947. If any other claimant has any right in aforesaid property he/she should file an FIR & submit intimation to the Dy. Director (OSB), DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi within 30 days from the date of issue of this notice.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
GAUGE CONVERSION AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, INDORE (MP) invites tender through E-tendering as per details given below: Tender No. : IN/IRKGC/106R. Name of Work: Laying and linking of BG for main and Loop/siding lines in station/yards, Transportation of P.WAY materials, dismantling of existing MG/BG track, through Rail Renewal, regrading and other incidental miscellaneous works at Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (MHOW) station in connection with Railam-Mhow Gauge conversion project of Western Railway. Approx. Cost: ₹3,88,18,151.89. EMD: ₹3,44,100/-. Date & time of submission of tender: upto 15.00 Hours on 26.11.2019. Date of opening of tender: 26.11.2019 at 15.30 Hrs. Complete details of tender including eligibility criteria are available on E-Tender portal [www.treps.gov.in](http://www.treps.gov.in) and at the Notice Board in the office of Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction) Western Railway, Indore opposite platform No.1 Indore.

Follow us on [Twitter.com/WesternRly](https://www.twitter.com/WesternRly)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: Kavita D/o Nakhchhed R/o H. No. A-568, JJ Colony, Sawda, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS. Kanjhawala, since 15.09.2019. In this regard FIR No. 373/19 U/s 363 IPC dated 15.09.2019 has been registered at PS. Kanjhawala, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-  
Sex: Female, Age: 16 years, Height: 5' ft., Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Wearing: Light Green Suit & Salwar and Sandals in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-  
SHO Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph. No. : 011-25951486  
Tel. No. : 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No- 7065036125  
Fax No. : 011-24368639 DP/3423/RD/19

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (छ.ग.)**  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)  
Tatibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur - 492 099 (CG), [www.aiimsraipur.edu.in](http://www.aiimsraipur.edu.in)

No. AIIMS-RPR/Rect./Pub./2019/1997, Date: 05.11.2019  
Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur  
Chhattisgarh, CG, invites e-tender for following:

**E-TENDER CALL NOTICE**

Tender Title	EMD Cost	Published on CPPP/Website	Pre-bid Meeting Date	Closing Date
Supply of Operating Chair for the Department of ENT and HNS at AIIMS Raipur	Rs. 1,28,000/-	01.11.2019	08.11.2019	20.11.2019 at 06:00 PM
Supply of CT and MRI Compatible Stereotactic Cranial Frame Set for Department of Neurosurgery	Rs. 2,20,000/-	05.11.2019	13.11.2019	27.11.2019 at 06:00 PM

The details terms & conditions are available on the website - [www.aiimsraipur.edu.in](http://www.aiimsraipur.edu.in) and CPP Portal [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)

Stores Officer

**UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED**  
Regd. Office :- Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.  
CIN:- L17100HR1983PLC033460, Phone:- 011-26258237, 49075251  
email. id:- [investorrelations@ulilttd.com](mailto:investorrelations@ulilttd.com), website:- [www.ulilttd.com](http://www.ulilttd.com).

**BOARD MEETING NOTICE**

In pursuance of Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that 03rd/2019-20 meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Leasing and Industries Limited will be held on Wednesday, the 13th day of November, 2019 at 05:00 P.M. at Registered Office of the Company situated at Plot No. 66, EHTP Sector-34, Gurgaon Haryana-122001 to consider, approve and take on record inter alia, the Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2019 and any other business with the permission of the Board.

Place: New Delhi Sd/-  
Date: 07th November, 2019 Chandni Arora  
Company Secretary & Compliance officer

**N K Textile Industries Limited**  
Registered office: Omxase Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025  
CIN:- L17299DL1983PLC163230, Tel:- +91 11 61119313  
Email id:- [n.ktextiles123@gmail.com](mailto:n.ktextiles123@gmail.com), website:- [www.nktil.com](http://www.nktil.com)

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the meeting on 04/2019-20 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 14th November, 2019 (Thursday) at the registered office of the Company at Omxase Square, Plot No. 14, Jasola District Centre, 5th Floor, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 5:00 P.M to discuss the following agenda items:

- To take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2019 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
- To discuss any other business with the permission of chair.

By Order of the Board,  
For N K Textile Industries Limited Sd/-  
Batbir Singh  
Director  
Place: New Delhi  
Dated: 06.11.2019 DIN:00027438

**BILMA DEVI EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY'S GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS**  
**JB KNOWLEDGE PARK**  
(Approved to AICTE & Affiliated to MDU-Rohtak)  
Kheri-Manjhawall Road-Greater Faridabad

**INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS FOR**

Teaching:- Assistant Professor in BBA - 25, BCA - 40, Associate Prof B.Tech, ME-2, ECE-2, CSE-2, EE-2

Non-Teaching:-  
TPO - 1, Registrar / Administrative Officer - 1, Librarian - 1, Lab Technician - 4, Clerk - 4, Technical Assistant / Data Entry Operator - 2, Library Attendant - 4, Lab. Attendant - 4, Mali - 4, Peon - 4, Sweeper - 4, Security Guard - 4,

Qualifications for Librarian, Assistant Professor in BBA and BCA are N.E.T./Ph.D.

Qualifications, Pay Scales & Experience as per UGC / AICTE / MDU norms.

Interested Candidates may apply within 21 days from the date of publication of advertisement along with photograph and all testimonials through registered post to the President / Chairman of the Institute and send a copy of application (Must) to the DCCD, MDU, Rohtak and mail on [director@jbcollege.in](mailto:director@jbcollege.in). Posts can be increased / decreased at the time of interview as per requirement.

President / Chairman



# Sensex scales fresh closing peak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex resumed its record-setting run on Wednesday — rallying 222 points to its new lifetime high of 40,469.78 — as investors accumulated banking and financial stocks amid hopes of more reform measures to boost growth.

After opening on a choppy note, the 30-share Sensex touched an all-time intra-day high of 40,606.91 in late-afternoon trade. It finally ended 221.55 points, or 0.55 per cent, higher at 40,469.78. The previous closing high was 40,301.96, hit on November 4 (Monday).

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty briefly reclaimed the 12,000 level, before finishing at 11,966.05, showing a gain of 48.85 points, or 0.41 per cent.

Benchmark indices have been on a rising spree on the back of strong earnings, hopes for another economic booster from the government and positive cues from global markets,



TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS

ICICI Bank 2.64 Bharti Airtel 3.31  
Infosys 2.37 Reliance 1.07  
HDFC 1.78 Bajaj Fin 1.04  
IndusInd 1.74 ONGC 1.03  
HDFC Bank 1.42 Maruti Suz -1.00

TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS

Cipla 3.02 Titan 10.09  
ICICI Bank 2.49 Bharti Airtel 3.44  
Infosys 2.36 ONGC 1.26  
HDFC 1.82 Bharti Finsv 1.25  
IndusInd 1.81 Maruti Suz -1.07

speaking late on Tuesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government is working on steps to resolve the issues being faced by realty sector, which has a spillover effect on many industries.

Top gainers in the Sensex pack included ICICI Bank, Infosys, HDFC, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, L&T, Yes Bank and HUL, spurting up to

2.64 per cent. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, RIL, Bajaj Finance, ONGC, HCL Tech, ITC and Sun Pharma slipped up to 3.31 per cent.

“Market clocked a new high based on commitment from the FM to speed up reforms in the near future. Realty and financials outperformed in expectation of new measures while metal stocks gained owing to easing global trade war.

“Better results from index heavyweights kept expectation high for earnings growth, influencing investors to stay in the market,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE realty, banking, finance, metal, IT, industrials and capital goods indices rose up to 2.59 per cent.

On the other hand, consumer durables, telecom and energy tumbled up to 5.30 per cent. Broader BSE midcap index rose 0.15 per cent, while smallcap ended 0.36 per cent lower.

Globally, bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul settled higher, while Shanghai ended in the red.

Exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in their respective early deals.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee depreciated by 28 paise to 70.97 against the US dollar intra-day. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.81 per cent to \$62.45 per barrel.

## ₹ dives 28 paise to 70.97 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its three-session winning streak, the Indian rupee tumbled 28 paise to close at 70.97 against the US dollar on Wednesday as continuing uncertainty over the US-China trade deal affected currency market sentiment worldwide.

However, robust foreign fund inflows and easing crude oil prices restricted the fall for the domestic unit, forex brokers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 70.80 and skidded to 71.01 against the greenback intra-day. The local unit finally settled at 70.97, down 28 paise over its previous close. Rahul Gupta, Emkay

Global Financial Services' Head of Currency, said the rupee-dollar spot market has been in a depreciating mode for the past three weeks as US and China have been hinting at a 'phase one' trade deal anytime this month.

“Depreciation is getting capped as market has started getting doubtful of the silence amid China's attempts to push the US to remove more tariffs,” Gupta added.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell by 0.14 per cent to 97.84.

Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors bought equities worth a net ₹1,011.49 crore on Wednesday, provisional exchange data showed.

## Boeing predicts 2,380 aircraft market in India over next 20 yrs

American planemaker believes Boeing 737 MAX issues will be resolved by early 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

American planemaker Boeing Commercial Aircraft, part of a global duopoly alongside European company Airbus in the large commercial aircraft market believes that India will see a demand for over 2,380 new aircraft over the next two decades valued at over \$330 billion at list prices. In addition, Indian aircraft operators are expected to spend over \$440 billion on services including ground and flight services as well as maintenance and engineering much of which will be ploughed back into the local economy. While many of the new aircraft will replace older aircraft, there will also be some incremental additions which means the overall Indian civilian aircraft fleet is expected to quadruple in size to 2500 aircraft by 2038.

Signs of the growth are evident in the recent 300 aircraft order by Indian aviation market-leader IndiGo although that went to Airbus.

Boeing spokesperson, Darren Hulst, Deputy Vice-President, Commercial Marketing, also said that he expected the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, a significant number of which has been ordered by low-cost operator SpiceJet but suf-

fered two devastating fatal crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia and was grounded globally to be back in the air in the first quarter of 2020. He also said that the American company is working with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to ensure that the additional checks required can be conducted quickly. The grounding of the aircraft was devastating to the schedule of SpiceJet which has several of the aircraft in airports across India, including New Delhi.

According to news reports from the United States, Boeing is doing an extremely thorough job to ensure the aircraft is safe to fly but will face challenges in securing consumer confidence in the brand.

Boeing also highlighted that development work on their proposed New Medium Aircraft (NMA) is also progressing, this will be a 200-250 seat plane that will serve the middle of the market and according to the company is ideally suited for short and medium range flights such as those between India and the Arabian peninsula as well as South-East Asia. However, there is also talk of Boeing developing a potential 'Future Small Aircraft' (FSA) to replace the venerable 737 and effectively compete with the newly introduced Airbus A321XLR which is capable of carrying 244 passengers between India and Western Europe non-stop.



