

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

IN PAKISTAN, IT'S COURT VS KHAN
BY KHALED AHMED
PAGE 14

Chennai techie helps NASA find lander: 'Every white spot was Vikram for me'

'Tracked images released by NASA, pixel by pixel, started with a single dot that was different in new images'

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 3



Shanmuga Subramanian

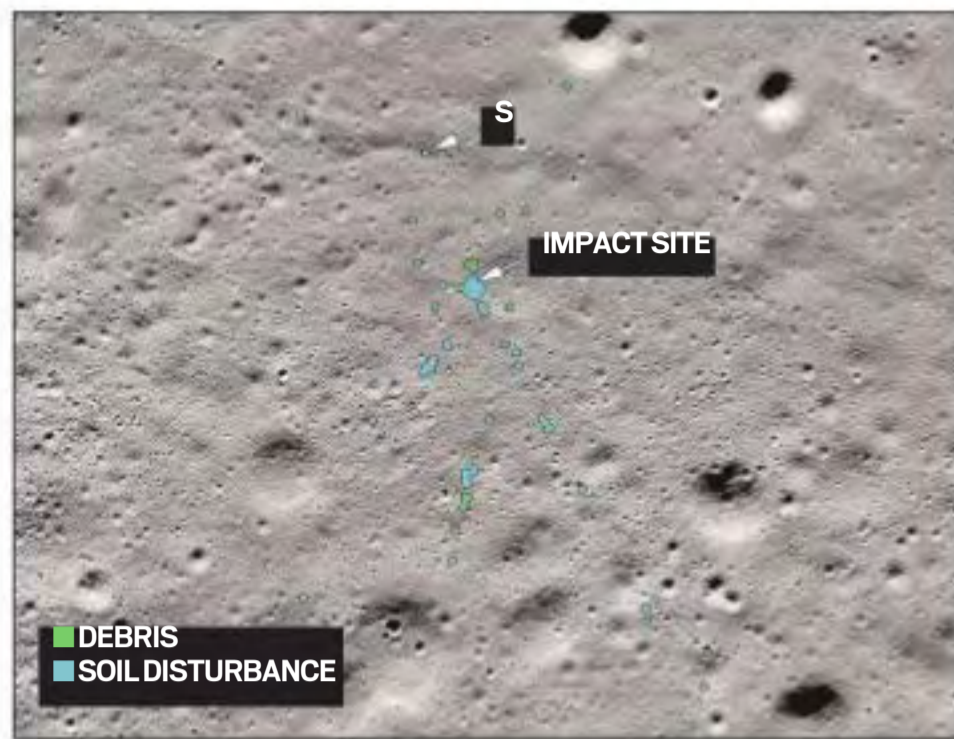
NEARLY THREE months after ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 made a "hard landing" on the lunar surface, NASA tweeted Tuesday that it had spotted the remains of the Vikram lander and credited an unexpected source for the discovery — a software programmer in Chennai.

And all it took for Shanmuga Subramanian (33) to find what the world was looking for was perseverance, a corner of his

apartment in Besant Nagar and a basic image viewer on his personal laptop. May be that's why, facing a crowd of media cameras, the man himself says "it's not a big deal".

"Anyone could have traced it... ISRO or NASA or any individual with an interest. It's just that I happened to trace it first. I was new to this, and probably my enthusiasm helped me over others who have been using advanced technologies to trace the lander," he said.

After the early hours of September 7, when ISRO said that the lander had made "a hard landing", Subramanian started trying to trace it from photographs available in the public domain, primarily NASA's website. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



NASA image shows Vikram's impact site and debris. PTI

LETTER SENT TO STATES

GST Council rings first alarm bells on revenue

'May not be able to compensate states, cess collections a matter of concern'

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

IN ITS first admission of strain on tax collections and the Centre's inability to compensate states for loss of revenue, the GST Council has written to states telling them that the GST and compensation cess collections in the last few months has become a "matter of concern" and that the compensation requirements are "unlikely to be met".

The GST Council is a Constitutional body chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprises the Minister of State **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPLAINED
E Backs to the wall

AT A time when growth is faltering, the delays in paying compensation to states as guaranteed by the GST Act will make it more difficult for them to meet their own finances. As it is, a shortfall in Centre's tax receipts hurts states more since the absolute amount they receive as per the devolution formula takes a hit.

BELGIAN AUDITOR'S REPORT TO PNB

Nirav-PNB rot deeper: LoUs worth Rs 25,000 cr were issued fraudulently

RITUSARIN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3



329-page draft report by auditor on his firms

ALMOST TWO years after the Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported the scandal involving diamondaire Nirav Modi, an exhaustive forensic audit commissioned by the bank has come to light, revealing the depth and extent of the rot and the ease with which fraudulent practices were carried out systematically by his chain of companies, remaining undetected for years.

Belgian auditor BDO, commissioned by PNB in February 2018, days after it complained to the CBI, looked at information supplied until June 2018 and found that a total of 1,561 Letters

of Undertaking (LoUs), valued at Rs 28,000 crore, were issued by PNB to the Nirav Modi group.

Of these, 1,381 LoUs valued at Rs 25,000 crore have been described by the auditor as being "fraudulently issued". It also found that 21 of 23 exporters in whose names the LoUs had been issued were "controlled" by Nirav Modi and subsequently, 193 LoUs of the value of Rs 6,000 crore were "mis-utilized" for **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Citizenship Bill coming, ensure you are present in House, BJP directs its MPs

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

SIGNALLING ITS intent on the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill that proposes to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Bangladesh, Pakistan and

Afghanistan, the BJP Tuesday asked its MPs to be present in the House in large numbers in the coming days, and said the Bill is as important as the legislation that did away with Article 370.

Sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while addressing the weekly meeting of BJP MPs, indicated that the Bill

could come up in Parliament next week and the government expects it to be passed before December 10. "The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is coming soon. It is very important to get it passed," sources quoted Singh telling the MPs.

Sources said the Bill, which is **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

China ship was in Andaman waters, its presence on rise in region: Navy Chief

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

CONFIRMING REPORTS that a Chinese vessel was forced to retreat after it entered India's Exclusive Economic Zone near the Andaman and Nicobar



Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh

Islands in September, Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir

Singh said Tuesday, "our stand is that if you have to do anything in our region, you notify us or take our permission". **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

DIP IN NAVY BUDGET
PAGE 12

Have asked CM Uddhav to withdraw Bhima Koregaon cases: Cong, NCP leaders

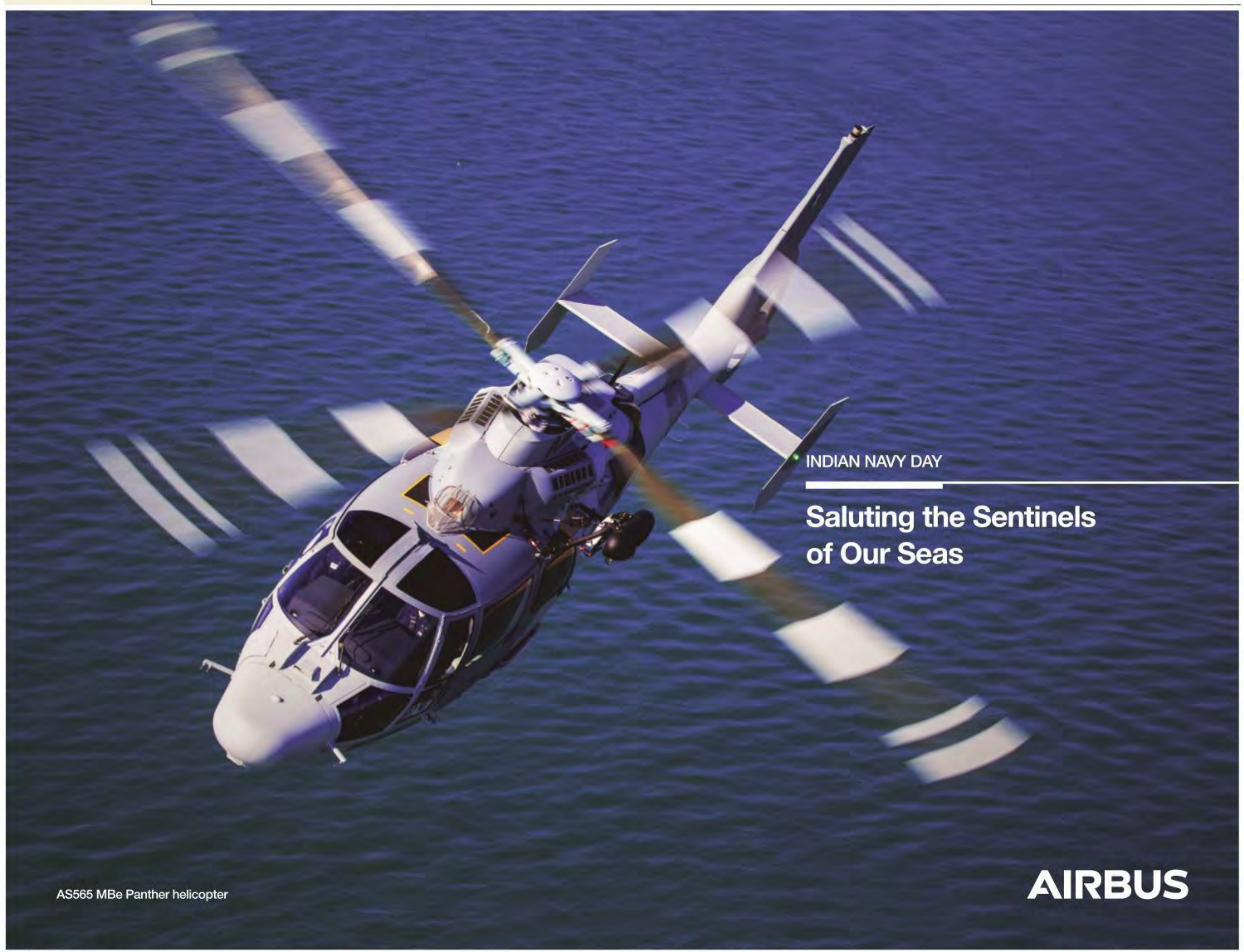
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

SOME SENIOR leaders of the Congress and NCP — both allies of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government in Maharashtra — have sought the withdrawal of cases related to the January 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence. "We are of the belief that the

cases which were slapped on Dalits after the Bhima Koregaon violence should be taken back. We have requested Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to ensure that these cases are withdrawn," said Nitin Raut, senior Congress minister. "Cases against innocent people should be withdrawn... Most of them are students... I have asked for details," he said. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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KARNATAKA BYPOLLS: TOP CONGRESS, BJP LEADERS DESCEND UPON KR PURA AHEAD OF HIGH-STAKES CONTEST

The party has fielded former KR Puram block president and MLC M Narayanaswamy in the bypolls to be held on December 5

VIDEO OF THE DAY



FOUND SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Engineer Shanmuga Subramanian spots Vikram lander's debris

FULL COVERAGE



SPG (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED IN RS

Amit Shah said the Bill not brought keeping in mind the Gandhi family

EXPRESS AUDIO

What the outrage around the Hyderabad rape fails to address about violence against women

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Reporters unpack how the incident took place, the protests it has triggered across the country, and why this cyclical outrage and calls for punishment obfuscates the real sexual violence women face

Dead rat found in midday meal in Muzaffarnagar, nine students taken ill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MEERUT, DECEMBER 3

NINE STUDENTS and a teacher of a government school in Muzaffarnagar district were taken ill on Tuesday after consuming midday meal in which a dead rat was found. The incident took place at Janta Inter College at Mustafabad Pachendra Kalan village on Tuesday morning.

Additional District Magistrate Amit Kumar Singh said that an inquiry has been ordered and strict action will be taken against those found guilty of negligence.

"The containers in which the meal was stored have been seized while a letter has been sent to the Mid Day Meal Authority (MDMA) in Lucknow for necessary action against the NGO, Jan Kalyan Sewa Samiti which was serving the mid day meal in the college for the past six months," said Basic Siksha Adhikari (BSA) Ram Sagar Pati Tripathi.

College principal Vinod Kumar said that students of class six and seven were being served the mid day meal when one of them spotted a dead rat in the serving container. "By the time we could take action, around nine students and a teacher had eaten a portion of the meal. They started vomiting immediately and were rushed to the hospital," said the principal, adding that Muzaffarnagar co-ordinator of mid day meal, Vikas Tyagi, will investigate the matter.

Cong criticises govt over rising prices of onion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

CRITICISING THE government for its inability to control the soaring prices of onion in the country, leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury questioned PM Narendra Modi on his promise of "na khaunga, na khane dunga (Neither will I indulge in corruption, nor will I allow others to do so)".