## Battle for stake in Mumbai Airport: High Court refuses interim relief to Adani

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday refused interim relief to Adani Group, which had sought an injunction against sale of stake of South African firm Bidvest in the Mumbai airport to GVK Group or any other third party.

Adani Group had approached the high court in September seeking execution of its agreement with Bid Services Division Mauritius ('Bidvest'), for sale of Bidvest's 13.5 per cent stake in the airport to Adani.

GVK is the majority stakeholder in the Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), while Adani Group is

seeking to buy Bidvest's minority stake. As per an agreement between Adani and Bidvest for stake sale, the last date for making necessary payments and transfer of shares was September 30, which was later extended, by consent, to November 7.

On September 15 this year, an arbitration tribunal, which was hearing the dispute between GVK and Bidvest over the same issue, gave the GVK group time till October 31 to deposit the purchase price if it wanted to exercise the 'right of first refusal'.

The tribunal said if GVK failed to deposit the amount, Bidvest would be free to sell its shares to any third party.

## Arvind Singh takes over as AAI chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Arvind Singh, IAS officer of 1988 batch, Maharashtra cadre, took over as chairman of Airports Authority of India on Wednesday. On his first day, the chairman interacted with AAI Board Members and senior officials at AAI's corporate headquarters, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Prior to this appointment, Arvind Singh was Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) in Government of Maharashtra. He also worked as chairman & Managing Director of Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Ltd. and the Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd. (MSETCL)



Arvind Singh, joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1988 in Maharashtra cadre, after acquiring Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi and from the Delhi School of Economics. His initial assignments were as Assistant Collector at Aurangabad, as chief executive officer of Aurangabad Zilla Parishad and Nagpur Zilla Parishad.

## Pakistan among worst countries for internet freedom: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is among the worst 10 countries in the world for internet and digital media freedom, according to a report by an internet watchdog.

The Freedom House, an international internet rights group, on Tuesday released its 'Freedom on the Net' (FoTN) report for the year 2019, titled 'The Crisis of Social Media', recording an overall decline in global internet freedom between June 2018 and May 2019.

The watchdog in its report placed Pakistan at 26, out of 100 (100 being the worst) — one place down from last year's ranking, Dawn News quoted the report as saying.

## Would love to see India part of RCEP: New Zealand Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Zealand would love to see India as part of the RCEP agreement, its Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor said on Wednesday, days after New Delhi decided not to join the China-backed mega trade deal.

On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bangkok had said India will not join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as negotiations failed to satisfactorily address the country's 'outstanding issues and concerns'.

As many as 16 countries - 10-nation bloc ASEAN and its six trading partners including India -- were negotiating the free-trade pact RCEP.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Rajeev, D/o: Raj Bahadur, R/o: Vill-Kalsan Saraiya, PS-Indergarh, Distt. Kannauj, U.P., Age: 21 years, Height: 4'8", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt & Pants** has been missing / kidnapped since 28.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 37-A dated 11.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-27787592, 27787593  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/739/ON/19

### RLF LIMITED

Regd. Office: 14Kms. Gurugram Pataudi Road, Village Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt. Gurugram (Haryana). CIN:- L74999HR1979PLC032747  
Tel: 011-26258237, 49075251  
E-Mail:- [investorrelations@rlfdd.com](mailto:investorrelations@rlfdd.com), website:- [www.rlfdd.com](http://www.rlfdd.com)

In pursuance of Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that 04th /2019-20 meeting of the Board of Directors of the RLF Limited will be held on Wednesday, the 13th day of November, 2019 at 04:00 PM at Registered Office of the Company situated at 14 Kms Gurugram Pataudi Road Village Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt Gurugam,Haryana to consider and take on record inter alia, the Standalone Un-audited Financial results for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2019.

For RLF Limited Sd/-  
Place: Gurugram, Haryana Ginni Chhabra  
Date: 07th November, 2019 Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

## Speculation of co-founders' role in whistleblower complaints appalling: Infosys

New Delhi: Infosys on Wednesday said speculations of co-founders and former employees being involved in the recent whistleblower allegations were "appalling" and seem to be aimed at tarnishing the image of some of "the most accomplished and respected individuals".

Infosys - which is investigating whistleblower complaints that alleged unethical practices by the company's top management - condemned the "mischievous insinuations" made by anonymous sources against the co-founders and former colleagues, suggesting their involvement in the recent whistleblower allegations.

"These speculations are appalling and seem to be aimed at tarnishing the image of some of the most accomplished and respected individuals. I have deep regard for the life-long contribution of all our co-founders," Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani said in a statement. He added that the co-founders have served the company "selflessly" and remain committed to the long-term success of Infosys.

He pointed out that an external law firm is already conducting an independent investigation into the allegations, and said the outcome of the investigation will be shared with all stakeholders at the relevant time. Earlier this week, Infosys had said it is yet to receive any evidence to corroborate anonymous whistleblowers' complaints. In October, Infosys had informed the stock exchanges of having received anonymous whistleblowers' complaints alleging certain unethical practices by the top management.

Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani had said the whistleblower complaint dated September 20, as well as an undated complaint had been received by one of the board members on September 30. PTI

## PMC account holders stage protest; demand full money withdrawal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Scam-hit PMC Bank's depositors staged protest outside the RBI office here on Wednesday, demanding complete withdrawal of their money from the bank.

Most of the 20-odd depositors took to sloganeering against the RBI, alleging it was hand-in-glove with the perpetrators of fraud.

The depositors, who gathered here were from Tilak Nagar in West Delhi where the bank has a branch, said most of their families have collective deposits in excess of ₹51 lakh in the bank.

Earlier in September, the Reserve Bank of India had imposed restrictions on the withdrawal limit of the account-holders after it found alleged irregularities to the tune of ₹4,355 crore by diverting money to infrastructure firm HDIL.

## India to see \$100 bn energy investment by 2024, says Pradhan

New Delhi: India will see a massive \$100 billion investment in creating oil and gas infrastructure over the next five years as the world's third-largest energy consumer steps up spending to meet rising demand. Speaking at KPMG's Enrich 2019 conference, he said India will chart its own course of energy transition in a responsible manner even as it is said to be a key driver of global energy demand in the coming decades.

"India will see an investment of USD 100 billion by 2024 in oil refining, pipelines, city gas distribution networks, and LNG terminals," he said.

Of this, \$60 billion will flow into the creation of gas infrastructures such as pipelines, city gas networks, and import terminals, he said.

He said the country wants more foreign investment inflow into upstream oil and gas exploration and production as well as downstream fuel marketing and petrochemicals. PTI

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Sitara D/o MD. Tabarak R/o V-171, Prem Nagar-II, Delhi Aged-16 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 12.10.2019 from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi vide FIR No.564/19 u/s 363 IPC Dated 13.10.2019 registered at Police Station Prem Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4'9", Face: Oval, Clothing: Orange coloured suit-salwar, Black coloured slipper in feet.** Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Prem Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Tel No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Prem Nagar, Delhi  
DP/3427/RD/19 Tel.: 011-25489080

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Savita, D/o Kamal Singh R/o H.No. J-1275, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 12.10.2019 from the area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 02-A dated 13.10.2019 has been registered at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

**Name: Savita, Gender: Female, Age: 18 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Yellow colour suit, red colour salwar and slipper in her feet.** If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped Girl, kindly inform SHO/Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Sd/-  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO  
Fax : 011-24368639 P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi  
DP/744/ON/19 Ph. No.: 011-27811415, 27811738

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Raju Singh S/o Jaglal Singh, R/o H.No. 190, 3rd Floor, Gali No. 10, Tahirpur, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the Offence FIR No. 112/16 u/s 354/451/509 IPC at P.S. GTB Enclave, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Raju Singh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Raju Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 CrPC is hereby made that the said Raju Singh accused of FIR No. 112/16 u/s 354/451/509 IPC is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 11.12.2019.

DP/1278/SHD/19- By Order  
(Court Matter) Smt. Deepti Dvesh  
Metropolitan Magistrate, (Mahila Court No.1), Shahdara Room No. 55, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person 1. **Radhey Shyam, S/o: Hari Ram, 2. Ram Nivas @ Bittu S/o: Ram Avtar, Both R/o: Jhuggi Village Harupura Himmat Singh, P.S. Rajpura, Tehsil Ginnor, Distt. Sambhal, U.P.** and 3. **Harish Chander S/o: Santosh, R/o: Village Jeevapur, Mustkam Rehra, Distt. Amroha, U.P.** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 298/19 dated 07.08.2019 U/s 454/380/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Janak Puri, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said 1. **Radhey Shyam, 2. Ram Nivas @ Bittu & 3. Harish Chander** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said 1. **Radhey Shyam, 2. Ram Nivas @ Bittu & 3. Harish Chander** has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said 1. **Radhey Shyam, 2. Ram Nivas @ Bittu & 3. Harish Chander** accused of FIR No. 298/19 dated 07.08.2019 U/s 454/380/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Janak Puri, New Delhi are required to appear before this Court or to me to answer the said complaint on or before 10.12.2019.

By Order  
Sh. Deepak Vats,  
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 9,  
DP/8484/WD/19 Ground Floor, Dwarka Distt Court, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Kajal Dubey (Borrower), Manish Dubey (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00001855075	Flat No. S-2, Second Floor, Plot No. J-22 & 23, Block I, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi- 110092, Area 91.97 Sq. Mtrs.	Rs. 1,01,27,035/- (As Oct 30, 2019)	Rs. 36,00,000/- (Thirty Six Lakhs Only) to Rs. 3,60,000/-	Nov 15, 2019 from 12 Noon to 02.00 PM	Nov 29, 2019 from 11:30 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://eauctions.samil.in>) of our auction agency **Shriram Automall India Ltd.** The Mortgagors/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **Nov 28, 2019 before 5:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rajaji Road, Delhi-110055 or to our marketing agent **Shriram Automall India Ltd at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034** on or before **Nov 28, 2019 before 5:00 PM**. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9599281817/9650193259. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: November 07, 2019  
Place: Delhi NCR

Sd/-  
Authorised Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited.

**Saneh Industrial Investments Limited**  
CIN:L74899DL1980PLC06079  
Regd. Office: Delton House 4801, Bharat Ram Road 24, Daryaganj, New Delhi - 02  
Phone: 011-23273907

**NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019, inter-alia to consider and approve the un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter Half Year ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

For Saneh Industrial Investment Limited  
Sd/-  
Date : 06.11.2019 Vivek Gupta  
Place : New Delhi (Director)

**Public Notice**  
Bihar Bandhu Co-op. Group Housing Society Ltd. Office Flat No. 3, Pocket-5, DDA Flats, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-78

In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that the five members of Bihar Bandhu Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. has resigned from the membership of the society & their share money & other contributions has refunded to them through account payee cheques. The name of resigned members are 1. **Sh. Rajendra Singh (M.No.231)** 2. **Sh. Roop Singh (M.No.190)** 3. **Sh. Ravinder Singh (M.No.185)** 4. **Ms. Manj Singh (Wife Late Sh. Gajender Singh-M.No.230)(Death case)** and 5. **Ms. Saroj Kadam(M.No.183)**. If anyone has any objections, he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RCS, Parliament Street, New Delhi or at society office i.e., Flat No.3, Pocket-5 DDA Flats, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-78 within 7 days from the date of publication of the public notice. Sd/- Secretary  
**Bihar Bandhu CGHS Ltd.**



Rebuke for Trump in races seen as barometers for '20 election

Washington: US President Donald Trump and his Republican allies suffered stinging defeats Tuesday as Democrats were projected to win closely-watched elections in two states, results that signal troubling headwinds for his 2020 re-election campaign.

Virginia, US media including The New York Times projected. "We have called it for Attorney General Beshear to be the Kentucky Governor-elect," Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes said on CNN.

The US President tweeted that Bevin "picked up at least 15 points in last days, but perhaps not enough (Fake News will blame Trump!)." Beshear, whose father was the last Democratic governor in the State, claimed victory, but Bevin did not throw in the towel.

Trump's chief of staff summoned to testify in impeachment probe

Washington: US House impeachment investigators on Tuesday summoned President Donald Trump's acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney for a deposition, saying he has "substantial first-hand knowledge" of Trump's efforts to pressure Ukraine.

"This is a close, close race. We are not conceding this race by any stretch," the governor said. Should Bevin's loss be certified, it would be a shock defeat for a conservative in a southern state that Trump won by 30 percentage points in 2016.

In Virginia, Democrats will now hold all major statewide offices and rule State Assembly, a comprehensive consolidation of power not seen in the State since the 1990s. Democratic leadership swiftly portrayed the night as a massive boost for the party heading into next year's monumental battle against the President.

Sudan rebels insist new House be formed after peace deal

Khartoum: Sudanese rebel groups engaged in peace talks with Khartoum insisted Wednesday that the country's new parliament be formed only after an agreement is reached to end long-running conflicts in three border regions.

Xi, Macron unite on climate after US withdraws from Paris pact

Beijing: Chinese leader Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron declared on Wednesday that the Paris climate pact was "irreversible", showing a united front after Washington formally withdrew from the accord this week.

and a compass for strong action on climate".

Without directly naming the US, Macron said he "deplores the choices made by others" as he sat next to Xi following the talks at the imposing Great Hall of the People in the Chinese capital.

A power-sharing deal signed on August 17 between protest leaders and the generals who ruled Sudan after the April overthrow of longtime president Omar al-Bashir stipulates that a 300-member parliament be formed within three months.

Major powers expressed regret and concern after President Donald Trump went ahead with the pullout from the Paris accord despite mounting evidence of the reality and impact of climate change.

"But I want to look at them as marginal choices," Macron said. With the European Union, China and Russia backing the pact, he added, "the isolated choice of one or another is not enough to change the course of the world. It only leads to marginalisation."

Rebel groups said that during talks in the South Sudanese capital of Juba, the two sides had agreed to delay the formation of a new parliament until a peace deal has been reached. The groups said they would not give up their demand despite the protest movement's insistence on the original November 17 deadline stipulated by the so-called "Constitutional Declaration".

In his remarks, Xi took a veiled swipe at the United States, which launched a trade war with China last year and has angered Beijing on various diplomatic issues.

"We advocate for mutual respect and equal treatment, and are opposed to the law of the jungle and acts of intimidation," Xi said.

Hundreds skip school in Lebanon to press for change

Beirut: Hundreds of schoolchildren led anti-government demonstrations across Lebanon on Wednesday, refusing to return to class because of the demands of a nearly three-week-old protest movement are met.

education and more job opportunities for school leavers, the state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported. In a school in the resort town of Jounieh, just north of the capital, pupils mobilised against school governors accusing them of banning participation in the protests.

In the capital Beirut, dozens gathered in front of the education Ministry, brandishing Lebanese flags and chanting slogans demanding the removal of a political class seen as incompetent and corrupt.

But demonstrators, who have kept up their protests since October 17, were not blocking key roads on Wednesday morning.

"What will I do with a school leaver's certificate if I don't have a country," one pupil told Lebanese television.

In the largest pupil-led protest, crowds streamed into a central square in the southern city of Sidon, demanding better public

UK leader compares rival to Stalin at start of election

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has compared his main rival to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin as he prepares to officially launch

the governing Conservative Party's campaign for the December 12 election. Johnson, writing in the Daily Telegraph, says Jeremy Corbyn's

Labour Party would "raise taxes so wantonly" that it would destroy Britain's prosperity.

and vindictiveness not seen since Stalin persecuted the kulaks," the wealthier peasants who were targeted by the Soviet regime in the 1930s.

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE. The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

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BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI 4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

1. NAVEEN KUMAR KUKREJA, 2. RAJ KUKREJA, 3. Subhanna Buildtech Pvt. Ltd., 197-E, Pkt.-IV, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091.

AXIS BANK DEMAND NOTICE. Wherein the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates.



# Comeback for the ages

Chelsea hold Ajax for 4-4 draw after trailing 1-4 on 55th minutes; Hakimi's second half double caps Dortmund's 3-2 win against Inter; Barca stumble



AFP ■ LONDON/DORTMUND

Jorginho scored two penalties as Chelsea came roaring back from 4-1 down to draw 4-4 with nine-man Ajax in a Champions League classic on Tuesday, while holders Liverpool claimed a narrow victory and a stuttering Barcelona were held.

There was also a rousing comeback win for Borussia Dortmund over Inter Milan and a big success for Valencia, but the greatest drama came at Stamford Bridge.

Ajax appeared to be heading for a stunning victory when Hakim Ziyech set up Donny van de Beek to put them 4-1 ahead 10 minutes into the second half.

Before that, Jorginho quickly levelled from the spot after Tammy Abraham's own goal gave the Dutch champions a second-minute lead, but a Quincy Promes header and a Kepa Arrizabalaga own goal made it 3-1 at the break.

After conceding again, Cesar Azpilicueta poked in from close range for Chelsea to pull it back to 4-2, and then came the crazy moment midway through the second half which really gave them hope.

In one fell swoop, Italian referee Gianluca Rocchi sent off Ajax's Daley Blind and dismissed Joel Veltman for a second caution for a handball in the box seconds later. Jorginho then converted the resulting penalty.

Teenager Reece James made it 4-4, and Chelsea thought they had gone in front when Azpilicueta fired in, but that goal was disallowed for an Abraham handball.



Cesar Azpilicueta celebrates after scoring Chelsea's second goal against AFC Ajax Amsterdam during UEFA Champions League match at Stamford Bridge AP

"I can't explain the game. For all the things we might analyse back, the madness of the game, we are here for entertainment I suppose and anyone who watched that has to say what a game of football. Respect to Ajax, what a spectacle," Chelsea boss Frank Lampard told BT Sport.

The result means Ajax, Chelsea and Valencia are level on seven points atop Group H, with the Spaniards coming from behind to beat Lille 4-1.

Nigerian striker Victor Osimhen put Lille ahead at half-time, but Dani Parejo's penalty restored parity and Valencia then scored three times in the last eight minutes.

Adama Soumaoro's own goal was followed by a stunning Geoffrey Kondogbia strike and a Ferran Torres effort. Lille are eliminated.

**'JOB DONE' FOR KLOPP**  
Liverpool won 4-1 in Genk two weeks ago and looked on course for

another comfortable victory against the Belgians when Georginio Wijnaldum gave them the lead at Anfield.

However, with manager Jurgen Klopp resting several players ahead of this weekend's clash with Manchester City, the reigning European champions were pegged back.

Tanzanian striker Mbwana Ally Samatta headed Genk level before the interval, and it took a fine strike by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain to win the game.

"The plan was to win the game and we did that, so job done," admitted Klopp.

Liverpool are top of Group E, a point above Napoli, who could

have qualified for the last 16 with a win against Salzburg but were held to a 1-1 draw.

## HAALAND SCORES AGAIN

Erling Braut Haaland's early penalty — the 19-year-old's seventh Champions League goal this season — gave Salzburg the lead, before Hirving Lozano equalised.

In Germany, Inter looked to be heading for a second straight win against Dortmund as they raced into a 2-0 half-time lead with Lautaro Martinez and Matias Vecino scoring.

Yet Borussia Dortmund fought back in the second

"The other day we lost against Levante and we know this was not one of our best games either. We haven't been convincing either on Saturday or today and we know there is a lot of pressure now on the team. We have to respond."

—ERNESTO VALVERDE

"It feels really good. We all knew how important the game was for us to win, but the (second-half) reaction was absolutely crazy."

—JULIAN BRANDT

"We are sorry for this defeat but I cannot ask much more of my players because they are working really hard."

—ANTONIO CONTE

"I had some mad nights over the years and some great nights, but it's certainly right up there."

—FRANK LAMPARD

"We are controlling the game then in one moment everything changed. From our performance we deserved to win tonight with 11 and also with 9."

—ERIK TEN HAG

"It's a bit of an unlucky time for us. We tried everything. It's a great performance but we didn't manage to score enough."

—LORENZO INSIGNE

half to win the game as Achraf Hakimi grabbed a brace either side of a Julian Brandt goal.

It is a result that leaves Dortmund second in Group F, three points ahead of Inter and one behind Barcelona, who are still top despite a 0-0 draw at home to Slavia Prague.

## MESSI DENIED

Lionel Messi almost scored one of his finest goals, hitting the woodwork at the end of an exhilarating run in the first half.

Barcelona had not failed to score in a home Champions League group game in seven years and this result followed a shock weekend defeat at Levante.