Chowdhury said the government has itself admitted that it is unable to check the rising prices of onion because of middlemen and hoarders. He said that while the consumer is paying anywhere from Rs 130 to Rs 150 per kg of onions, the government was paying only Rs 27 per kg and the farmer only gets Rs 9 per kg.

Speaking to mediapersons in Parliament, Chowdhury said the Congress had given a notice for an adjournment motion to discuss onion prices, but as soon as their turn to speak came, the treasury benches started creating ruckus.

He accused the BJP of not letting the House function. "From unemployment, Jammu and Kashmir to farmer's distress... the issues on which this government is unable to answer, what does it do? It tries to escape," he said.

Govt halves stock holding limit for onions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

TAKING FURTHER steps to augment the availability of onions and check its hoarding, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on Tuesday halved the stock holding limit for retailers to 5 tons and for wholesalers to 25 tons.

The move comes at time when the onion prices are skyrocketing, with the retail price crossing Rs 100 per kg in many cities.

"Stock limit has been revised with immediate effect. The revised limit for retailers is now 5 tons of onions, while for wholesalers it is 25 tons," an official said. "However, importers will be exempted."

Earlier, retailers were allowed to hold onion stock up to 10 tons and wholesalers up to 50 tons.

Last week, the ministry had asked state-run MMTC to place an order for import of 11,000 metric tons of onion from Turkey. These onions will begin arriving from late December or early January. This will be in addition to the 6,090 MT of onions which will start arriving from Egypt in mid-December.

FROM PAGE ONE

Bhima Koregaon

"A number of intellectuals, thinkers, social activists and innocent citizens have been branded as Naxals and have had cases filed against them in the Bhima Koregaon riots case. It is my request that cases against them should be withdrawn immediately," said senior NCP leader and MLA Dhananjay Munde.

"Those who raised their voices against the (previous) government were deliberately targeted. It is necessary to ensure justice for those who were tormented by the BJP government," said Munde.

Raut, however, drew a distinction between the Bhima Koregaon and Elgaar Parishad cases. "In... Bhima Koregaon, our people had waged an agitation. There are cases against so many people... against those who waged the agitation on the streets. I believe those cases should be withdrawn, because they are innocent people," he said.

"Elgaar Parishad is different. Elgaar has nothing to do with Bhima Koregaon... I am not seeking withdrawal of the Elgaar Parishad cases. I don't know much about them. I am seeking withdrawal of police cases which were slapped on Dalit men and women after disturbances erupted in various parts of the state," Raut said.

NCP MLC Prakash Gajbhiye too said the Bhima Koregaon cases should be withdrawn. "In the Bhima Koregaon riots, serious cases were slapped against Dalit men and women by the previous government. Similar cases were filed during the Indu Mill agitation as well. We have made a request to the Chief Minister that these cases be withdrawn and justice is done to the Dalit community," he said.

Earlier, NCP MLA Jitendra Awhad had tweeted: "Cases against Aarey agitators are withdrawn. Now those arrested under false cases in the Bhima Koregaon matter... should be freed."

Speaking to reporters, Thackeray said: "The last government had passed orders for withdrawal of cases pertaining to Bhima Koregaon which were not serious in nature. We have sought a review to see if these cases were withdrawn as per the previous order."

One person was killed and several others were injured after violence broke out in parts of Pune and Mumbai on January 1, 2018, as people, mainly Dalits, marched to the village of Koregaon Bhima to mark the anniversary of the battle fought 200 years ago.

The previous day, on December 31, 2017, an event called Elgaar Parishad was organised in Pune. Police claimed that the speeches made at the Elgaar Parishad were, in part, responsible for inciting the Bhima Koregaon violence. Several activists were arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in the Elgaar Parishad case.

Meanwhile, Munde also sought withdrawal of cases against Maratha youth who were booked during the quota agitation in the state.

Nirav-PNB rot

making payments to the bank. These form part of a voluminous draft report completed by BDO in August 2018 for the PNB after it submitted five interim reports — the final report has been submitted with a few more annexures. The auditor had been tasked to conduct the forensic audit on Nirav Modi and seven entities/subsidiaries that form part of his group.

The 329-page forensic report of BDO was handed by a

Compensation to states may not be met: GST Council

for Finance/ Revenue and finance ministers of all states. It makes recommendations on all important issues related to the Goods and Services Tax.

The GST Council is now scheduled to meet on December 18 to focus on "revenue augmentation". Some state finance ministers are scheduled to meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday to discuss the GST compensation dispute. "Hope Centre would concede what is due to states," Kerala's Finance Minister Thomas Isaac tweeted Tuesday.

The Centre has already delayed compensating states for the shortfall in GST revenues for August-September, payment for which was due in October. At least five Opposition-ruled states/UTs - Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi, Rajasthan and Punjab, had issued a joint statement on November 20 raising concerns about this.

As per the GST Act, states are guaranteed compensation for any revenue shortfall below 14 per cent growth (base year 2015-16) for the first five years

ending 2022. GST compensation is paid every two months by the Centre to states.

As per publicly available data with the Union finance ministry, the Centre had collected Rs 64,528 crore in compensation cess during April-November and paid out Rs 45,744 crore for April-July period, leaving Rs 18,784 crore in its kitty assuming no payment has yet been made to states for August-September. Officials said the payments were held back to states in anticipation of the shortfall in collections and the resultant impact on the government's fiscal deficit.

The GST Council has now asked states to give their inputs and proposals regarding review of items under exemption, GST and compensation cess rates on various items, rate calibrations for inverted duty structure, compliance and revenue augmenting measures by December 6.

Given that cess is imposed only on luxury and sin goods under GST, any measure to generate more cess collections would either include imposing a higher cess on those items or a tinkering at the highest 28

per cent tax slab under the indirect tax regime.

Besides faltering indirect tax collections, the mop-up on the direct tax front is also not optimistic, with gross collections during April-November growing a mere 5 per cent to Rs 7 lakh crore. Net collections (less refunds) rose a meagre 0.7 per cent to Rs 5.5 lakh crore, as against last year's 14 per cent and the Budget target of 17.3 per cent.

Corporate tax collections contracted 1 per cent during April-November, while personal income tax grew 5 per cent, a government official said.

Net direct tax collections have posted low growth because of a sharp 22.7 per cent rise in refunds during April 1-November 28 to Rs 1.46 lakh crore. The tax department processed 2.10 crore refund returns for the current assessment year 2019-20, a rise of 20 per cent, a CBDT official said.

The slowing stream of both direct and indirect tax collections poses a big challenge for the government to meet its tax receipt targets set in the Budget. Tax data made avail-

able by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) for April-October shows that net direct tax collections had grown by around 3.5 per cent to Rs 5.18 lakh crore during the period. This would mean that gross tax revenue must grow 35.4 per cent during the remainder of the year.

This would be the second consecutive year when the government's direct tax collections look out of reach. The government had missed the target in 2018-19 by Rs 63,000 crore. Last year, the government had initially estimated direct tax revenue at Rs 11.5 lakh crore, which was revised up to Rs 12 lakh crore. However, the actual direct tax receipts for 2018-19 were Rs 11.37 lakh crore.

Following the shortfall in direct tax revenue target for 2018-19, the government had reduced the tax targets for the current financial year. Direct tax revenue target has now been estimated at Rs 13.35 lakh crore for 2019-20, Rs 45,000 crore lower than the estimate of Rs 13.8 lakh crore in the Interim Budget presented in February.

Chennai techie helps NASA find lander

What he finally found was one of the many parts of the lander scattered across an area of about 4 km.

"The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) Camera of NASA frequently takes photos of the moon's surface, almost every month. After the ISRO mission failed, I downloaded pictures clicked by LROC before and after the crash and studied them, zooming in pixel by pixel on each photograph," he said.

"I was focusing on a particular location where the lander was believed to have crashed. While comparing old and new pictures, I noticed a single dot, the only difference I could trace among the many. Some opined that it may be dust. But I was certain. There were specifics... for instance, the difference in light reflections. Reflections from craters and stones are different to those from man-made objects. A man-made object

will have a reflection around it. This is what made me realise that I was correct," said Subramanian.

"I tweeted to ISRO and NASA and later sent an email on October 18. Finally, today morning, they (NASA) sent a confirmation mail," he said.

NASA said in a statement that Subramanian "contacted the LRO project with a positive identification of debris. After receiving this tip, the LROC team confirmed the identification by comparing before and after images".

ISRO said it has "nothing to add to what NASA has said today". "ISRO had already found the Vikram lander two days after the crash and we had made that public," Vivek Singh, head of ISRO's public relations office, said.

Subramanian, meanwhile, says what worked in his favour was his lack of expertise.

whistleblower to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) which has partnered with The Indian Express for a series of reports on the findings of the forensic team.

The BDO's draft forensic report has gone beyond investigating agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in mapping the extent of the fraud.

The BDO team listed all the assets (the report contains copies of ownership papers) amassed by Nirav Modi and his family members. In all, the BDO has tabulated 20 properties owned by them in India which have been described as "non-charged" or which have never been used as security for the transactions. Besides this, the diamantaire possessed 15 charged properties in India which have been valued at Rs 1,300 crore and 13 immovable properties outside India.

Incidentally, the forensic report also lists five luxury cars and a boat owned by Nirav Modi among his movable properties. There is a lengthy list of 106 paintings owned by him — valued at Rs 20 crore — which include the works of M F Husain, Jamini Roy, Jogen Chowdhury and Raja Ravi Varma.

Among the other key findings of the BDO team in the report are:

■ That the frauds were committed by Nirav Modi by exploiting what is described as the "systemic loopholes" in the systems of the PNB. This included loopholes in their system integration, concurrent audit, early warning signals and data analytics.

■ That the fraud was possible only due to collusion with the staff of PNB. For instance, it has been shown that 92% or 1,448 LoUs were issued to Nirav Modi group companies by Gokulnath Shetty, then Deputy Manager, Foreign Exchange. In all, 97% of the fraudulent LoUs were approved by him. He was arrested by CBI in February 2018.

■ It has been concluded that 99.93 of the LoU beneficiaries were controlled directly or indirectly by the Nirav Modi group and that 74% of the global sales of his subsidiary company FIL (Firestar International Limited) was also to Nirav Modi-controlled entities.

■ There is a full section in the draft report on how the Nirav Modi group inflated their financials (both revenue and receivables) for enhancing "drawing power". The auditor has revealed how payroll information,

"When you are an expert in something, you take certain things for granted. That's what probably delayed others (scientists). But for me, every white spot was a Vikram lander... of course, I had many false positives, too. But after I first traced this spot, on the third day of my research, I zoomed in further and spotted the differences in light," he said.

It was far from easy, though. "I manually counted and measured each and every crater, and made comparisons between older and newer ones. I worked for four or five days, seven or eight hours each, before I sent alerts to NASA," he said.

ISRO is yet to get in touch with him, says Subramanian. "Let me make it clear that I don't expect any kudos from ISRO. Everyone knows it was a hard landing. Finding debris, anyway, is not a big thing," he said.

organisational structure and so on of the partnership firms were not commensurate with projected business size and scale of the business.

CAB coming

to be re-drafted as the government has decided to incorporate changes in order to address concerns expressed by states in the North-East, is expected to be cleared by the Union Cabinet Wednesday.

Addressing the MPs three days after Pragna Singh Thakur, BJP Lok Sabha member from Bhopal, was made to apologise for her remarks praising Mahatma Gandhi assassin Nathuram Godse on the floor of the House, Singh also told members to be careful with the language they use inside and outside Parliament.

"He said we should be aggressive and should take on the Opposition, but we should avoid using language that some Congress leaders do. He said we can be aggressive while maintaining restraint. He said we should keep the dignity of the party and Parliament," a BJP MP said.

Singh was said to have told them that "unhealthy comments should not be responded in an unhealthy way". Underlining the significance

Hailing from Madurai, Subramanian completed his B.Tech in mechanical engineering from a government college in Tirunelveli and has been working in the IT sector in Chennai for the last 12 years. He has designed a few apps, including one for tsunami alerts and another for text-only reading without images and videos, and runs Chennai Rain, a Facebook page on weather forecasts.

On Tuesday, Subramanian posted on Twitter that NASA has credited him for finding the lander. Along with the tweet, he posted an email from John Keller, Deputy Project Scientist, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Mission. It ended with these lines: "Congratulations for what I am sure was a lot of time and effort on your part. You will probably get some inquiries from the press on your discovery."

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Permit (ILP) is applicable, and autonomous administration has been granted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Navy Chief

Addressing his annual press conference ahead of Navy Day Wednesday, Singh said China's "presence in the Indian Ocean Region is increasing and we are constantly watching it".