"We haven't been convincing, either

## NUMBER GAME

**3** Chelsea are the third English side in Champions League history to come from three goals behind to get a result and the first since Liverpool in May 2005 (3-3 v AC Milan)

**19** Reece James (19y, 332d) has become Chelsea's youngest ever goalscorer in Champions League history

**5** Five of Jorginho's six goals for Chelsea in all competitions have been scored via the penalty spot

**4** Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain has scored four goals in his last four games for Liverpool; as many as in his previous 45 appearances for the club

**2** Chelsea are the second side to concede two own goals in the first half of a CL game after CFR Cluj (v Bayern Munich, October 2010)

**9** Hakim Ziyech has either scored or assisted in nine of his last 12 Champions League appearances (4 goals, 5 assists)

**7** Erling Haaland has scored seven goals in his first four CL appearances — two more than any other player in the competition's history

**4** Erling Haaland is the fourth player in Champions League history to score in each of his first four appearances — the others are Zé Carlos (FC Porto, 1992/93), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus, 1995) and Diego Costa (Atlético Madrid, 2013/14)

**2** Ajax's opener against Chelsea was the second earliest goal conceded by the Blues in the Champions League after Stephan El Shaarawy (Roma) in October 2017 (39 seconds)

**24** In all European competition, Liverpool are now unbeaten in 24 games at Anfield (W18 D6 L0) since losing 3-0 to Real Madrid in October 2014 in the Champions League

**1** Valencia's Ferran Torres has become the first player born in 2000 to score for a Spanish team in Champions League

**0** Barcelona player Lionel Messi has failed to score in consecutive Champions League home games for the first time since April 2015

**0** Barcelona have failed to score in a competitive game at Camp Nou for the first time since February 2018 against Getafe in LaLiga (0-0)

**4** Memphis Depay is the 2nd player to score for Lyon in four consecutive appearances in the Champions League after Sonny Anderson in October 2002

**1** For their first time ever, Inter have lost a Champions League match after leading by 2+ goals margin (28 games previous of Tuesday)

**3** Lautaro Martinez is the first player to score in three consecutive CL appearances for Inter since Samuel Eto'o in 2010

**2** Ajax conceded two red cards in a Champions League match for the first time ever, the last time Ajax have been shown two red cards in a match in all competitions was in April 2018 (v PSV)

**4** Memphis is the first Dutch player to score in four consecutive Champions League matches since Arjen Robben in 2013 (5 in a row)

on Saturday or today, and we know there is a lot of pressure now on the team. We have to respond," said coach Ernesto Valverde.

RB Leipzig top Group G after goals by Diego Demme and Marcel Sabitzer gave the Germans a 2-0 win at Zenit Saint Petersburg.

Lyon are two points behind them in second following a 3-1 defeat of Benfica.

Joachim Andersen and Bertrand Traore scored for Lyon either side of a goal from Memphis Depay, who has now netted in all four Champions League games this season. Haris Seferovic scored for Benfica.

## Dahiya aiming only for Olympics Gold

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic-bound Ravi Dahiya wants to make the most of his debut at the quadrennial event in Tokyo next year. His target? Nothing but a Gold!

"Medal toh medal hi hota hai but chahna toh yehi hai ki Gold hi le aaye kyunki Gold hi bahut zyada zarurat hai desh ko" (a medal is a medal but my personal ambition is to bring home the Gold as it is what India needs the most)," Ravi told Sports Authority of India in his trademark Hariyannvi accent, with a child-like innocence but a strong determination.

Ravi secured a Bronze at the World Wrestling Championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan before clinching a quota place for the country in the 57kg men's freestyle wrestling category. He achieved the milestone after a 6-1 victory over former world champion Yuki Takahashi in the quarterfinals of the meet.

The 22-year-old, hailing from Sonipat's Nahri village, was also included in the Sports Authority of India's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) soon after.

"TOPS is going to benefit me a lot. We can go outside for practice," Ravi adds. "There will be good physios and quality sparring partners. And the training can be taken a notch higher."

When asked to reveal his training plans, he mentions, "For 20-odd days, I would like to train in some other places in India like Shilaroo (Himachal Pradesh) or even go abroad for 20-25 days. This will complement my training at the Chhatrasal Stadium (in New Delhi) which is going on



Ravi Dahiya in action during Wrestling World Championship in Budapest PTI

pretty well."

Ravi, along with another Olympic-bound wrestler Deepak Poonia, goes through a rigorous training regime at the Chhatrasal Stadium. They wake up at 3:30 in the morning and start their practice session from 4. The warm-up regime includes several rounds of *uthak-baithak* (half burpees), that can easily pin an average joe.

"I get free after training at 8am and have some *badaam* (nuts) and juice as well as fruits later. Then we rest for 2-3 hours and start training again in the afternoon non-stop from 4 till 7.30," says Ravi, who does make it a point to get at least 8 hours of sleep a day.

On a parting note, the 22-year-old *pehlwan* reveals the benchmark he has set for himself with humility. "I hope to take part in 2-3 more Olympics, apart from 2020. *Bas desh ke liye kuch achha karke aaye* (I want to do something good for the country)!"

## Dheeraj gets maiden call-up for WC qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh got his maiden call-up into the national team after head coach Igor Stimac included him in the 26-member squad for the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifying matches against

Afghanistan and Oman later this month.

India will play against Afghanistan at the neutral venue of Dushanbe, the capital city of Tajikistan, on November 14 in the first-leg match, while the Blue Tigers take on Oman in Muscat on November 19 for the second-leg tie.

India had lost to Oman 1-2 in the home-leg in Guwahati on September 5.

Dheeraj, whose performance under the woodwork during the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup in India earned him accolades, is the third player after skipper Amarjit Singh and defender Anwar Ali from that

squad, to get a call in the senior team camp.

"Dheeraj is a player for the future. We have always trusted our youngsters and they have also shown their prowess on the pitch. Our first choice goalkeepers are Gurpreet and Amrinder and we have seen Kamaljit and Vishal too. Now we would like

to see Dheeraj closely as he belongs to those we should rely on in the future," Stimac said.

He said it was "not an easy task" to shortlist the players "given the healthy competition" in the team. "I trust them and they know their responsibilities. After watching the league matches since they started, we

have shortlisted these players. Some players who are not on the list also performed highly and came very close to getting selected," Stimac said.

"It's not going to be an easy task to select only a few players, given the healthy competition we have in each position. This is a good headache for us."

## Kashyap, Praneeth win in China

PTI ■ FUZHOU

There was no end to Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal's lackluster run of form as the Olympic Bronze-medallist crashed out of the China Open here on Wednesday following a straight-game opening-round defeat to local favourite Cai Yan Yan.

The world No 9 Saina lost 9-21, 12-21 in the women's singles clash that lasted just 24 minutes to make an early exit from the \$700,000 tournament.

However, in men's singles, Saina's husband and personal coach Parupalli Kashyap registered a comfortable straight-game victory over Thailand's Siththikom Thammasin.

The Indian outsmarted his Thai opponent 21-14, 21-3 in 43 minutes. He will face seventh seed Victor Axelson of



B Sai Praneeth in a file picture PTI

Denmark in the second round.

World Championships Bronze medallist B Sai Praneeth also made it to the second round beating Tommy

Sugianto of Indonesia 15-21, 21-12, 21-10 in a 52-minute hard-fought opening round battle. The world No 11 Indian will take on fourth seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark in the next round.

However, it was curtains for compatriot Sameer Verma as he lost 18-21, 18-21 against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu in an opening round contest that lasted 45 minutes.

The mixed doubles pairing of Pranav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy also made a first-round exit. The duo went down 14-21, 14-21 to Wang Chi-Lin and Cheng Chi Ya of Chinese Taipei.

To add to India's woes, the men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy also crashed out in the first round, losing 21-23, 19-21 to Malaysian combination of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik.

## Wenger evasive over Bayern job

AFP ■ MUNICH

Arsene Wenger has not ruled himself out of the running for the vacant head coach role at Bayern Munich while Ralf Rangnick, another potential candidate, is reportedly not interested.

Wenger, 70, gave an evasive answer when broadcaster *bein Sports* directly asked him about working at Bayern, who need a new head coach after Niko Kovac was dismissed on Sunday.

Wenger, who speaks fluent German, coached Arsenal from October 1996 until May 2018 and admits he misses some aspects of coaching.

While Wenger has enjoyed his year away from football, the satisfaction of winning matches and preparing players are

"something you miss, of course," said the Frenchman.

Meanwhile, Ralf Rangnick, currently head of sport and development at Red Bull and the previous sports director at Bundesliga side RB Leipzig, is reportedly the latest big name to turn

Bayern down.

"Ralf is not available. We don't believe that what Ralf Rangnick is all about is currently being sought by Bayern," Rangnick's manager Marc Kotschke told German daily *Bild*.

"That why it doesn't make sense to hold concrete talks." Rangnick joins Ajax coach Erik ten Hag and Paris Saint-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel, who have both stated that they will not leave their current jobs this season.

## Khaka stripped of Arsenal captaincy

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal manager Unai Emery confirmed on Tuesday that Granit Khaka has been stripped of the club captaincy after an emotional outburst towards supporters.

The Swiss international swore and threw the captain's armband to the floor after being booed as he was substituted against Crystal Palace 10 days ago.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who led Arsenal for Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Wolves, will take over as captain.

Khaka was not included in the squad for the Wolves match or Wednesday's visit to Vitoria Guimaraes in the Europa League.

"I was speaking with him this morning and also I decided he's not one of the captains in our group and I decided that and I told him this morning," Emery said. "He accepted my decision."

"We have now

Aubameyang, Hector (Bellerin), (Alexandre) Lacazette and (Mesut) Ozil — they are the four captains, and first is now Aubameyang."

"I needed to take one decision, and now it is closed," Emery added.

Khaka, 27, blamed death threats to his family for his furious response, saying he had reached "boiling point".

"My feeling of not being understood by fans, and repeated abusive comments at matches and in social media over the last weeks and months have hurt me deeply," he wrote on Instagram.

"People have said things like 'We will break your legs', 'Kill your wife' and 'Wish that your daughter gets cancer'."

"That has stirred me up and I reached boiling point when I felt the rejection in the stadium."

Khaka had only been confirmed as captain by Emery in September after the Spaniard took a dressing room vote to decide on the skipper after the departures of Laurent Koscielny and Petr Cech.





# vivacity

ARJUN, RAKUL  
IN A FAMILY  
DRAMA

-P 14



## WAYS TO HANDLE YOUR CHILD

One should not be punishing kids frequently in order to keep behavioural issues away, says **TEAM VIVA**

**P**unishment like corporal punishment, verbal abuse should be strictly off limits for children as it has several negative repercussions. Child counsellors say that when a healthy loving relationship exists between parents and children, a single look of disapproval or non communication is enough to convey to children that what they have done is wrong. Here is what you could do to avoid punishing your kids.

Judge the Age Appropriateness of behavior. Mentally ask yourself the question "is the behaviour exhibited by my kid age appropriate?" If the answer is yes then quit the idea of punishment. For example, if your three year old describes a guest as "that fat man" you should not get angry as it is age appropriate for toddlers to describe what they see without negative intent. Explanation works better than punishment in such situations.

Teach the difference between right and wrong. Kids are not born with an inbuilt moral compass and it becomes very difficult for them when they get punished for doing wrong things unknowingly. For example, your five year old may have lied to save his skin not knowing that lying is ethically unacceptable. Instead of punishment sit down with your kids and make them understand the moral differentiation between right action and wrong.

You need to act as a role model for your children if you really want them to imbibe good behaviour naturally. This means that you need to practice things like not lying, speak-

ing politely and leading a disciplined life yourself. When your kids see you doing things that you have told them to do, they automatically get motivated. This means that they will try to be on their best behaviour most of the time and it will become unnecessary for you to inflict punishment.

Mostly kids behave badly as they are extrinsically motivated by the reward and punishment system. Parents need to teach the concept of intrinsic motivation where the option of doing a good thing automatically generates a feeling of organic happiness.

The closer you are to your kids emotionally and the more aware you are of their needs and wants; it will become easier for you to ensure good behaviour. When a child feels close and loved by parents good behavior automatically follows by intrinsic motivation and the desire to impress.

Use a level and cool tone of voice when you are reprimanding them for some wrong doing. This tone automatically makes kids feel that they have done something wrong and they are motivated to listen carefully. Punishment can follow only if your kids do not listen to repeated use of this tone.

Not punishing kids does not mean not disciplining them. Draw up appropriate rules for behaviour in your home and ensure that they are followed. Discipline should be a part of everyday life and not just reserved for special occasions.

Publically appreciate kids when they have behaved well as this will further encourage them to keep up good



behaviour. Repeated appreciation of good behaviour will work wonders and actually prove to be more effective than any punishment system.

Punishment imparted in a moment of fury and anger always does more harm than good. Whenever you feel yourself getting angry, take a few moments to calm yourself down. If necessary, walk out of the room for

**KIDS ARE NOT BORN WITH AN INBUILT MORAL COMPASS AND IT BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM WHEN THEY GET PUNISHED FOR DOING WRONG THINGS UNKNOWINGLY**

some time.

If behaviour problems persist then consider taking kids to a child counsellor where issues can be effectively addressed. This is a much preferred mode of action than inflicting punishment which could further alienate your children.

Not only does overly harsh discipline cause resistance and retaliation, it can easily encourage lying. A child will focus on covering up misdemeanours to avoid punishment, rather than changing their actual behaviour. Finally, remember that punitive consequences fail to teach your child self-control. A child who is always reprimanded without discussion fails to develop problem-solving skills or an 'inner voice' that helps them think through behaviour before acting.

Additionally, there is extensive research that physical punishment puts children at substantial risks for future defiant and aggressive behavior, increased mental health concerns, as well as greater risk of serious injury and abuse. Recent brain science research has shown that harsh physical punishment may actually have detrimental effects on the development of a child's brain.

The negative effect of punishment, physical or otherwise, extends to our schools as well. Many schools adopt "zero tolerance" policies, but in order for those to work, educators must discipline students in harsher ways, often with little effect.

What's more, consistent use of punishment in schools causes children to become fearful and avoidant of school and teachers, and interferes

with positive, pro-social relationships. Brain science is showing us that warmth and nurture are essential to brain development. Academic success — one of the best indicators of adult success — is best achieved in a school climate that is warm, welcoming, and promotes positive behavior and positive interactions with adults and peers. In order to reduce the use of physical punishment, we must have other options.

Children learn to behave when their parents notice and respond to their behavior appropriately. When a child misbehaves, it is essential that parents remain calm and communicate the appropriate way to get it right next time. Techniques such as teaching behaviors that you want to see; reinforcing specific behaviors asking them to keep their hands to themselves or positive reinforcement when they do the behavior; modeling appropriate behavior parents keep their hands to themselves; and combining a low preferred behavior doing homework with a high preferred behavior playing a game are effective ways to encourage appropriate behavior.

The risks to physical punishment are huge and well outweigh the short term reduction of a negative behavior. It's time to change the culture of discipline in our country, and to show parents that there is a better way. Rather than debate its effectiveness, let's educate on its tremendous risks, and on more positive approaches to discipline. It is not too late to change our educational and parental discipline practices. Our kids deserve better.



Trend Blazer

Arjun, Rakul to star in a family drama

Actors **ARJUN KAPOOR** and **RAKUL PREET SINGH** will team up for the first time for an untitled family dramedy.

Kaashvie Nair, who had earlier assisted filmmaker **Nikhil Advani** on his sports-drama *Patiala House* and the 2013 action thriller *D-Day*, will be making her feature film debut as a director with this forthcoming film.

"I have grown up in a joint family, so I understood that it's the biggest pillar of love, strength and support.

That's the essence of our film, which has its heart in the right place. I'm having a blast even during the prep," said Arjun.



**'I feel there is an immense amount of talent in our country and people have the ability to create original music. I have heard compositions of so many young musicians and it's really good. So I feel we should definitely stand for original music. We can always go back in the past to learn from it and to refer to it when needed.'**

—Mithoon

Actor **URVASHI RAUTELA** has expressed her eagerness to play the famous Olympian PT Usha in a film on her life.



"Not many people know I am an athlete. I am a national basketball champion. I am a sports person so I think no one can be a better choice than me for PT Usha's role. I have been a racer. I have participated in and won many races. So, I think I will fit in any sports biopic. Also, even filmmakers will not have to put a lot of time to train me," Urvashi said.

Urvashi is currently promoting her comedy film *Pagalpanti*.

Divorce was hurtful: Angelina

Actress **ANGELINA JOLIE** says she is recovering after her "hurtful" divorce from actor **BRAD PITT**.

The erstwhile Hollywood news grabbed the headlines with their romance for 12 years. The two married for two years. Jolie said she's on the path to recovery after seeing the ones she loves "in pain."

She says she "wrestled" with her heartache over the divorce because she was hurt.

She said, "My body has been through a lot over the past decade, particularly the past four years, and I have both the visible and invisible scars to show for it."

Of heartache, she added, "The invisible ones are harder to wrestle with. Life takes many turns."



The new tour guide

Women are now in the rough and tumble of the tourism industry beyond the stereotypes.

By **CHAHAK MITTAL**

Have you ever seen a woman guide in India? Many would answer, 'Not really.' The Mithila Parker-starrer *Chopsticks* is the only recent example where we see a woman assisting a group of Chinese tourists across places in the city. However, just as there is a rise in women travellers in the country, travel experts say that women travel aggregators and hospitality sector players have grown too. And not just at the management level or desk jobs, but out on the field too.

Shalini Goyal Bhalla, founder of WomenOfIndia, looks at it in a different light by bringing rural and regional women into the picture. "Why not encourage them too?" She tells us that even the WOI was conceptualised around the same idea. "The idea was to bring women in the public sphere through their own skills and culture. Unless we involve women in environment and make them conscious about it, the things are not going to change. Also, my observations during my travel made me realise how important the role of women is. I questioned, 'What role can local women play in tourism activities?' I saw what potential they carry and what they can do if given an opportunity. So I also looked at it as a way of promoting regional cuisines, arts and culture and different dialects that India has through rural women."

A whole subset of cuisine and culture tourism can be developed around



women. Involving them has high tourism potential as the knowledge on mountain, plateau and cultural heritage can promote the idea of sustainable tourism and social enterprise. She says, "They can reorganise the entire tourism industry, flavours of the local cuisines, and culture. Even the women who are skilled in various arts can present their dances and music performances in front of the tourists." Shalini believes that women would prove to be more courteous in guiding the tourists than men.

One of the biggest reasons that women are not a part of the tourism industry is because of the fear of safety and job security. Experts suggest that companies need to discard the idea of gender-based roles and promise women safety and other job benefits. Women guides are also trained and educated properly on how to react in cases of emergency during a trip. An initiative to provide them tour maps, guidelines and personal safety equipment is also

being brought into practice.

Deepthi Sheth, vice president and head (Human Resources), SOTC Travel, says, "To provide women with equal opportunities for leadership and entrepreneurship, there are various corporate policies for women employees which are vital to support their continued employment even after going through the three Ms — Marriage, Maternity and Matriculation. There should be work policies that motivate laws and benefits for childcare and maternity, and flexible work hours."

With the 'WOW: Women of Will' initiative, the travel agency is encouraging women to lead groups of 40 and more travellers on various trips. Sheth adds, "It is to motivate and encourage participation of our women workforce to fulfil their dreams and create an opportunity for them to network."

Ankit Rastogi, head of air and accommodation, Cleartrip, says, "With more women getting increasingly

inclined to travel for various reasons, backed with early exposure of various trips and a determination to break the stringent norms, a profession in the travel industry is definitely attracting talent beyond the gender factor. We keep the candidate's ability, attitude and enthusiasm as our priority, be it for finance, content, design and technology as well as for customer relations like business development, customer service and key account management."

Mona Cheriyan, president and group head (Human Resources), Thomas Cook (India) Ltd, says, "Over the past few years, the contribution of women in the travel and tourism industry has increased exponentially. We offer our women employees on-the-job training to hone their entrepreneurial skills, and build expertise in behavioural areas, along with their existing domains. With WOW tours, they can even book tours along with fellow women colleagues, across different verticals."

Even as per a report of 2016, there has been a 38 per cent rise in hiring vacancy for women at travel firms in India.

Shalini, who, along with Dave Mann, founder of WanderTribe, HKV Association head SS Sarna, and NRAI president Rahul Singh, will be seen talking about the emerging role of women in the tourism industry at the India Habitat Centre (on November 8), highlights that there is a new demand for women service professionals. Unlike previous times, when women weren't allowed travel alone or step out of the houses without a male family member, today, they are being encouraged even by their husbands to take tours with their friends or colleagues.

Travel firms like Girls On The Go Club and SeekSherpa, both of which have also been founded by women, are examples of how 'women only' travel groups are encouraging travellers to take trips with complete safety and assurance.

A soldier is never off-duty

Actor **SOORAJ PANCHOLI** and director **IRFAN KAMAL** have made an attempt to unite the nation through their forthcoming *Satellite Shankar*. By **SAKSHI SHARMA**



As I lounged around waiting for actor Sooraj Pancholi to come, director Irfan Kamal entered the room and asked me to take a seat. While I wondered whether I should wait for the actor or start the interview, the director seemed prepared.

Pointing towards the posters of the film *Satellite Shankar* behind him, I asked him the reason for the title. He promptly answered, "The whole idea is to get people thinking. It would force them to dig deep into the film. In today's time, we don't connect to people much. There are satellites which keep us connected only to our mobile phones, TV or internet. Our film will focus on this gap and connect hearts."