He said that on an average, "about seven to eight Chinese ships are available in this area, some under the anti-piracy escort group and some doing scientific research". Sometimes, he said, Chinese vessels also enter Indian waters when they have satellite launches in the area.

The Chinese vessel which was forced to retreat in September had not taken permission or informed the Indian authorities. It was apparently conducting "research" near Port Blair. The issue has been taken up with the relevant authorities.

Asked whether the bilateral meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping had affected the Chinese Navy's behaviour, Singh said he had not "combined" the bilateral visits and naval activities, but "the fact is that their (China's) naval activities have been continuing".

Responding to a question, Singh said the "presence of China in the Indian Ocean Region started in 2008, they are a growing economy and they have aspirations". "The fact is that they are present" in the region, and include some oceanographic research vessels as well, he said. "They've been given certain areas for deep-sea mining, so they are present in that area," he said.

On China building its naval assets at a faster pace than India, Singh said, "they are doing what they have to do, they are moving at a pace that they are capable of". He added that India will "move at a pace we are capable of".

India is set to host a multi-lateral maritime exercise, Milan, off the coast of Visakhapatnam in March next year in which 41 countries will participate. Asked why China had not been invited, Singh said invitations were sent to "like-minded countries". The US, Russia, France, Israel, Iran, UAE, Australia, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam are among those who have been invited.

Sources said there was no government approval for inviting China, as India does not want to "legitimise China's presence in the Indian Ocean". India is cautious about the increasing presence of the Chinese Navy in the region.

Singh said the quadrilateral coalition of India, US, Japan and Australia does not have a military role in the Indo-Pacific region at the moment. "Our intention is to have a stabilising influence, not a military influence" in the Indo-Pacific, he said.

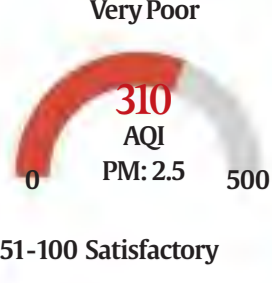
"As far as the Indian Ocean Region is concerned, or the Indo-Pacific is concerned, we are ready to work with like-minded nations, based on the common interests of keeping safe and secure seas, freedom of navigation and rule-based order," he said.

India and several other countries in the region have often taken a stand against China's increased military presence in the South China Sea. Earlier this year, Vietnam had briefed India on the escalating tension in that area.

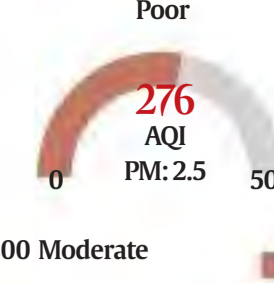
In November, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had explained India's position at a conference of ASEAN Defence Ministers. He had said that India stands for a "demilitarised" South China Sea.



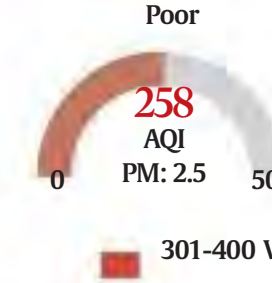
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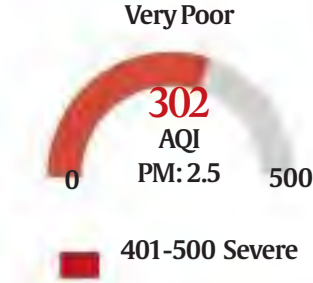
SIRIFORT
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SHADI PUR
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DWARKA-SECTOR 8
Very Poor



GHAZIABAD RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX

Man kills his 2 kids before jumping to death with wife, another woman

AMIL BHATNAGAR
GHAZIABAD, DECEMBER 3

A RESIDENTIAL complex in Ghaziabad's Indrapuram woke up to macabre news of a murder-suicide that left a couple, their two children and a woman who lived with them dead. Police said Gulshan Vasudeva (45), his wife Parveena (43), and Sanjana (38), who moved in with them around two years ago, jumped to their death from their eighth-floor apartment at Krishna Agra Sapphire residential complex, between 4.30 and 5 am Tuesday.

The couple's children Rithik (13) and Kritika (18) were found dead in their beds, with police suspecting Gulshan smothered and stabbed them in their sleep.

"Gulshan and Parveena were declared dead on arrival at the hospital while Sanjana died during treatment. At the flat, we found the bodies of two children and a suicide note scribbled on a wall, which suggested the reason behind the suicide-murder was financial distress," said SSP (Ghaziabad) Sudhir Kumar Singh.

Police said Sanjana worked as a manager at a jeans factory run by Gulshan, adding that they are ascertaining more details about her relationship with the family.

The five moved into the apartment complex a month-and-a-half ago from the more upscale ATS apartments in the same neighbourhood.

Around 9 pm Monday, staff saw Sanjana enter the building—the last time anyone saw or heard from members of the home. Early on Tuesday, a guard at the entry of a block heard a loud thud and a scream. On inspection, he found three people



(From left) Gulshan Vasudeva, his wife Parveena and Sanjana, who lived with them. Behind them are the couple's two children; (right) three chairs on the balcony which were allegedly used to jump off the eighth floor. Prem Nath Pandey

lying in a pool of blood. A PCR call was made and the three were rushed to the hospital. At the flat, police found two more bodies in a pool of blood, with blankets wrapped around them. While the post-mortem report is expected in 48 hours, police said prima facie, it appears the siblings were strangled and the son's throat was also slit.

In the balcony were three plastic chairs, ostensibly used by Gulshan, Parveena and Sanjana to jump over the railing.

A suicide note had been written on the wall of the children's room with a pencil, which sought to blame a relative for the five deaths. The family told police the relative allegedly duped Gulshan of Rs 2 crore in a real estate deal in 2015 — a financial setback he never fully recovered from. Police said they are verifying this claim.

Also inside the home were two cages — one with a rabbit, which was dead, and another with a white mouse, which was alive. Police also found empty syringe bottles in the washroom, and are probing if any member of the family was sedated.

Left behind: 3 chairs, Rs 500 for cremation

AMIL BHATNAGAR
GHAZIABAD, DECEMBER 3

ON TUESDAY afternoon, three plastic chairs were placed equidistant from each other on the balcony of the home where Gulshan Vasudeva, his family and Sanjana used to stay — a stark reminder of the five deaths that took place just hours earlier. The chairs were ostensibly used by them to jump off the balcony.

Just two days ago, the family had distributed blankets and other winter accessories to security guards in the colony.

Inside the home, a suicide note found scribbled on the wall indicated what Gulshan believed was the reason for his woes.

According to police, Gulshan, in his final moments, climbed up a small TV table and used a pencil to write on the wall.

Along with the note he stuck a Rs 500 note and a cancelled cheque. The money, he wrote, was for the cremation of the five, since it was their "final wish" to be on the pyre together. On another part of the wall, he wrote the name of a relative whom he blamed for his actions.

"We investigated and found that the relative mentioned in the suicide message allegedly duped him of a large amount of cash in 2015. A case of cheating had been registered and he was in custody for about 20 days before being granted bail. The issue pertains to a property deal," said Manish Mishra, SP (City).

When police first discovered Gulshan, his wife Parveena and Sanjana on the floor, they suspected that he may have pushed the two women. That was until Sanjana, in her dying moments in the hospital, told police they had jumped together.

Families struggle to make sense of incident: 'Why not spare the children?'

AMIL BHATNAGAR
GHAZIABAD, DECEMBER 3

"WHAT WAS the fault of the children? We would have taken care of them," said a relative of Parveena, one of the dead in the Ghaziabad murder-suicide that also left her son Rithik (13) and daughter Kritika (18) dead. Both children were smothered, and Rithik's throat was also slit, allegedly by their father Gulshan Vasudeva.

As per her family, Parveena hailed from Kangra in Himachal Pradesh and had an arranged marriage with Gulshan in 2001. Both had studied till Class XII, and Gulshan got into his family business of manufacturing clothes. The youngest of three brothers, he went on to start a jeans manufacturing business in Delhi.

"He wouldn't think twice about spending money on those he loved. But after 2015, when he was allegedly duped by a relative, we knew things had been difficult. Still, no one thought he could be driven to this," said Devendra, Gulshan's brother.

Parveena's family recalled

how the couple stopped keeping in touch with them for the past three-four years, after her father's death. "There was a distance and Gulshan stopped entertaining his in-laws," said Sandeep, a relative.

While Gulshan named a relative on his wife's side for allegedly duping him, relatives said many questions remain unanswered. "That case dates back to 2015... The fact that he remained angry for so long and murdered his own children because of what a relative did — it all seems a little far-fetched," Sandeep said. Police are yet to apprehend the relative.

Rithik, who studied in DAV Sreshtha Vihar, had an interest in table tennis, while Kritika was pursuing a fashion course from an institute in Indrapuram. The house's drawing room was adorned with various school trophies and a montage of childhood pictures from various trips.

Both families said they were unaware of Sanjana's relationship with the family. "We knew she would manage finances in Gulshan's business and that she began staying with them. Beyond that, he never discussed anything," said Devendra.

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Institute invites application from eligible candidates for JRF/SRF/SRF(extended)/RA (One Position only) of the ongoing Sponsored Project CSIR-EMR-II. The last date of submission for application is 3rd January 2020. For further details please visit our website www.iitdmj.ac.in.

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Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Pune is an autonomous institute set up by MHRD, Govt. of India. Applications / Tenders are invited for the following post(s) / category.

S.No.	Ref No	Category	Subject / Post(s)
1	IIITP/Notification/2019-20/1123	Walk-in-Interview	Post of Assistant Professor (Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering)
2	IIITP/Tenders/2019-20/1122	Tender	Tender for providing Security Guards

For known to detail, please visit the Institute website www.iiitp.ac.in. Any update or corrigendum will be published in Institute's website.
Assistant Registrar

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PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform that the services of Sh. Lovish Narwal, LDC (HO) S/o Sh. Balinder Singh Resident of House No. 149, Shastrri Colony, Yamuna Nagar are hereby dispensed with immediate effect in terms of Clause No. 2(a) of offer of appointment issued to him vide memo No. 1093/Ch.163/HPGC/ENG/G-47/Vol-II, dated 28.05.2015 due to unsatisfactory work & conduct during probation period as he remained continuously absent from duty from 15.07.2015 onwards & despite of repeated communications, he did not join the duties.

Sd/- (A.K. Sehra)
Chief Engineer/Admn.,
HPGCL, Panchkula.

Dated: 21.11.2019
79453N/HRY.

HARYANA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, PANCHKULA
PUBLIC NOTICE
Complaint No. 960, 961, 963, 965 & 967 of 2019.
Bimla Devi, Nirmala, Rai Singh, Dr. R.C. Sihag, Ram Bhagat Versus
Universal Buildwell Pvt. Ltd.
Notice to M/s Universal Buildwell Pvt. Ltd. at Registered Office at 102, Antriksh Bhawan, 22 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi & Corporate Office Address at 8th Floor, Universal Trade Tower, Sector-49, Gurugram Sohna Road, Gurugram.
Whereas the above mentioned Allottees have instituted the above titled complaints against you.
Notice & Copy of complaints had been sent to you which could not be either successfully delivered or was refused. You are hereby given a Notice to appear before the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Panchkula, in Person or by a duly Authorized Person on **24.12.2019 at 11.00 A.M.** to answer the same, failing which the complaints will be disposed of ex-parte. Copies of the complaints may be collected from the Office of the Authority on any working day.
For details, log on to <https://haryanarera.gov.in>.

Administrative Officer (Petitions)
HRERA, Mini Secretariat, New Office Block,
2nd & 3rd Floor, Sector-1, Panchkula.
79455N/HRY.

ORCHARD AVENUE 2
LICENCE NO.: 51 OF 2019 DATED 06.03.2019 | HRERA NO.: 51 OF 2019 DATED 09.09.2019

DRAW OF FLATS
This is to inform that the draw of flats under Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013 in Orchard Avenue 2, Sector-93, District Gurugram, being developed by M/s Signature Builders Private Limited will be held on Tuesday, 10th of December 2019, 11:00 am onwards at **CORUS BANQUET**, 339/1/2, Mehrauli Gurugram Road, Near Kalyani Hospital, Opp. SBI Bank, Sec. 14, Gurugram-122001 in the presence of govt. officials. All the applicants are cordially invited to attend the draw of flats.

LOCATION MAP OF CORUS BANQUET
Kindly Note: Please carry your acknowledgement slip, Voter ID Card and PAN Card. Only one person is allowed per acknowledgement slip.

SIGNATURE BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U70101DL2011PTC220275
Regd. Off.: 1309, 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Corp. Off.: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City -1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001
Email: customercare@signaturebuilders.com, Ph.: 01724-4993200, 9311144424

INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS
(An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission)

NOTICE OF POSTS WITHDRAWN
Following posts have been withdrawn, which were published on October 22, 2019:

- Section Officer : One Post (Unreserved)
- Senior Administrative Assistant : One Post (Unreserved)

"Revised Advt. will be published soon"

Ph.D. Admissions - Jan. 2020
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Date: 2nd to 8th December 2019
Time: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

VENUE: CRAFT MUSEUM
Bhairo Marg, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

6 arrested for assaulting cab driver and passenger

New Delhi: An Ola cab driver, a passenger and staff at a CNG filling station were allegedly beaten up and robbed by six men near San Martin Marg in New Delhi area. Police said the incident took place in the early hours of Monday, when the driver was taking the passenger from Vasant Kunj to the airport and stopped at the filling station around 2.30 am. The accused were later arrested. Additional DCP (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said police received a call around 2.45 am about a fight at the CNG station. "We rushed to the spot and found that a cab driver and a man

were robbed. The accused men also thrashed CNG station staff." The driver, Durgesh Sharma, claimed the accused first beat him up. When he tried to resist, they allegedly took his wallet: "Mohit, the passenger, tried to intervene but the men beat him up him as well and took his iPhone. Three to four men from the station rushed to help but the accused attacked them." Police said a team was formed to scan CCTV footage and nab the accused. "We found that the men lived nearby as they escaped on foot... they were arrested later," said a senior officer. **ENS**

Police team to crack down on onion hoarding

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

TO TAKE legal action against hoarding of onions, the Special Branch of Delhi Police has been asked by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to generate information and start conducting raids after forming a special team in Delhi-NCR. The decision to form a team was taken after a meeting was called by the Ministry over the issue of "cartelisation and

hoarding of food items" a few months ago. The Ministry wants to improve domestic supply and control onion prices, which have skyrocketed to Rs 75-120 per kg across major cities now, said an official. "During the meeting, the Ministry decided that a committee, comprising officers of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Police, will be constituted to monitor hoarding and speculation activity on onions and tur dal. They directed the committee to meet on a regular basis and appointed Additional



Onion prices have skyrocketed to Rs 75-120 per kg. *Amit Mehra*

DCP (Special Branch) as a nodal officer, directing him to coordinate,

The Centre has already banned export of onions and imposed a stock holding limit on

wholesalers and retailers for an indefinite period. "For the first time after forming the committee, the Additional DCP has called a meeting on December 5 where he asked that an officer not below the rank of ACP be sent from Delhi, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh, Noida, Faridabad, Sonapat and Ghaziabad," an officer said. When contacted, Additional DCP Jitendra Mani said, "We have called a meeting to sensitise personnel to take appropriate legal action against hoarding of onions. Earlier, the Crime Branch used to handle these

kind of issues, but for the first time, the Special Branch has been asked to do so by the ministry." Sources told *The Indian Express* that a special cartelisation and hoarding cell (CHC) has been formed in the Special Branch, with four people put on the team. "With help from local beat constables in all districts, the CHC would send staff to various markets and godowns, generate information and share their input with the district police, asking them to take legal action against hoarding," said the officer.

Mayor vs councillors in MCG: 19 boycott House meet, seek her removal

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, DECEMBER 3

THE HOUSE meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, scheduled for Tuesday, was boycotted by 19 of 35 ward councillors, who later submitted a letter to the divisional commissioner demanding the removal of the mayor, senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor.

The councillors sought their removal under Section 75 of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 (Election Rules), claiming to be "grieved" by "the way the corporation is being run without taking councillors into confidence". They also alleged they were dissatisfied with the agenda set for Tuesday, and had submitted seven points that they wanted discussed. Their submission to the mayor states, "We jointly disagree with all agenda items... as these are minor points, whereas major issues are not being brought before the House and are decided arbitrarily by the government, and executed through officials." It further states, "All decisions, especially in financial matters, are being taken by the mayor and the two deputy

mayors without constituting Finance and Contracts Committee, violating Section 40(3) of Haryana Municipal Corporation Act 1994, and without taking into consideration the councillors' views."

R S Rathee, councillor for ward 34 and among the 19 who signed the letter, said, "The Finance and Contracts panel was supposed to have been formed two years ago, but no action has been taken..."

Councillors wanted a discussion on several items, including a demand that all executive and sub-divisional engineers as well as officials of an equivalent level report to councillors, and that the latter also decide on sanitation and horticulture works, as well as outsourcing employees.

Mayor Madhu Azad said, "... These 6-7 points were brought before the House and we agreed to allow those... but the councillors did not want to entertain today's agenda. We refused this request, and they boycotted the meeting..."

"Councillors were upset with officials... they boycotted the meeting in their anger towards them, not us," she added. The divisional commissioner did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

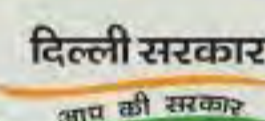
WE PAY OUR RESPECTFUL HOMAGE TO A DELHI RESIDENT, A FREEDOM FIGHTER AND A GENTLEMAN POLITICIAN, WHO BECAME THE 12TH PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SH. I.K. GUJRAL ON HIS 100TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



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Directorate of Information & Publicity, Government of NCT of Delhi



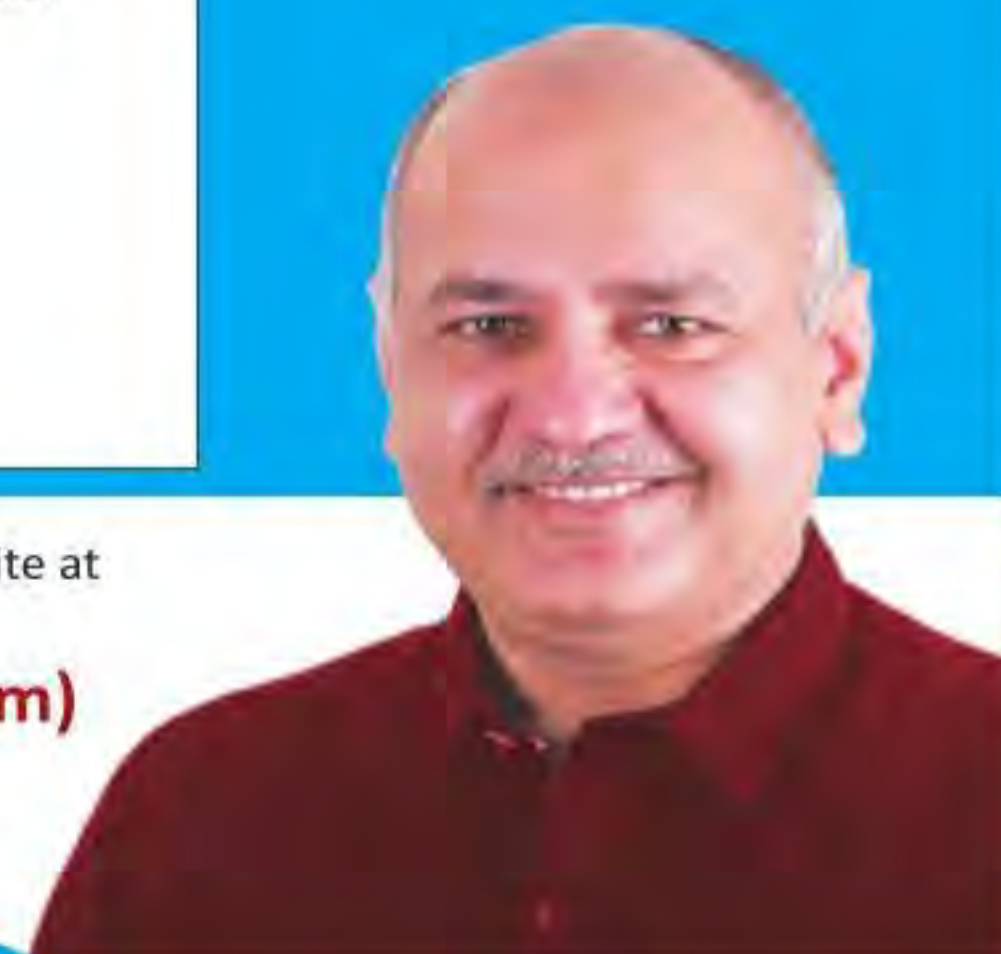
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Online applications are invited from medically fit retired persons for contractual engagement as Estate Manager and Ministerial Staff for all Delhi Government schools irrespective of any vacancy. However, out of the online applications received, selected applicants will be engaged only in schools where vacancies exist and the remaining willing applicants will be empanelled at the level of educational districts for filling future vacancies in any school within that District, provided that the applicant opts to serve in any other school within that district if he/she is not engaged in the applied school.

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The Public Notice containing detailed terms and conditions and online application module are available on the Directorate's website at www.edudel.nic.in under the link "Recruitment" "Hiring of Retired Persons as Estate Manager and Ministerial Staff."

Online application module will remain open from 04/12/2019 till 15/03/2017 (5.00pm)



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RAHUL BAJAJ
CHAIRMAN, JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION

Basic human values are eternal. We can be blinded by greed and our ego, inured to our own mortality. But in the end it is the lives we impact positively that is the measure of our lives. By these criteria our awardees are very rich and we are beholden to them for sharing their riches with all of us. The world continues to be a difficult economic, social, environmental place. But yet the struggle for a better world rises anew. We must not turn pessimistic, even as we should not be wishful. For, change moves in unexpected ways. Never should we give up on what is right. In our lives we should try and reflect it, howsoever feebly.



BHAWANI SHANKER KUSUM
(RAJASTHAN)

I am wondering if I am even eligible to receive the award in the name of such great son of the country, Shri Jamnalalji Bajaj. I offer my most respectful regards to his dignified personality, sacrifice, dedication and continuing work. Gandhiji gave me the power to think, inspire action and live life in a meaningful way. There's a verse in *Ishavashyopanishad*, which Gandhiji believed to be the basic foundation of Indian culture, it says - 'Kurvan Neveha Karmani Jiji Vishchichatam Samah' which means one should imagine living hundred years by doing deeds. That is why the purpose of my life has been to remain constantly endeavouring to conserve and enhance natural resources and bring women into the mainstream of society.



MOHAMMAD IMRAN KHAN MEWATI
(RAJASTHAN)

Talent is the only accrued capital of mankind, and it should never be allowed to go vain. Everyone should get equal opportunity for education. Education is the only medium through which every lagging family or society can leapfrog in a forward direction. With quality education, many big issues like social evils will certainly come under control. The responsibility of all of us is not just to live for ourselves, but also to live for the betterment of the society. We all must think in the direction of changing ourselves to be 'givers' than being 'receivers'.

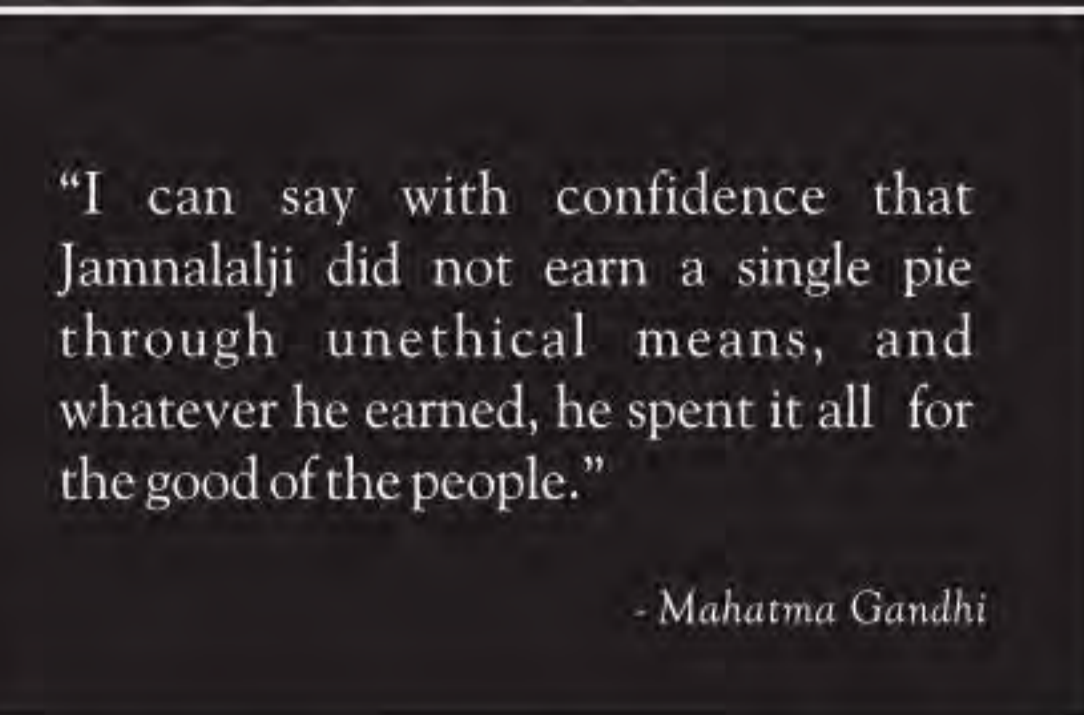
The Gandhian 'Warriors' Honoured with Jamnalal Bajaj Awards - 2019



Bhawani Shanker Kusum (Rajasthan) receiving the Jamnalal Bajaj Award-2019 for Outstanding Contribution in the field of Constructive Work.