As he spoke, Sooraj entered and sat beside him which broke Kamal's chain of thoughts for a moment. While the actor was preoccupied with his phone, the director apprised us about the initial thoughts that led to this project. He said that he gets many ideas while reading newspapers. "When you read newspaper articles, you try to dig deeper into that subject and find the logic and reason behind it. I once read an article on how soldiers are never off-duty and that touched me deeply and gave birth to the film's concept. They often have to return from their holidays before they are over on receiving just one call to serve the nation."

The film revolves around the extraordinary journey of a soldier which brings a nation together. As a filmmaker, Kamal wants to restore the dignity of soldiers among the common citizenry. He talked about the challenges that soldiers face as they operate in regions with no network or proper food supplies. They are not aware of the happenings in and around the world, or even what is going on in their families. When people watch this sacrifice in the film, they will know the importance of their freedom. "If you don't treat your family

well, just remember these people don't even get an opportunity to meet theirs. One should learn from a soldier," said he.

The film is about Shankar (played by Sooraj), who has never taken a leave from his post. So concerned citizens start a social media campaign to send him back home on a much-deserved break.

While Kamal was elaborating on the film, the actor sat waiting for his turn to speak. Talking about the challenges of his role, he said, "Usually, patriotic films have action sequences. But this is different as it is dominated by emotions. So I did not have to learn the action part but yes, I had to work really hard on the script and my fitness." Before he could give a deeper insight into his challenges, Kamal took over and said, "It is very difficult for any hero, especially an Indian one, to lose his six packs. And he did that."

The actor nodded and said that he was very muscular earlier since he was quite active in sports for a long time. "When he (Kamal) came to me with the script, I thought it was an action film. I was shocked when he told me that it was not," said he. The director asked him to cut down on his muscle mass and tone his body. Though it was tough for the actor, he was keen on doing it as he fell in love with the script. According to him, it was once in a lifetime kind of loss. So "I worked on myself. Losing fat is easy but muscles, that is difficult," added he.

It was the motivation from the whole team that helped the actor play this role. "I had to eat, sleep and drink Shankar in me because Kamal wanted me to feel like a soldier, not only on screen but off-screen too," said he.

The film has a smorgasbord of emotions. On one side it portrays the soldier's happiness on meeting his mother while on the other, it shows the difficulties that are a part of his life. But it was easy for the actor to bring out his feelings as he comes from a



very emotional family. He said, "In fact emotions drive any film. When I am offered any role, I first look for emotions and then the rest of the story. If emotions are lacking, I don't do it."

Kamal said the rationale for the film came from his desire to give back to and acknowledge the armed forces. "Maybe we have never really done much for them. If people learn even five per cent, it will fulfill my purpose."

We have often seen patriotic films and one wonders how this one is different. Explained Kamal, "The USP of our film is the use of social media as an awareness tool. It shows youngsters coming forward and taking up this cause. College kids and net savvy people are involved."

Sooraj, who debuted with *Hero* (2015), said that this role is 10 times tougher. "In my first film, I played myself. The role demanded that I know martial arts, dance and deliver dialogues. But here I did not even feel for a second that I needed to feel like a hero," he said.

This being his second film, the actor has made a comeback as a lead after four years. He said that he was looking for projects, which offered more than dance and action. "But it's never too late and now I am happy because good things take time," said he. Soon after his debut Sooraj

'Humour a natural way of expression'

Actor **Richa Chadha**, whose comic timing in *Fukrey* was lauded by many, says humour is a fairly natural and organic way of expressing oneself.

Richa now aims to take her love for humour to the next level, by appearing in the comic show, *One Mic Stand*. For the show, she has been mentored by comedians Sapan Verma and Ashish Shakya.

"I love to see people laugh. It is truly a joyous thought to stand on stage and spread humour with your words. Doing so is such a satisfying feeling in itself," said Richa.

"I have dabbled in stand-up comedy before, very briefly. But it was quite a challenge taking this on. Sapan and Ashish have been admirable mentors, pushing me to do better at each step. They have distinct styles and I have imbibed a lot from them. It has been both daunting and exciting to take it up professionally, even though for a brief period and learning from the experts," she added.

Talking about humour, she said, "It is a fairly natural and organic way of expression. I struggled a lot because I am aware people think of me as a very serious person. So it was confusing. It is an experiment for me at best, but then I owe my career to experimentation."

Richa's previous release was the critically acclaimed *Section 375*, starring Akshaye Khanna. She will soon be seen in Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari's *Panga*, starring Kangana Ranaut.

She is currently working on her several Bollywood assignments, including the shoot of the forthcoming season 2 of the web series *Inside Edge*.



(The film releases on November 15.) Photo: Pankaj Kumar



# KVS CELEBRATES UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Participants from all 25 KVS regions were paired to represent a state different than their own

The four-day-long mega cultural and literary event of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan — *Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Parv* — culminated in a grand cultural evening with prize distribution to the winners of various events. Minister for Human Resource Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated the event in the presence of many prominent attendees. He wore the attire of Andhra Pradesh to give a message of *Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat*.

He said, "It's a great opportunity to be a part of this event. I am amazed to witness our young students, spreading the message of national unity and integrity. KVS is playing a prominent role in order to achieve the dream of *Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat*."

This year 2,375 participants came together to be the part of it. Various competitions were conducted such as group dance of different states and countries, theatre on pertinent issues, quiz, creative writing, debates, painting and many more. To add on pleasant flavours of Indian culture and traditions, participants from all 25 KVS regions were paired to represent another state different than



their own. The concept was to celebrate the idea of India as a nation wherein different cultural units across varied geographies coalesce and interact with each other. This manifestation of diverse cuisine, music, dance, theatre, handicrafts, sports, literature, festivals, paintings and sculpture will enable people to imbibe the innate chord of binding and brotherhood.

Secretary, SE&L, MHRD, Amit Khare, attended the closing ceremony as a chief guest. Kolkata region bagged 1st position as an overall winner under *Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat* category, while Bengaluru stood first in the category of Language of LitFest and Bhopal got first position in the Display of Artefacts or Exhibition. A total number of 28 events were organised during the occasion.

Amit Khare hailed the efforts of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for organising the event. He appealed all students to imbibe the concept of *Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat* and make it a part of their daily life. He asked all principals to allot special page in their annual school magazine for the same. *Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat* on its concluding day adopted *Swachh Bharat* as its side theme to

promote awareness on clean and green environment. There were four different side themes allotted for all the four days, namely fit India, *samagra shiksha* and *jal suraksha*, ban on use of plastic and *swachh bhara*. The event, on its last day, graciously started with the solo classical dance performances of selected participants from 25 KVS regions across the country.

## IN SHORT

On Tuesday Amit Sen took charge as the director (finance) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). He is a chartered accountant with over 31 years of experience in the manufacturing sector and has handled various areas of finance. Sen joined SAIL in 1993 as its assistant manager at Bhilai Steel Plant. Before joining SAIL, he worked with Lovelock & Lewes, Kolkata (a PwC firm) and BHEL. With his extensive experience as chief financial officer (CFO) at SAIL Refractory Company Limited (SRCL), he has vast knowledge in financial management. His areas of expertise include cost management and commercial functions. He has also made significant contributions to the profitability of SAIL by aligning the existing practices with the best ones. Before assuming the current position, he was the chief general manager I/c (Finance) at the SAIL Corporate Office, New Delhi. Sen has been appointed at a time when the company is taking all the steps for prudent financial management while ramping up production from the new units under modernisation and expansion at SAIL Plants.



SPANDAN, a society aware of curatorial and protection of cultural treasure trove of the country has been organising Chhath for the last four years in Kancharjunga apartments in Noida. This year's celebration is the fifth in the series. The essence of Chhath celebration may be manifested in paying obeisance to the sun, the master of human life. In the celebrations under the aegis of SPANDAN around 200 people participated. They were not only from the Kancharjunga apartment but also from other neighbouring apartments. At the end of the celebration the people were exposed to the aim and purpose of the festival and they were all vowed to maintain cleanliness and the air quality in their daily lives.



The 150th Birthday of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das was celebrated in the administrative foyer of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) on Tuesday. On the occasion Ram Prakash, principal chief electrical engineer, CLW placed the wreath at the freedom fighter and paid him homage. SD Patidar, principal chief personnel officer welcomed the guests and conducted the programme. Members of WWO were present on the occasion. Prakash urged the staffs, supervisors and officers to dedicate themselves and follow the path shown by the great freedom fighter after whom the workshop was named. Members of CLW-WWO lighted 150 candles to mark his birthday. A cultural programme was also presented by the members.



## KKMC pay tributes to Kishore Kumar

The 18th Kishore Kumar awards was held at Pearay Lal Auditorium, New Delhi. The programme was organised by Kishore Kumar Memorial Club (KKMC) to pay tributes to the legendary singer-actor Kishore Kumar. The well-known art promoter, Lala Ram, CP Sharma and Amarjit Singh Kohli jointly inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp. The KKMC founder, general secretary, Kamal Dhiman, demanded Indian Government to confer the posthumous Bharat Ratna to legendary Kishore Kumar on this occasion.

Under the supervision of Parveen Sharma, president, KKMC and DC Maurya, vice president, KKMC, a book titled *Madhubala — The Venus of Indian Cinema* by Kamal Dhiman was also released. The book consists of the contribution of Madhubala as an actress and producer. Dhiman said, "Every year, two awards are given to those who have made significant contribution in the field of art and culture (Kala Ratna Award) and society (Samaj Ratna Award). This year, Kala Ratna Award was given to film actors — Manoj Bakshi, Banwari Lal Jhol and Deepak Raja, linguist Dr SC Chadha, dental surgeon Dr Gautam Khatak, lyricist Pradeep Sharma Khuro, author Narendra Singh while the Samaj Ratna Awardees were social activist Pt Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Sandeep Kumar, Pankaj Kumar Shrotriya, Ajay Bansal and Rakesh Pandey.

## RPF RAIDS PREMISES

The festival time is the peak travel season for Indian Railways. Taking advantage of the pressure for availability of reservation on trains during this period, unscrupulous elements become active, providing passengers with tickets on premium prices in an unauthorised way. Taking cue from the past years the Railway Protection Force of Northern Railway was highly vigilant looking out for such vendors. On receiving inputs the RPF team raided several premises and recovered tickets that had been procured through wrongful means. Electronic computer hardware and printers were also taken into custody. 43 unauthorised persons were rounded up last month. Cases were registered against them under different sections of Railways Act. 255 future travel tickets amounting to '5 lakh were recovered from them.