Shaheen Mistri (Maharashtra) receiving the Jamnalal Bajaj Award-2019 for Development and Welfare of Women and Children (instituted in the memory of Smt. Jankidevi Bajaj).



Mohammad Imran Khan Mewati (Rajasthan) receiving the Jamnalal Bajaj Award-2019 for Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development.



Sonia Deotto (Mexico) receiving the Jamnalal Bajaj International Award-2019 for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India.



(L to R) Minal Bajaj (Hon. Director, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation), Dr. Mariamma Varghese (Chairperson, Development and Welfare of Women and Children Award), Shaheen Mistri, Dhiraajal Mehta (Chairman, Constructive Work Award), Bhawani Shanker Kusum, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, FRS (Chairman, Council of Advisors), Sadhguru (Founder, Isha Foundation), Rahul Bajaj (Chairman, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation), Mohammad Imran Khan Mewati, Dr. Anil Kakodkar (Chairman, Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development Award), Sonia Deotto, Anu Aga (Chairperson, International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India), Madhur Bajaj (Trustee, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation)

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CHIEF GUEST
SADHGURU
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Without self-transformation, transforming the society, transforming the world is just an empty talk. It is time human beings invested in this. Society is not an entity by itself. Society is in a way a composite of what all of us are. If we don't make this one peaceful, if we don't make this one conflict free within ourselves the rest is going to be endless talk.

If you and I are capable of sitting here peacefully, we don't have to worry about peace, it is anyway there in the world. But if we want that to happen, you and I should see, what we can do within ourselves that we can be blissful with our own nature.

So Mahatma Gandhi's message was this, whatever he wanted to do with country or people first thing is he experimented with himself if it is the truth, in his own little way.



SHAHEEN MISTRI
(MAHARASHTRA)

I seek to do more for more children because these are not stories that I've heard or invented. There is a lot that I do not know, but I do know this. If our children dream not tomorrow, but today. If they believe, not in the way things are but in the way they can be. If they are given opportunities to learn, not just in school but from life. If they love, both themselves and everyone around them, then the world will be a better world - Gentler, Kinder, Fairer. The world will lose a little of its grey and be more full of sunshine.



SONIA DEOTTO
(MEXICO)

An aspiration arises to create instead of destroy, and with it, the intention to offer our hands, heart and head, to educate ourselves and educate each other in the practice of *ahimsa* or love - the most powerful instrument of peace regeneration on the planet. In a collective journey towards the common well-being and autonomy of the people, we invoke the insistence on truth, for the power of *ahimsa*. We can all be artists of *ahimsa* in this 'World Participative Theatre'.



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Visit www.jamnalalbajajfoundation.org, www.jamnalalbajajawards.org

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Nominations for Awards - 2020 invited.

http://jamnalalbajajawards.org/nomination-forms (For ONLINE submissions)

NAVY DAY

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MESSAGES

ON the occasion of Navy Day, I extend my warm greetings to all officers, sailors and civilians of the Indian Navy and their families.

India's maritime character and central geo-strategic position in the Indian Ocean defines our status as a major maritime nation. As the principal manifestation of India's maritime power, the Indian Navy plays a central role in safeguarding and promoting our nation's security and protecting our national interests in the maritime domain.

While pursuing a wide spectrum of security challenges impacting our areas of maritime interest, the Indian Navy has emerged as the leading maritime security partner in the region. In keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR, Neighbourhood



First and Act East Policies, the Navy is playing a key role in spreading the message of goodwill and friendship across the globe.

In the collective quest for Self-Reliance and increased indigenisation, the Indian Navy is a proud ambassador of the country's defence manufacturing powers. I am confident that the Navy will continue to proudly sail the oceans with our indigenous ships, aircraft and submarines, in service of the country.

I wish the Indian Navy continued success in all its endeavours!
'Jai Hind'

RAJNATH SINGH, Defence Minister

AS we conclude the second decade of this century, there is growing recognition that the seas are central to India's well-being and prosperity. On the economic front, India's target to emerge as a \$5-trillion economy by 2024 is closely linked to commerce and trade plying through the seas. The emerging 'Indo-Pacific' construct has an unmistakable maritime imprint within the broader geostrategic landscape of the region and beyond.

India's diplomatic outreach increasingly harnesses opportunities at sea towards a more comprehensive and inclusive engagement with like-minded nations.

In this dynamic seascape, the Indian Navy has a prominent role in ensuring an enabling environment that supports nation-building and progress. Security and stability of the maritime domain is crucial to unhindered flow of maritime trade. Support to friendly foreign countries in capacity building and capability enhancement enables collaborative management of broader maritime challenges faced by the region.

It is in light of these significant developments across the maritime domain that the Indian Navy has adopted its theme for this year as 'Indian Navy – Silent, Strong and Swift'. The theme underscores our



commitment to sustaining high tempo of operations across the entire spectrum of the Navy's roles and responsibilities. As the primary manifestation of India's maritime power, our endeavour remains to rapidly translate opportunities into outcomes, while offering efficient and effective response options across the entire gamut of threats and challenges. Our impetus to indigenisation enables a self-reliant force structure that supports nation-building by ploughing investments in the Navy back into our economy. Our capacity-building efforts add resilience in a complex maritime arena, supporting unhindered progress in the region and beyond.

As we look to the future, the Indian Navy remains committed to ensuring stable, safe and secure seas across India's maritime areas of interest. Through 2020, we remain deeply conscious of our focus on combat efficiency, credible engagements, cohesive teams, strong technological underpinning, and future-proofed force structures, in order to effectively contribute to India's maritime resurgence and prosperity.

Jai Hind. Sham No Varunah.

ADMIRAL KARAMBIR SINGH
PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff

Indian Navy has made huge strides in the last decade



CMDE SRIKANT B KESNUR

THE Navy's growth and development is a subset of developments in the world at large and in the country at the same time. In a decade of changing political, economic and technological landscape globally, and, in India, it is worth seeing how the Navy fared in this period. Arguably, having attained the status of a blue water navy, how did it take this further? It is evident that there has been significant addition of assets in all dimensions – the powerful aircraft carrier Vikramaditya, new generation guided missile Kolkata Class destroyers, state-of-the-art Kalvari class submarines, formidable P8I and MiG 29K aircraft and other smaller specialised platforms.

But going beyond number crunching there were important areas that merit attention. The first of these relate to the massive strides towards becoming a networked force. Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) improved manifold and Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) has been proven. Indigenous Communication satellites, greater weapon sensor fusion, inauguration of the International Fusion Centre (IFC) at Gurugram for collation of white shipping, creation of networking hubs and platforms that could see, hear and detect far better than hitherto have

contributed to this outcome.

The second issue relates to coastal and maritime security which became even more important post 26/11. Organisational initiatives to involve all stakeholders at the national level, creation of Joint Operations Centre (JOC) to bring all maritime actors on a common grid, raising of the Sagar Prahari Bai (SPB), a dedicated coastal security force, and acquisition of special craft for this purpose were some of the key developments in this decade.

Third, the Navy gave added impetus to academic endeavours with several doctrine and strategy related initiatives, be it publication of India's Maritime Security Strategy (IMSS) 2015 and the revised Indian Maritime Doctrine or organisational changes to encourage scholarship. In parallel, technology led growth in communications, weapons systems, information security, cyber capabilities and deep sea rescue added to knowledge generation and dissemination.

Fourth, all of the above were dovetailed into Navy's other roles. Mission-based and extended deployments, both in terms of time and distance from home port, became the new norm and these were skillfully woven into the diplomatic and constabulary matrix as well. Maritime diplomacy and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) got a

huge fillip because of the organic capabilities that were built. There were thus several achievements in both 'Diplomatic' and 'Benign' domains such as International Fleet Review (IFR) 2016, Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC), Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), and several HADR or Non Combatant Evacuation (NEO) situations where the Indian Navy was the first or principal responder. The forthcoming multinational exercise MILAN, in March 20, in Visakhapatnam, will further boost this facet of the service.

Strategically, in this decade, India was seen as a rising power. The Indian Navy was considered one of the key instruments in making our presence felt and showcasing our intent. Consequently, the Indian Navy gathered more traction and mindspace in global and regional strategic forums. We can, thus, conclude that 2010-2019 was a decade of further growth and transformation of the Navy into a technologically advanced, networked force capable of exhibiting all aspects of sea power. The Navy would continue to need adequate budgetary support to be a credible force and safeguard our national maritime interests, which are likely to further increase in keeping with our aspirations of having a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 and due to naval developments in the Indo-Pacific.

Airbus' multi-purpose helicopters can greatly boost India's naval prowess



AS565MBe Panther

ABHISHEK PATHAK

ONE of the biggest components of a nation's military strength is its seafaring and naval prowess. India is renowned globally for its modern, powerful and agile navy that has a rich legacy of highly effective operations and remarkable valour. As India celebrates its Navy Day to recognise the achievements and peerless service of the Navy to the country, we take a look at its ongoing modernisation drive. This includes prospective new helicopters that might be integrated into the Navy fleet, such as the AS565 MBe Panther, the H145M and the H225M helicopters from the Airbus stable.

This, however, isn't the first foray by Airbus into military aviation in India. The journey began in 1962 when the erstwhile Sud Aviation, which eventually merged into the present-day Airbus, signed a licence agreement with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to manufacture the Chetak and Cheetah helicopters. Since then, more than 600 of these helicopters have been built locally, marking a sustained relationship with India's armed forces. Airbus has responded to the Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) by the Indian Navy for 111 Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH) under a strategic partnership model, by offering its highly capable AS565 MBe Panther and the H145M. The Panther is an all-weather, multi-purpose medium rotorcraft, designed for operation from ship decks, offshore locations and land-based sites. Combat-proven, it can undertake an array of missions such as maritime surveillance, search and rescue, casualty evacuation, counterterrorism and antisubmarine warfare. The versatile H145M can be equipped with a large range of equipment and would provide immense flexibility and agility to the Navy. Additionally, for the Navy's requirement



H225M



H145M

of 123 Naval Multi-Role Helicopters (NMRH), Airbus has proposed the H225M. The H225M is a globally recognised military helicopter that can operate in all-weather conditions, both from ships and from land, and is capable of carrying multiple combat-proven armaments for maritime and land-based military operations. These highly effective and adaptable helicopters can greatly bolster the capabilities of India's formidable Navy.

Over the years, India has emerged as an incubator for pioneering technologies, industry-leading talent and research & development (R&D), all of which have pitched the country into the centre of the global aviation discourse. Airbus has been alive to this shift and is

seeking to develop and foster a robust defence-industrial ecosystem in India. In line with this goal, Airbus is planning to indigenously manufacture helicopters for the NUH and the NMRH programmes under the aegis of the Indian government's 'Make in India' initiative. As part of this, Airbus will set up Final Assembly Lines (FALs) in India for these models, with extensive Transfer of Technology (ToT) focused on the aeronautical domain, industrial investments, support to local supply chain development and skilling of people for employment in the aviation sector. Additionally, these FALs will be used by Airbus for its export needs, helping position India as a military aviation export hub.

MQ-9B

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NAVY DAY

ADVERTORIAL

LCA (Navy) reaches a path-breaking milestone

Complete cycle of launch and recovery accomplished in a single sortie

A SEMINAL achievement was recently accomplished in the quest for technologies related to operation of indigenous fighter aircraft from aircraft carriers. On 29 September, 2019, LCA Naval Prototype-2 launched off the ski jump at 1621 hours and then subsequently "trapped" at 1631 hrs on the arresting gear site (both locations situated at Shore Based Test Facility INS Hansa, Goa). While both these feats had been achieved individually earlier, this was the first occasion when the complete cycle of launch and recovery necessary for

aircraft carrier operations was accomplished in a single sortie.

Being a pioneering technology acquisition and demonstration programme for the unique Short Take-Off but Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) concept of aircraft operations, the LCA (Navy) team has had to conceptualise and experiment with complex software modes from a clean slate. All this had to be done while tentatively exploring and incrementally expanding the structural capa-

bilities of the aircraft to withstand the stringent requirements of carrier operations. The exploratory nature of this stage of the programme necessitates experimentation with multiple software options and hardware configurations. These include multiple configurations of

aerodynamic surfaces, different flight control strategies, avionics tools and display symbols to ease the piloting task, multiple iterations to the "mechanicals" (dampers/structural members/contact points), etc.

Comprehensive and seamless integration of all these experimental variants simultaneously into a single platform is therefore not possible till all options have been eval-

uated and the preferred configuration has been decided. The events on September 29, 2019, therefore, demonstrate the completion of the basic exploration phase of the programme and transition to refinement and improvement iterations.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, ADA, HAL and the Indian Navy for this major feat. Secretary, Department of Defence, R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr. G Satheesh Reddy also congratulated DRDO, ADA, HAL and the Indian Navy for the achievement.



INAS 314 'Raptors' commissioned at impressive ceremony

INDIAN Naval Air Squadron 314, the sixth Dornier aircraft squadron, was commissioned on November 29, 2019 at an impressive ceremony held at Naval Air Enclave, Porbandar. Vice Admiral MS Pawar, AVSM, VSM, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Admiral MS Pawar said, "Commissioning of Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 314 marks yet another milestone in our efforts towards enhancing maritime security and our surveillance footprint in the North Arabian Sea." The squadron, owing to its strategic location, will act as the first responder in this crucial region.

INAS 314 derives its name "Raptors" from the "Bird of Prey" family. The insignia of the squadron depicts a 'Raptor bird' searching over the vast blue expanse of the sea. 'Raptors' are large birds of prey known for excellent sensory capabilities, powerful and sharp talons and strong wings, symbolising the capabilities of the



aircraft and envisaged roles of the squadron.

The squadron will operate the Dornier aircraft, a multi-role SRMR aircraft with twin turboprop engine manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd (HAL) Kanpur. The aircraft can be used for electronic warfare missions, maritime surveillance, search and rescue and to provide targeting data to weapon platform. Contributing towards indigenous development and self-reliance through 'Make in India', Navy is procuring 12 new Dornier aircraft from HAL with state-of-the-art sensors and equipment including glass cockpit, advanced surveillance radar, ELINT, optical sensors and networking features. The squadron is the first to accept and operate four of these newly inducted technology advanced next generation Dornier aircraft.

INAS 314 is commanded by Captain Sandeep Rai, an accomplished and highly experienced Dornier Qualified Navigation Instructor.

Adani Defence: Committed to Navy's indigenisation

Company is aiming at indigenisation of critical technologies, stronger trade balance and creation of job opportunities

THE Indian Navy's contribution to the nation's maritime security and peace has been immense. Tracing its roots back to Chhatrapati Shivaji, it played a 'phenomenal' role in the Second World War, and launched one of the most innovative operations in the history of Naval warfare: Operation Trident. This legacy of the Indian Navy continues. And one cannot forget to mention the numerous humanitarian missions that the Indian Navy has undertaken time and again.

The vision of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM focuses on "collective military competency" through constructive engagement and maritime cooperation by learning from each other; further, it is aligned to the 'SAGAR' initiative of Prime Minister Modi which stands for Security And Growth for All in the region.

We take pride in saying that India is the world's fastest growing economy and is on course to becoming the world's third largest economy by 2030. We need to have a similar vision to become self-reliant in defence & security and reduce dependence on imports. The Indian Navy is leading from the front in this context, having kick-started multi-

ple acquisition programmes under 'Make in India' to help secure the maritime borders.

Given this ambitious outlook, Adani Defence & Aerospace is committed to playing an instrumental role in supporting the Indian Navy in its efforts. The 'Make in India' programme underpins Adani Defence's strategic intent to ensure indigenisation of critical technologies, stronger trade balance by facilitating exports, and creation of employment opportunities in India.

Adani Defence and Elbit's Unmanned

Adani Defence and Elbit's Unmanned aerial platform is suited for reconnaissance needs; the joint value proposition of Adani and Hindustan Shipyard brings the best for the P-75(I) submarine project

aerial platform being manufactured in Hyderabad is well suited for maritime reconnaissance and surveillance requirements; the joint value proposition of Adani Defence and Hindustan Shipyard under the public private partnership model brings the best of the capabilities for the P-75(I) submarines programme; and the extensive ecosystem of capabilities set up by Adani Defence through its network of MSMEs uniquely places it to meet the indigenisation requirements for Naval Utility Helicopters.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated at the Combined Commander's Conference on-board INS Vikramaditya: "We can never call ourselves secure nation and a strong military power unless we develop domestic capabilities."

We are sure "The men in white", ever committed to their core ethos - "Duty, Honour, Courage" - would help India become a great power and responsible maritime nation, ensuring peace and stability in the blue waters of our region. Adani Defence salutes the valour of the 66,000 men and women of the Indian Navy whose magnificent efforts and incredible sacrifices keep our maritime borders safe.

Sham No Varunah



With you, the nation is always in safe hands.

This Navy Day, let us celebrate the many victories and accomplishments of the Indian Navy starting with the famous Operation Trident in 1971. With them, we can rest assured that the security of this nation is in safe hands. Adani Defence and Aerospace is committed to supporting the Indian Navy by helping India become a destination for world class defence manufacturing.

adani
Defence and Aerospace

NAVY DAY

ADVERTORIAL

MDL delivers 2nd Scorpene submarine

Successful execution of complex project is a testament to shipyard's capabilities



MAZAGON Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), called 'Ship Builder to the Nation', is one of India's leading Defence public sector undertaking shipyards under the Ministry of Defence and it continues to serve the nation under the "Make in India" programme. It delivered the second Scorpene submarine 'KHANDERI' to the Indian Navy at an event held in Mumbai recently. The Acceptance Document was signed by Cmde Rakesh Anand, Chairman & Managing Director, MDL and RAdm B Sivakumar, Chief of Staff Officer (Tech), Western Naval Command in the presence of MDL Directors and Navy personnel at MDL. The submarine would soon be commissioned into the Indian

Navy. This is a milestone event for MDL.

The submarine 'KHANDERI' is named after the wide-snouted Saw fish, a deadly sea predator of the great Indian Ocean. The first Submarine Khanderi was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 06th December, 1968 and decommissioned on 18th October, 1989, after more than 20 years of yeoman service to the nation. In true nautical tradition, she will now be 'reincarnated' by MDL to guard the vast maritime area of our nation.

Building the Scorpene was indeed a challenge for MDL, as the complexity of the simplest of tasks increased exponentially due to all work having to be done in the most congested of spaces. This com-

plexity was further aggravated by the stringent tolerances required to be achieved. However, all of these challenges were accepted head-on and successfully overcome by MDL, without any compromise on quality whatsoever.

The technology utilised in the Scorpene has ensured the submarine having superior features. The Scorpene class of submarines can undertake multifarious tasks typically undertaken by any modern submarine, which include anti-surface as well as anti-submarine warfare.

With the delivery of Khanderi, India further cements its position as a submarine building nation and MDL has lived up to its reputation as one of the India's leading shipyards with a capacity to meet the requirements of the Indian Navy, as acknowledged by the "Indian commercial and warship building and ship repairing industry report" released by CRISIL in Mumbai in March, 2018.

The construction of the third Scorpene at MDL, KARANJ, was started on 31st January, 2018, and it is currently undergoing the rigorous phase of sea trials. The fourth Scorpene, VELA was recently launched in May 2019, and is being prepared for sea trials, whilst the remaining two submarines, VAGIR and VAGSHEER, are in various stages of outfitting. The Scorpene project would not have made the progress it has without the unconditional support and active encouragement of the Department of Defence Production (MoD).

It is also pertinent to mention that the two SSK submarines built by MDL in 1992 and 1994 are still serving the Indian Navy, after more than 25 years. This is testimony to the capabilities of MDL.



MBDA: Excellence on the Indian Navy's side

JV with L&T has a host of quality products lined up

■ LOÏC PIEDEVACHE

AS THE Indian Navy patrols the seas, it knows it has excellence on its side with high-performing missile systems from MBDA such as Exocet on board its new Kalveri-class submarines. MBDA is proud of its long history supporting the Indian Navy, and to be celebrating Navy Day with the naval service.

MBDA has been supporting India's armed forces for over 50 years, providing over 40,000 missiles built in India during this time, and is working through its Indian joint venture – L&T MBDA Missile Systems Ltd – on Make in India programmes and providing new enhancements for the Indian Navy's fighting potency. L&T MBDA Missile Systems Ltd is offering Exocet MM40 Block 3 for the Indian Navy's Medium Range Anti-Ship Missile (MRASHM) requirement, the latest version of the venerable Exocet missile already in service with the Indian Armed Forces, which has improved electronics and an extended range.

For the Indian Navy's Short-Range Surface to Air Missile (SRSAM) requirement, L&T MBDA Missile Systems Ltd is proposing its next-generation Sea Ceptor system. Sea Ceptor utilises the CAMM missile that features a next-generation all-weather RF-seeker, two-way datalink and soft-vertical launch system to provide a step-change in performance compared with previous

generation systems able to protect Indian vessels from attacks from fast sea-skimming missiles attacking from multiple directions simultaneously. Sea Ceptor is the most high-performance and modern air defence system in the market and also provides easy platform integration and many space, weight and safety benefits compared with older systems.

MBDA also has a full spectrum of missile systems to meet all the arming requirements of naval helicopters. For long-range requirements, MBDA's famous and combat proven Exocet AM 39 missile is available; Marte ER provides excellent extended medium range capability, while Sea Venom/ANL provides unrivalled fire-and-forget or operator above the loop ability to engage multiple targets at short to medium ranges in open waters or even challenging littoral environments.

For the Indian Navy's special forces, L&T MBDA Missile Systems Ltd is offering ATGM5, the world's only true 5th Generation Anti-Tank Missile as an Indian Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) product under the Make in India programme. ATGM5 offers many unique capabilities, including being truly network enabled, a multipurpose warhead with selectable effects, and high-performance seeker technologies. It is proven for use in the maritime environment from small special forces vessels.

The author is Country Head India, MBDA

Breaking the glass ceiling, Bihar girl becomes the Indian Navy's first woman pilot

Sub Lieutenant Shivangi will be tasked with flying Dornier aircraft

THE lady officer completed her basic training at the Indian Naval Academy in 2018 and was brought to Kochi, so that she could train with the Indian naval air squadron INAS 550.

The first lady pilot of the Indian Navy will be tasked with flying Dornier aircraft, used by the Navy for transport and maritime reconnaissance, and they take off and land on the shore. These aircraft are also used in rescue missions including medical evacuations.

Just days ahead of the Indian Navy Day, the service welcomed Sub Lieutenant Shivangi, their first woman pilot taking control of an aircraft. At a ceremony, Shivangi, 24, was given her wings along with her fellow pilots who earned their wings and joined the naval operations.

According to the Indian Navy, the aircraft she will be flying are used for long distances over the sea and in case of any suspicious movement in the waters or shore keeps the ship at sea informed. In the air wing of the Indian Navy there are



MIG 29-K fighter aircraft, P-8I maritime surveillance aircraft from the US-based Boeing Company, and there are helicopters and Dornier aircraft. The Ministry of Defence has said that out

of the 735 pilots required 644 positions are already occupied.

Shivangi, who grew up in Muzaffarpur in eastern Bihar, completed a mechanical engineering degree at the Sikkim Manipal University of Technology and went for further studies to the Malaviya National Institute of Technology in Jaipur. It was only then that her journey with the Indian Navy began.

The Indian Navy had permitted women to serve in medical services, air traffic control, education and training, law, and other related fields since 1992.

As the first lady pilot, Shivangi has now joined the lady pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF), which enlisted women pilots for the first time in 2016, with Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth becoming the first woman pilot earlier this year to qualify to undertake combat missions on a fighter aircraft. By the end of this decade there will be two more lady pilots in the Indian Navy who will be flying transport aircraft and land on the shore.

INTERVIEW | PRATESH GANDHI, Director, India Strategic Development at General Atomics

■ ABHISHEK PATHAK

General Atomics is collaborating on several projects with the Government of India in the military domain. Please share some of the details regarding these strategic initiatives that General Atomics has been engaged in with the Government of India.

General Atomics is very proud to be associated with the Indian Government and the Indian Armed Forces. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) is working with the Government of India (GOI) and the U.S. Government (USG) to facilitate a Foreign Military Sale (FMS) of the MQ-9B SeaGuardian/SkyGuardian for the Indian Armed Forces. In addition, under the aegis of the USG, General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) is working with the Indian Navy for provisioning of electromagnetic aircraft launch and recovery systems (EMALS) technology for Indian aircraft carriers.