## NBT commemorates Guru Nanak's 550th anniversary

NBT's titles commemorate 550th year of Guru Nanak Dev to be released by HRD Minister and Minister for Food Processing Industries. This year the world celebrates the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak Dev. The occasion is marked by book releases, panel discussions, deliberations and seminars on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak. On the occasion, the National Book Trust of our country has published three titles — *Guru Nanak Bani*, *Nanak Bani*, and *Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev* — to spread the message of his writings amongst readers of Indian sub-continent. These books published originally in Punjabi shall be translated into 15 major Indian languages. The above three titles of National Book Trust will be released by Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, HRD Minister and Harsimrat Kaur

Badal, Minister for Food Processing Industries, at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College, University of Delhi, on November 7 at 10 am. Principal Dr Jaspal Singh, Chairman S Tarlochan Singh, Dr Jaspal Singh, Member NCMEI, and professor Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman NBT, will also be present. NBT India has already published the *Guru Nanak Bani* in Urdu, Odia, Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati. The translation in Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Sanskrit, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Sindhi and English will be published. The Union Cabinet passed a Resolution in November 2018, to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in the year 2019, throughout the country and across the globe, in a grand and befitting manner along with

State Governments and the Indian Missions abroad. One of the highlights of the decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting was that the NBT India will publish the *Gurbani* in different Indian languages. UNESCO will publish *Guru Nanak Dev's* writings in major world languages. In the book entitled *Guru Nanak Bani*, compiled by Bhai Jodh Singh, has collected various verses from the original *Bani* of Guru Nanak Dev and collated them according to the theme. The book *Nanak Bani* (compiled by Manjit Singh) is a collection of five prominent writings (*paanch bania*) of Guru Nanak Dev. The *Janamsakhis*, literally meaning birth stories, are writings which profess to be the biographies of Guru Nanak. *Sakhian Guru Nanak* (compiled by Jagtarjit Singh) is a book based on life stories of the holy figure.

## Lessons from Chhattisgarh

Enormous development has been carried towards power infrastructure in Chhattisgarh which is rich in forests and mineral resources. This has led to earning accolades at the national level. In a communique issued by Chhattisgarh State Power companies chairman Shailendra Shukla, it was stated that as the state is completing its 19th year of existence, it is gradually taking shape of a power hub.



The 474.67 per cent increase in power consumption shows that the consumers are taking benefit of the cheap and uninterrupted power supply. On the occasion of State Foundation Day, Shukla while detailing about the achievements of state power companies stated that this is the only state in country which contributes 12 to 13 per cent in the national power pool.

When the state came into existence, the power generation capacity was merely 1360 MW which gradually increased over the years to 3424.7 MW amounting to an increase of 2064.7MW. Shukla added that due to surplus availability of power, the state has created miracles in both agricultural and industrial fields and a sort of revolution has taken place in both the sectors. During inception of state the numbers of energised pumps were 73,000 which now have increased to 4.5 lakh and farmers are being benefited through these energised pumps round the year. As of now all 19567 villages in the state are electrified along with 38,000 hamlets.

Shukla further informed that the state is counted among developed states at the national level on issues like plant load factor and transmission capacity. Presently its transmission capacity is 8169 MVA against 1257 MVA during the inception of state which is a 549.80 per cent increase. In 2000 the numbers of EHT sub-stations were 27 which now has rose to 120.

Shukla said in the current financial year, a record of supplying highest 4760 MW power was recorded, which is 256.82 per cent increase against peak power demand of 1334 MW in 2000. Apart from establishing the first gas based sub-station in the capital Central India's biggest Supervisory control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system has been established in the capital which assists in fast automatic restoration of power interruptions.

Integrity — a way of life was the theme for this year's Vigilance Awareness Week.

## Bureau of Indian Standards



Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) observed Vigilance Awareness Week. Various competitions were organised during the week and an award ceremony was held on last day at BIS HQ Manak Bhawan, New Delhi. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, DG, BIS, addressed the gathering as a chief guest and distributed awards to the winners of quiz, painting and essay competitions. In his address, he laid emphasis on the need to have integrity in our life.

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) observed Vigilance

## Vigilance week at PSUs

Awareness Week in all its establishments. At its headquarters, Raj Kumar, DG, ESIC, administered the integrity pledge to ESIC staff and officers. Quiz competition focussing on the vigilance related matters was organised in which many officials actively participated. A lecture series was also organised in which Garima Bhagat, chief vigilance officer, ESIC, delivered a lecture on this year's theme and Shailendra Singh, chief technical examiner, Central Vigilance Commission, delivered a lecture on procurement issues.



POWERGRID Vigilance Awareness Week was also observed in POWERGRID. Dr Madhukar Gupta, additional secretary, DPE, Ministry for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises was the chief



guest. During the valedictory function, he distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions held during this week. On this occasion Subhankar Das, chief GM, vigilance, gave the welcoming address and Hemant Kumar Mallick, ED, NR-1, presented his valuable thoughts on this year's main theme.

## India Tourism Development Corporation

ITDC hospitality, under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, observed Vigilance Awareness Week. All the departments of ITDC organised various activities and events to sensitise people about the threat posed by corruption and how people can collectively fight against it.

An oath taking ceremony was held which was presided by Piyush Tiwari, director of commercial and marketing in the



presence of Pradip K Das, director finance and Vinayak Garg, chief vigilance officer along with ITDC staff and executives. Vinayak said, "Our purpose is to grow and make great strides in the rightful way. ITDC has initiated a series of SOPs to ensure that the system becomes better and we reach greater height."

In order to promote transparency at work and better coordination among different departments, ITDC also organised a vendors interaction meet and workshops, sensitization programmes for employees on policies and procedures of the organisations. A *nukkad natak* was presented by the students of Ashok Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Management (AIHTM) emphasising how corruption affects development of a country.

Punjab and Sind Bank Vigilance Awareness Campaign was launched by the GOI from October 28 to November 2. To make this flag-



ship campaign successful Punjab and Sind Bank (Gurgaon) organised the Vigilance Awareness rally on Friday under the leadership of zonal manager S Amolak Singh, where staff of the office, HO IT Department, HO Inspection and from local branches participated. The message of corruption-free society was spread in the rally. Further, a seminar was organised on theme — Integrity-A way of life to emphasise the significance of probity and integrity in public life.

## God is supreme

the greatness of Almighty is beyond consideration, imagination and calculation.

Manusmriti Shlok says that He preaches three divine forms of knowledge — *Gyan Kand* (knowledge of worldly matters) *Karma Kand* (knowledge of deeds) *Upasana Kand* (knowledge of the way to worship God). "There is only one God, who bears the load/burden of entire universe. Being alive, He alone gives movement to both alive and non-alive worlds. The living world comprises souls and the world which is visible is not alive," says Yajurved Mantra. God gives power, energy, move-

ment to the earth and enables heavenly bodies to emit light. He has given fertility to earth where humans find shelter as well as coal, diamonds, gold, silver, iron, brass and more. In Yajurved mantra, God has been described as "Shukram and Akayam" i.e. Almighty and Formless. Those who had tangible form like Ravanna, kansa, Duryodhan, Pandavas, Bheeshma Pitamah, Alexander, Napoleon Bonaparte, Rustam-e-Hind Dara, King-Kong, Gamma had negligible power as compared to Almighty. Rigved mandal 10, Sukta 48, Manta 6 states, "Human-beings who have all types of weapons and

challenge Me (God) to fight, are destroyed by my unseen, unlimited destructive power, without any weapon, within a fraction of second."

In fact, as per Samved Mantra 744, "We must worship the God whom our forefathers worshipped from the beginning." So, we must worship and pray that God protect us from sins and evil thoughts so that we enjoy a long, happy life and at the end of which we attain salvation.

We must remember our ancient/present *Rishi-Munis* whom the Vedas have made authentic dignitaries to preach Vedas and know God accordingly.

(The author is Swami Ram Swarup, who is the chief editor of the *Ved Ishvareeya vani*, a bi-annual magazine.)



# India look to level series under Maha threat

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Their frailties in the shortest format under the scanner, India would be aiming to ensure that a plucky Bangladesh don't run away with the momentum when the two sides clash in the second T20I, which is facing a cyclonic threat here today.

India have not had the kind of success in T20s as they have enjoyed in the other two formats of late and that is evident from the results this year.

They have already lost a series at home this year — to Australia — before drawing against South Africa who were otherwise hammered in Tests.

In the absence of some senior players, including regular skipper Virat Kohli, the second game of the three-match series is an ideal platform for the fringe players to show what they are made of.

All this will depend on how much of an impact Cyclone Maha, which is expected to make landfall in Gujarat on match day, has on the weather in the city.

In fact, heavy rains, associated with lightning, lashed the city on Wednesday evening. The wicket at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium is, however, protected with covers.

A series loss to Bangladesh will only pose more questions to the home team as it looks to zero in on a settled squad for next year's T20 World Cup.

Rohit, who had a rare failure on Sunday, would be keen to lead by example.

Another batsman who will be under pressure is K L Rahul, trying to cement his place in the T20 eleven after losing his spot in the Test squad.

A lot was expected from India's young brigade on Sunday but barring Shreyas Iyer, no one took the opposition attack by the scruff of its neck.

The likes of Rishabh Pant, Krunal Pandya and all-rounder Shivam Dube, who did not have a great start to his career, will have to justify their selection and deliver when the situation demands.

It would be interesting to see



Indian workers cover the pitch on the eve of second T20

## 100 for Rohit



RAJKOT: Stand-in captain Rohit Sharma will become the first Indian player and second in world cricket to complete 100 T20 Internationals when he will take the field in the second game against Bangladesh today.

Shoaib Malik (111 games) from Pakistan is the only player to have played more than 100 T20I.

Rohit is currently the top-scorer in this format with 2452 runs with regular skipper Virat Kohli second in the list with an aggregate of 2450 runs. He has scored the runs at a strike-rate of 136.67 with four hundreds and 17 half-centuries. His opposite number Mahmudullah Riyad is also on the cusp of a national record.

If he happens to hit two more sixes, he will be the first Bangladeshi batsman to complete 50 sixes in this format. PTI

whether the team management gives another chance to Dube, or brings in Kerala wicket-keeper batsman Sanju Samson.

Also, if Karnataka batsman Manish Pandey makes the playing XI, one of them will have to make way for him.

The inexperienced Indian bowling attack is another area of concern for the team management. Pacer Khaleel Ahmed, who leaked 37 runs in his four overs and was hammered for four consecutive boundaries in the penultimate over in Delhi, could be dropped and Shardul Thakur may get a look in.

Spinners Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal and Krunal Pandya will not only have to contain the rival batsmen but will also need to provide breakthroughs.

On the other hand, Bangladesh, who registered their first T20 win against India in nine matches, will look to seal a memorable series victory.

Rahim would look to play another crucial innings for the side in absence of senior pros Tamim Iqbal and Shakib.