There are few technologies as important as electromagnetic aircraft launch and recovery systems (EMALS) in the world of defence solutions today. What is the progress in this regard with the Indian government?

EMALS and AAG are proven technologies designed to meet required performance envelope with capabilities to launch and recover a modern naval air wing's expanding range of manned and unmanned aircraft. The electromagnetic launch technology supports fleet modernisation, and has shown to have approximately 20% performance reliability increase versus steam, with less wear and tear on aircraft. In addition, EMALS and AAG offer a significantly reduced footprint, lower lifecycle costs with 25% reduction in manning and less maintenance required, and quieter operation to improve the quality of crew life. EMALS and AAG are fully integrated into

the design of U.S. Navy Ford-class carriers, and successful testing of both systems continues. During the Gerald R. Ford CVN 78's first sea trial, EMALS achieved 33% more launches than planned, with all attempted takeoffs and landings successfully completed. EMALS also achieved 99.8% availability during CVN 78's last at-sea period.

International interest in EMALS and AAG capabilities is growing. We continue to work through government to government channels to field requests for information regarding EMALS and AAG capabilities to meet future aircraft carrier requirements.

General Atomics is at the forefront of technological advancements in today's evolving aerospace and defence world. What makes the company a reliable and an innovative source of high-tech defence solutions?

On the defence side, GA has a wide range of products that are of particular interest to the Indian Armed Forces. The GA-ASI manufactured jet-powered UAV, the Avenger, the MQ-9B Guardian, as well as airborne sensors available for manned platforms are the pinnacle of technology for remotely piloted aircraft systems. GA-EMS is also an industry leader in aircraft carrier launch and recovery with our EMALS and AAG systems.

GA also produces several products which can be used in both military and civil applications such as:

- Power and energy products such as Lithium Ion Fault Tolerant (LiFT™) Battery Systems, High Speed Power Generation Systems, Aluminum Power Systems, High Voltage Capacitors
- Gulftronic® Electrostatic Separators – an oil filtration system for the petroleum industry
- Demilitarisation Systems for effective and ecologically safe disposal of expired/obsolete munitions



PRATESH GANDHI

■ iSCWO (Industrial Super Critical Water Oxidation) – for safe and effective destruction of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, including chemicals, pesticides, fungicides and petrochemical waste

■ Radiation Monitoring Systems to help maintain the safety of nuclear power plants, personnel, and the public for the entire service life of nuclear facilities

Has the Government of India shown interest in combat Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)? If yes, please share which UAV is that and what are its capabilities?

Yes, the MQ-9B Guardian Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) has been offered to India by the United States Government for the Indian Armed Forces and that sale is under discussion between the two governments under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route.

The MQ-9B Guardian brings heretofore unmatched capabilities for the Indian Armed Forces. The Indian Armed Forces play a key

role in the stability of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and also along the extensive land borders that India shares with its neighbours. The MQ-9B offers persistent surveillance with advanced sensors which allow real-time monitoring of the areas of interest round the clock. Its unsurpassed range and endurance, coupled with all-weather capability and ability to fully integrate into controlled and uncontrolled airspace, provides much needed flexibility to military commanders, allowing for rapid decision-making.

The MQ-9B leverages the mature system architecture of the legacy MQ-9A and its more than two million flight hours, while incorporating enhancements that support mission capability. As a truly multi-mission aircraft, MQ-9B has nine external hardpoints offering unmatched configurability to meet diverse mission requirements. In the basic Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) configuration, the standard Guardian is equipped with a high-definition Electro-optical/Infrared (EO/IR) sensor and a high-performance 360° multi-mode radar to support maritime patrol and surveillance missions.

In contrast to MQ-9A, MQ-9B's wings have been extended by four metres to a total length of 24m to accommodate additional fuel capacity, while also providing greater lift and endurance. The wing extension adds two hardpoints for a total of nine that can accommodate a maximum external payload of 2,155 kilograms.

The Guardian boasts a range of 6,000-plus nautical miles and an endurance of more than 40 hours. GA-ASI flew an MQ-9B for 48.2 hours on 2,721 kg of fuel in May 2017. Providing greater endurance at lower operating cost, Guardian is ideally suited to complement manned aircraft in performing wide-area maritime and overland surveillance.

In addition to exceptional endurance, Guardian's state-of-the-art sensors offer unparalleled ISR capabilities for a wide range

of operational and threat environments. Routinely operated at Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) ranges at altitudes of over 40,000 feet and in inclement weather conditions, the MQ-9B can provide EO/IR Full Motion Video (FMV), Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imagery, and Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI) data about potential threats to military commanders in real-time from stand-off ranges without harm to the aircrew.

The platform also comes equipped with a

multi-mode search radar, with an Inverse Synthetic Aperture Radar (ISAR) and small target detection mode capability, and an Automatic Identification System (AIS) detection capability that provides a true Maritime Wide Area Search (MWAS) and allows for the identification and interdiction of maritime targets. These maritime capabilities, long in use by the United States, are critical to confront maritime threats before they reach population centres.



DEPUTY CM SAYS GLOBAL FACTORS NOT TO BLAME

Slowdown hurting, people reluctant to spend: CM, Sisodia target Centre in House discussion

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN has hit car sales in the capital, apart from bringing down demand for fuel and even consumption of alcohol, Delhi Finance Minister Manish Sisodia said Tuesday, pointing out that the slump has made people reluctant to spend.

Addressing the Delhi Assembly, which saw a discussion on the "situation", Sisodia said it was self-inflicted and not due to any interplay of global factors as neighbouring countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh are growing at a healthy rate. India's GDP growth in the second quarter of the ongoing financial year

slipped to a 26-quarter low of 4.5%, as per data released by the Union government.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the governance model being followed in Delhi, which was about ensuring people have more money to spend by lowering their expenses on power, water and transport, could perhaps be followed by other governments to boost demand.

The House passed a resolution commending the Delhi government for maintaining a revenue surplus, while demanding that the Centre immediately release Rs 3,200 crore it owes to the state on account of integrated goods and services tax (IGST) settlement and Rs 3,642 crore on account of state GST settlement.



CM Kejriwal and L-G Anil Bajjal at the convocation ceremony of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. Kejriwal told students: "If you are ready to give your all to the country, I invite you to join politics. We need youth of this country to join politics. Politics needs intelligent youth." Praveen Khanna

Kejriwal suggested that the CAG report was a badge of honour for his government. In a lighter vein, he said the fact that the Centre could not unearth any scam despite "unleashing" its agencies, including the CBI, ED and Income Tax department, after AAP ministers and MLAs, was also a clean chit of sorts.

"Even my office and residence were raided by police. Perhaps, for the first time, state police raided the house of its own CM," he said.

"We brought down tax rates, and our earnings shot up. Through our schemes, we have managed to put at least Rs 5,000 extra in every pocket in Delhi. This translates to around Rs 30,000 crore when we consider the po-

tential savings of families in the city. The biggest problem this country is facing today is of demand," Kejriwal said.

Sisodia attributed the jump in Delhi's earnings to "honest governance", lowering of tax rates on items, and discouraging coercive action and "extortions of traders" by tax department officials.

"I keep getting data as per which car sales and fuel consumption have come down. Even liquor consumption has come down, which is a good thing, but it also shows that people are reluctant to spend, they are scared. They blame global slowdown for the situation, but countries like Nepal and Bangladesh are growing. There's no global slowdown," he said.

SUKRITABARUAH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

REPORTS ON financial, construction and safety "irregularities" by four private schools in South Delhi were tabled in the Delhi Assembly, which include recommendations that the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) take over the management of The Indian School.

These reports contain observations and recommendations of a Committee on Petitions under AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj, constituted after "petitions" alleging these irregularities were submitted by parent associations of these schools. All four schools — The Indian School; Apeejay School, Sheikh Sarai; Summer Fields School, Kailash Colony; and KR Mangalam School, GK2 — are within Bharadwaj's Greater Kailash assembly constituency.

However, The Indian School and Apeejay School have alleged that the panel's findings were never communicated to them, so they didn't have the opportunity to respond. Both also questioned the committee's jurisdiction to deal with the functioning of private schools, and stated that the Lieutenant Governor and the DoE are the designated authorities for the same.

They also stated that the subject matters are sub-judice before the Delhi High Court. While the director of Summer Fields School refused to comment on the matter, the director of KR Mangalam School could not be reached for a comment.

The observations on The Indian School include that it "illegally" increased tuition fee between 2013 and 2019 even after directions from the DoE not to do so; that the school's building structure is significantly different from the building plan sanctioned by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC); and that fire safety requirements were violated by concealing a basement and porta cabins in the

structure.

On Apeejay School, too, the committee made observations on "unjustified fee hike" and flouting of fire safety norms. It observed that Summer Fields School had refused to cooperate with the DoE by refusing to share financial statements to justify its fee hike, and that it has deviated from its sanctioned building plan. It also observed deviations from the building plan in KR Mangalam School, as well as the presence of an "underground fuel tank" containing 2,500 litres of diesel on school premises.

While the reports recommended that the management of The Indian School be taken over with immediate effect, they recommended that the managements of KR Mangalam School and Apeejay School also be taken over if they do not submit their financial statements by December 2. They also recommended that "illegal portions" of the schools be sealed by SDMC.

It also recommended an audit of all private schools in Delhi to check for deviations from sanctioned plans, as well as fire safety audits. It also recommended departmental proceedings against SDMC officers and the fire service department for allowing the alleged lapses.

"The copy of the said report and findings/connected orders, etc have not been made available to us... we have responded to the notice received from the Petitions Committee... clearly stating that the school is governed by the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, and Rules framed thereunder. Thus, the Petitions Committee has no jurisdiction to matters falling within the purview of any statutory tribunal or authority," read a statement by Apeejay School. "...any wrong representation has the potential of not only adversely affecting the school's reputation but also harming the career and future prospects of more than 2,500 students and create panic and unrest amongst parents," read a statement by The Indian School.

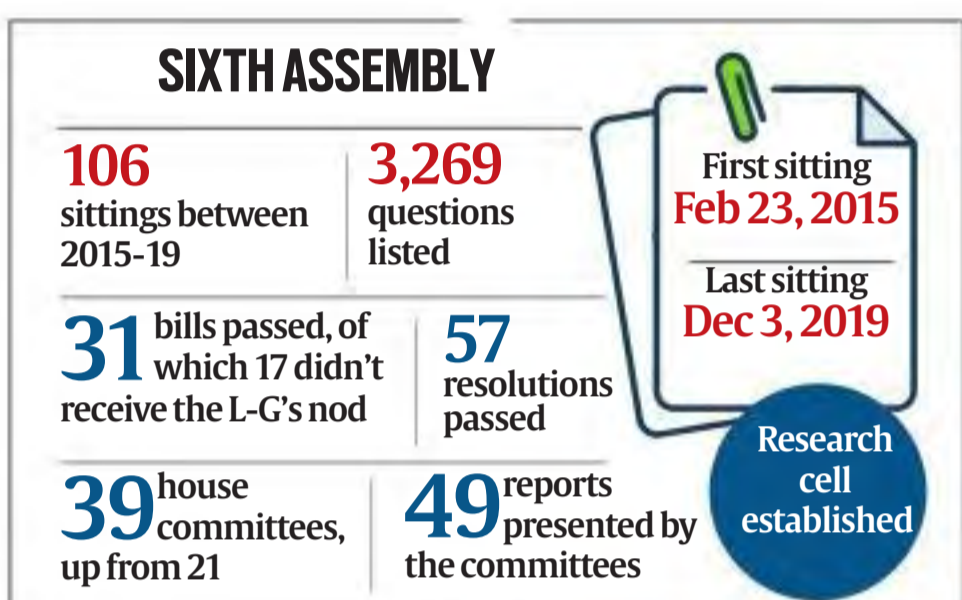
DTC financial condition red flagged in auditor's report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

LOSSES OF the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), from Rs 2,914 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 3,844 crore in 2017-18 came under the scrutiny of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which detailed the public transport operator's financial health in a report tabled in the Delhi Assembly Tuesday.

The report, an audit of 13 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Delhi government as on March 31, 2018, pointed that the DTC's losses amounted for nearly the entire overall losses incurred by the PSUs during this period. "As per latest finalised accounts for 2017-18, of the 13 PSUs, five PSUs earned profit of Rs 70.32 crore and four PSUs incurred losses of Rs 3,859.78 crore (of which losses of DTC constituted for Rs 3,843.62 crore)," the report said.

DTC's financial woes



prompted the finance department to advise the government against rolling out free rides for women scheme. The government is reimbursing Rs 10 per free ride, irrespective of distance travelled by a commuter, to the DTC.