Bangladesh bowlers, particularly spinner Aminul Islam and pacer Shafiqul Islam, had a good outing at Kotla and will be aiming to build on that performance.



India vs Bangladesh  
Live from 7:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK



Indian pacer Shardul Thakur, right and Manish Pandey return after a practice session ahead of their second Twenty20I against Bangladesh in Rajkot

## Pace combination will depend on track: Rohit

PTI ■ RAJKOT

India captain Rohit Sharma hinted at rejigging the pace combination for the second T20 while defending the batting line-up, in which senior opener Shikhar Dhawan has been struggling for some time.

"Our batting looks good. So I don't think there's any change we need to make in our batting. But we'll analyze the pitch, and based on that we'll see what we can do as a team," Rohit said during pre-match interaction.

While he didn't take names but there is a chance of Shardul Thakur coming in place of Khaleel, whose pace at times is making it easier for the opposition to negotiate at the death overs.

"The (pace-bowling) combination that we played in the last game, it was based on the pitch that was on offer in Delhi. We will see the pitch again today and we will think what we need to do in our bowling line-up," the skipper said.

He is expecting Rajkot track to play better than the one at Kotla.

"The pitch looks good. Rajkot has always been a good track to bat on and it does offer some assistance to the bowlers also. It will be a good pitch. I'm pretty sure it will be better than what you saw in Delhi," he opined.

While strategy is a confidential thing, a change in approach is something that the stand-in skipper expects from his mates.

"I cannot tell you strategy but what I can definitely tell you is that there will be changes in our approach. In the last match (in New Delhi), we played according to the pitch. We were playing as per the ways the pitch was reacting."

"But if the pitch here (at Rajkot) is good, our approach will be different as well in both bowling and batting (departments)."

He expects a collective performance from his team.

"The batsmen need to get the job done, the bowlers need to come out and take those crucial wickets. That will be the idea. We are not focusing on any individual departments. Because we lost as a team, not as individuals," Rohit said.

## 'Series win will be big boost for Bangla cricket'

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah on Wednesday said a T20 series win against hosts India will be a "big boost" for Bangladesh cricket in the wake of recent setbacks, including the ban on star player Shakib-Al-Hasan.

"If you concentrate on



the recent (developments), whatever is going on in Bangladesh cricket, a series win will be a big boost for Bangladesh cricket and also a big boost for the Bangladesh cricket team," Mahmudullah said.

"And hopefully as I have mentioned, today we have to play good cricket to beat India because we know that

they are a good side at home and across the world, so we have to

on our top from the first ball," he said. The captain thinks this is Bangladesh's best chance to win a T20 series against India.

"Obviously, I think, it is a great opportunity especially when you have already won the first game in the series, so it's a great opportunity and I think boys are feeling energetic about it and hopefully we can put up a good show tomorrow," he added.

He said winning against India in India would be a big achievement.

## SINGLES

**INDIAN WOMEN DRAW 1-1 WITH VIETNAM**  
HANOI: The Indian women's football team played out a 1-1 draw with hosts Vietnam in the second FIFA international friendly on Wednesday. Thai Thi Thao put the hosts in the lead in the 39th minute at the National Training Centre ground before India came back strongly in the second half to equalise through Ranjana Chanu in the 57th minute. India had lost the first international friendly 0-3.

**DHONI UNLIKELY TO COMMENTATE**  
NEW DELHI: Mahendra Singh Dhoni is unlikely to make his commentary debut in the Day-Night Test between India and B'desh, sources close to the former skipper said. Host broadcaster Star Sports has sent a proposal to the BCCI on Dhoni commentating in the landmark game but the board is yet to respond. "There is no way Dhoni can commentate," a source close to the player said when asked about the possibility of him being behind mic. As per existing constitution, Dhoni commentating would also amount to conflict of interest.

**CUMMINS RESTED FOR FINAL T20I**  
PERTH: Right-arm Australia pacer Pat Cummins has been rested for the third and final T20I against Pakistan set to be played tomorrow. According to a report in cricket.com.au, Cummins didn't join the squad that flew down from Canberra to Perth, and instead went to Sydney. "We've got so much cricket on, he (Cummins) plays a lot of it so when you get a little opportunity rather than taking the long flight to Perth he's going to stay here, recover and get prepared for the Test series," Australia coach Justin Langer said on Wednesday.

**U-19 TEAM SUFFERS 0-2 DEFEAT**  
AL KHOBAR: India began their 2020 AFC U-19 Championship qualification campaign on a disappointing note as they suffered a 0-2 defeat against Uzbekistan here on Wednesday. After a goal-less first session, the Uzbeks scored twice in the second half to pick up the three points. India play hosts Saudi Arabia at the same venue on Friday.

**VERONA GET 1 GAME PARTIAL STADIUM CLOSURE**  
MILAN: Italian club Verona were on Tuesday given a one-match partial stadium closure for monkey chants from their fans directed at Brescia forward Mario Balotelli during a Serie A game. Serie A's disciplinary commission on Tuesday said the chants "were clearly perceived, in addition to the player, also by the federation representative positioned nearby." The commission found "after these cries... there were also cries of support followed by long applause". As a result they ordered that a section known as the "Poltrore Est" in the Bentegodi Stadium, which can host around 3,500 spectators in the 30,000-capacity ground, be closed for one match.

# Ashwin & KXIP decide to part ways

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness Wadia on Wednesday said the franchise and former skipper Ravichandran Ashwin have amicably decided to part ways even though Delhi Capitals is still not a done deal.

Stylish opener KL Rahul is expected to lead the side after Ashwin's departure.

KXIP has been negotiating with Delhi Capitals for the past two months but now it has come to light

that a few other teams are also interested in Ashwin, who captained the Punjab franchise for the past two seasons but could not take the side to the play-offs.

"I know there is a lot of speculation but we are still talking. Ashwin is a very good, versatile player. Any team would love to have him. We are

talking to a few different teams (including Delhi) and as soon as we are clear, we will announce it," Wadia said.

"We (Ashwin and KXIP) have amicably come to a conclusion that we should part ways and now we are trying to get the best fit, best solution for everyone. We are talking to a few teams to see where the best fit is

and the best value comes for both Ashwin and ourselves. We want the best deal for everyone," he added.

Wadia had last month said that the KXIP board had a re-think on Ashwin and decided to retain the premier India spinner following the appointment of Anil Kumble as head coach.

Now it has come quite clear that negotiations over Ashwin trade-off have resumed.

The announcement will have to be made before the IPL transfer window closes on November 14.

## Chase, Hope hand Windies easy win

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Roston Chase and Shai Hope struck fine half-centuries as West Indies produced an all-round effort to register a comfortable seven-wicket win over Afghanistan in the first ODI of the three-match series here on Wednesday.

Opting to field, West Indies bowlers came up with a fine show to bundle out Afghanistan for 194 in 45.2 overs.

Jason Holder (2/21), Chase (2/31) and Romario Shepherd (2/32) shared six wickets among them to rock the Afghans.

Rahmat Shah (61), wicket-keeper batsman Ikram Alikhil (58) and Asghar Afghan (35) were the notable scorers for Afghanistan, who has chosen Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium as their new home venue.

West Indies did not have a bright start to their chase as they lost Evin Lewis (7) and Shimron Hetmyer (3) at the score of 25 in 7.4 overs.



But then, Hope (77 not out) and Chase (94) joined hands and stitched 163 runs for the third wicket to lay the foundation for West Indies victory as they reached 197 for three in 46.3 overs.

Spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2/33) picked up two wickets for Afghanistan.

The second ODI of the series will be played at the same venue on Saturday.

## India among fav for T20 WC: Gilchrist



Adam Gilchrist spends time playing cricket with local girls

Australia cricket legend Adam Gilchrist on Wednesday said T20 cricket is a bit of lottery but pinned India as one of the favourites to lift the format's ICC World Cup in his country next year. Besides India, Gilchrist picked

England, his own country and New Zealand as the front-runners.

"Probably they (India) will be featuring in semi-finals and the finals. I can't predict who is going to win but I suspect that the usual suspects like India, England, Australia and New Zealand will probably

make the long way, semi-finals of course," Gilchrist said at a promotional event.

Insisting that current world No 1 T20 side Pakistan too cannot be counted out, Gilchrist said even though he has listed his favourites, it is hard to predict anything in the shortest format of the game.

"Pakistan are number one ranked team in the format, so you cannot rule them out. But T20 cricket is a bit of lottery so it is hard to predict the winner until the final runs are scored or wickets are taken," he added.

The 45-match ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be held in Australia from October 18 to November 15 next year and will be played across eight Australian cities — Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Geelong, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.



## Indians shoot 8 more medals

PTI ■ DOHA

India shooters bagged eight medals on the second day of the Asian Shooting Championship here, but narrowly missed out on at least three possible Tokyo Olympic quota places on Wednesday.

India, thus, increased its medals tally to 13 after the five country's shooters won on Tuesday.

India's tally now stood at four Gold, three Silver and six Bronze medals.

The Indian men's Trap team of Kynan, Manavjit Singh Sandhu and Prithviraj won the Silver medal with a total score of 357, six short of Kuwait who won the Gold.

In the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol, Anish Bhanwala finished 11th in qualification with a score of 574. A poor final series put paid to his hopes of bagging one of the four available Tokyo 2020 quotas in the event.

In the end, he narrowly missed out on an Olympic quota to a Thai competitor, who finished 10th to pick up the fourth quota place on offer.

The Indian trio of Anish, Bhavesh Shekhawat and Adarsh Singh, however, won team Bronze with a combined score of 1716.

Indian shooters in the junior section of the same event also emulated their seniors with

Ayush Jindal, Ayush Sangwan and Japtyesh Jaspal winning the team Bronze.

India picked up two Gold, two Silver and two Bronze medals additionally in the junior men's and women's 50m Rifle Prone competitions.

The junior men's team comprising Niraj Kumar, Abid Ali Khan and Harshrajshinji Gohil logged a total of 1845 to win the Gold ahead of China and Korea.

Niraj, with his effort of 616.3, also won an individual Silver and Abid an individual Bronze with a score of 614.4.

The junior women's prone team comprising Nishchal, Bhakti Khamkar and Kinnori Konar also won the team Gold with a combined score of 1836.3.

Nishchal and Bhakti too won an individual Silver and Bronze by notching up scores of 615.3 and 614.2 respectively.

The pair of Anjum Moudgil and Deepak Kumar later crossed the first qualification round of the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team competition, shooting a total of 626.2. The duo finished sixth out of 36 teams.

In the second qualifying stage, they, however, Anjum and Deepak had to be satisfied with a sixth place finish.

The second Indian team comprising Apurvi Chandela and Divyansh Singh Panwar finished a disappointing 18th in the same event.