The DTC also failed to induct a single bus in its fleet since 2010. Currently, its proposal to induct 1,000 low-floor AC buses has reached the tendering stage, while a separate proposal to get 300 e-buses is also being worked upon.

The report also said the Delhi government's total revenue receipts rose to Rs 38,667.27 crore in 2017-18 as compared to Rs 34,345.74 crore the previous year. "In 2017-18, audit pointed out instances of short/non-levy of revenue amounting to Rs 1,701.14 crore, out of which the departments concerned accepted under assessment and other deficiencies of Rs 390.39 crore and an amount of Rs 26.05 lakh has been recovered," it added.

'20 yrs since SC order, ISBTs yet to be built'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

A CAG report on the performance of Delhi government PSU Delhi Transport and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DTIDC) has said that the transport body has lagged in upgradation of inter-state bus terminals (ISBTs) and introduction of bus queue shelters. The report was tabled by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia in the winter session of the Delhi Assembly.

The report for 2019 noted that due to "failure" of DTIDC, ISBTs at North and South West entry points of Delhi — Dwarka and Narela — could not be established even after a lapse of more than 20 years since the Supreme Court gave directions for the same.

"Even after lapse of more than 20 years, ISBTs at Dwarka and Narela could not be established. The aim of reducing air pollution in Delhi by establishing the two ISBTs could not be achieved as 516 and 1,243 inter-

state diesel operated buses arriving from Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh continue to ply to/from ISBTs at Sarai Kale Khan and Kashmere Gate," the report stated.

According to officials, on the recommendation of EPCA to convert all city buses to CNG, the SC in 1998 had ordered the state government to establish two ISBTs at South West and North Delhi, to prevent entry of diesel-operated inter-state buses inside the periphery of Delhi, by March 31, 2000.

"These ISBTs were yet to be established when DTIDC was formed and the work of development of these two new ISBTs was also assigned to DTIDC," the report claimed. It also stated that the upgradation work at ISBT Kashmere Gate could not be completed even after more than eight years of the stipulated completion date, resulting in raising of claims of Rs 113.80 crore by the contractor and Delhi Integrated Multi Modal Transit System Limited.

BRIEFLY

Aqua Line extension gets UP govt nod

New Delhi: The UP government Tuesday approved construction of an extension of Noida Metro Rail Corporation's Aqua Line. The 14.95-km stretch will run between Noida Sector 71 and Greater Noida Knowledge Park- V and will provide greater connectivity to Noida and Greater Noida.

Assembly passes Skills University Bill

New Delhi: A bill for a Skills & Entrepreneurship University in Delhi was passed in the Delhi Assembly Tuesday, which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said will solve unemployment and the economic slowdown.

1 dead in fire at godown

New Delhi: One person died after a fire broke out inside a cloth warehouse and spread to a cloth godown in South East Delhi's Tughlaqabad Tuesday. Police said the victim worked as an accountant at the godown. DFS director Atul Garg said 39 fire tenders were rushed to the spot and took five hours to douse the blaze. A fire officer also sustained minor injuries.

Swedish firm to help farmers control stubble burning

New Delhi: A Swedish-Indian collaboration is helping Punjab manage its annual stubble burning problem by converting paddy into bio-coal. Bioendev, a Swedish firm, recently launched an agri-waste to bio-coal plant in the state in partnership with the Centre, officials from the firm said at an event in the city Tuesday.

4 arrested for posing as cops, robbing people

New Delhi: Four men, including two Iranian nationals, have been arrested for impersonating police personnel and carrying arms to rob people near IGI Airport. "They targeted senior citizens, women and foreigners travelling to the airport and on NH-48," said DCP (South West) Devender Arya.

HC upholds man's sentence

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has upheld a 10-year sentence awarded to a man for throwing acid on two persons, including a priest, who stopped him from entering a temple in a drunken state. **ENS**



Indian Institute of Mass Communication students protest Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

JNU echo in IIMC, students write to director over fee hike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

STUDENTS' PROTEST over fee hike spilled over from JNU to the neighbouring Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) campus Tuesday, with students staging a strike against the annual 10% hike in their course fee.

However, unlike the JNU protests, here the hike was not announced suddenly, but was mentioned in the prospectus when students of various PG diploma courses took admission in July this year. As of now, students of Radio & TV Journalism pay Rs 1,68,500 annually, those of Advertising and PR pay Rs 1,31,500 annually, students of Hindi Journalism and English Journalism pay Rs 95,500 annually and those studying Urdu Journalism pay Rs 55,500 annually.

Additionally, monthly hostel and mess charges are around Rs 6,500 for women and Rs 4,800 for men. "IIMC is an autonomous society under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting... Societies as such are supposed to run on 'no profit, no loss' basis, whereas at IIMC, the fee is high and increases at a rate of 10% every year... For the past one week we are trying to seek redressal of our issues through dialogue, but the administration says it is beyond their ambit to alter the fee structure," said Hrishikesh, a student of Radio &

TV Journalism.

Around 140 students signed a statement to the Director General (DG) of IIMC, saying they were forced to protest since they had not received any written assurance on their two main demands — reduction in "arbitrary fee hike" and hostel for all.

They, however, said the DG had agreed to smaller demands, including a 24/7 library. Around 30 students also wrote in their personal capacities to the DG, saying they would be unable to afford the second semester fee, due to be paid on January 15.

Surbhi Singh, a student of English Journalism, said the protest had drawn "inspiration from JNU". "We may have known the fee when we took admission, but it doesn't take away from the fact that many students are not going to be able to pay this," she said.

However, IIMC officials told *The Indian Express* that the Executive Council had "pro-actively" halted the earlier strategy of 10% automatic fee hike every year during its meeting held in May 2019, and this would be implemented from next year onwards.

A senior official added that the DG had held two rounds of meetings with students and "assured them that their genuine demands shall be addressed by December 15". "DG, IIMC, has also set up a committee of course directors to look into the students' demands."

'Compare revised JNU fee with that of other central varsities'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE HRD Ministry wrote to the high-powered committee Tuesday asking it to compare Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU) hostel fee — after the second rollback — with other central universities. The government has sought a clarification a week after the committee submitted its suggestions to break the deadlock over the hostel fee hike.

The high-powered committee is learned to have suggested that the University Grants Commission release extra funds to JNU to tide over its cash crunch, and that the university should only increase fee after consulting all stakeholders. However, before the committee submitted its report last Tuesday, JNU announced a second partial rollback of the fee hike.

It announced 50% reduction

in service and utility charges for all students, from Rs 2,000 per month to Rs 1,000. It also announced 75% reduction in utility and service charges for all eligible BPL (below poverty line) students, which would now be Rs 500 instead of Rs 2,000 per month.

However, increase in room rent remains the same. Rent for a single room has been increased from Rs 20 per month to Rs 600 per month, and for a double-sharing room from Rs 10 per month to Rs 300 per month. Eligible BPL students have to pay half. The government now wants to know how JNU's hostel fee compares with other central universities, especially those in Delhi.

Meanwhile, on the decision by JNU students to boycott exams in their protest against fee hike, the university administration Tuesday said failure to do so would lead to loss of their "studentship".

Ad-hoc appointments suspended in DU: RJD MP airs concern in RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

RASHTRIYA JANATA Dal (RJD) MP Manoj Jha Tuesday raised concern over the issue of Delhi University (DU) ad-hoc appointments in the Rajya Sabha Tuesday, saying there was a "sword hanging over them". Jha is also a professor of social work at the university.

The DU Principals' Association has kept ad-hoc appointments and salaries in abeyance till they receive clarification from the administration on the issue.

Raising the issue in the zero hour, Jha addressed Chair Venkaiah Naidu and said, "This is a very important issue, also because you are the Chancellor of Delhi University. There is a sword hanging over ad-hoc appointments. On August 28, a letter was issued (by the administration), after which they (ad-hocs) are be-

ing told to sign an undertaking... It is being changed to a contractual employment. Approximately 5,000 teachers are getting affected by this."

In the letter, DU asked colleges to appoint guest faculty against new vacancies till permanent appointments were made.

"Guest faculty have virtually no status. People live in uncertainty," said Jha. "The second worrisome aspect of this is that it shall have a bearing on promotion as well. If you don't count ad-hoc experience, then promotions in DU and other central universities will become meaningless... Through you, I want to appeal to the MHRD that the August 28 letter should be withdrawn immediately, and the earlier conditions be restored," he said.

Meanwhile, DUTA president Rajib Ray wrote to the MHRD and UGC: "On behalf of DUTA, we would like to appeal to you to intervene immediately..."

AIIMS to start digital autopsy by April

New Delhi: By April, AIIMS will start virtual autopsy, a facility

which will examine the body without loss or destruction of any forensic evidence. The department of forensic medicine in AIIMS is all set to install a CT machine, which will help experts to perform the autopsy. The medical institute is the first in the country to start the facility.

The project has been approved by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

Rs 5 crore has been allocated to the institute for the purpose. Speaking about it in Rajya Sabha Tuesday, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said the service will be extended to other centres as well. "Training programmes will be conducted for other institutes for setting up such centres. The process will be cost and time-effective, as it would take only 30 minutes to complete one autopsy as against two-and-half hours in regular post-mortem," the minister said. **ENS**



DCW chief Swati Maliwal at the protest. Tashi Tobgyal

Women students, activists protest at Jantar Mantar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

"I AM thankful for not having a daughter since this is not a country that is safe for women," said Nita Sharma (64), who sat with Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal as she began an indefinite hunger strike Tuesday against recent incidents of rape in the country.

Hundreds of women sat outside Jantar Mantar to protest against incidents of rape in Hyderabad, Rajasthan and Jharkhand. The protesters, some of whom took time off from school or work, demanded security and prompt action in rape cases. The protest later shifted to Samta Sthal, Rajghat.

"I read the papers every day and it depresses me. Cases of rape and murder are horrifying," said Class XII student Isha Jaiswal.

Maliwal, meanwhile, alleged police didn't let her use a stage or proper mic arrangements. "I

want the PM to give capital punishment to rapists... Last year, when I sat on a protest, the government made a law that they'll award capital punishment to offenders who rape minors. But we see no such change in the execution. We need better infrastructure... There are only 66,000 policemen and 45 fast-track courts in Delhi. This is not enough."

Police said Maliwal did not inform them of details of the protest. According to SC guidelines, nobody is allowed to protest outside Jantar Mantar after 5 pm. DCP, PRO, Mandeep Singh Randhawa said police had urged Maliwal and other protesters to stop their strike.

Anu Dubey (23), who held a solitary protest three days ago outside Parliament and was detained briefly, was among the protesters: "Someone needs to take responsibility... These incidents can be stopped if we teach society and police to be alert and help women."

AAP's Goel to BJP: Next time, bring men to protest

New Delhi: "You have come wearing bangles, show some courage next time and bring men to protest," said Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel Tuesday, on the BJP fielding women in a protest demanding clean water.

Goel also accused Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta of lowering the dignity of the House by allowing the protesters to enter the Assembly prem-

ises. "Himmat hai toh aadmi ko leke aate, chudiyen pehenke aaye aap, auroton ko aage karte hain, agar Vijender Gupta mein himmat hoti toh 10-20 ladko ko lekar aate (If you had some courage, you would have brought some men to protest, instead of fielding women)," Goel said.

He also turned down the BJP's demand for a discussion on rising onion prices. **ENS**

10 IN PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"There is a committee. The committee seems to have decided that no more portraits will be installed... But, anyhow, I allowed you because today is his birth anniversary and it is an important thing. Let us see what they do."

M VENKAI AH NAIDU, Chairman, to TMC's Dola Sen who demanded that a portrait of artist Nandalal Bose be installed in the Central Hall as he was the illustrator of the Constitution.

LOK SABHA

"Members should ask supplementary on the issues on which the questions are. This is Indian Parliament. The minister should not answer."

OM BIRLA, Speaker, when BSP MP Ritesh Pandey asked whether Kisan funds could be given for collecting paddy. The question was on speeding up flow of funds under the scheme.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Government was aware of the rise in demand but unfortunately... it played a mere spectator's role. The government could have procured the kitchen essential and intervened in the market. Unfortunately hoarders and black marketers are benefiting..."

K K RAGESH, CPM member, raised the issue of onion prices during Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha.

5 QUESTIONS



SHIV SENA MP **VINAYAK RAUT** ASKED THE CENTRE TO ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE ALLEGED REFUND OF RS 40,000 CRORE BY THE DEVENDRA FADNAVIS GOVERNMENT IN LOK SABHA. RAUT SPOKE TO **LIZ MATHEW**.

You raised the issue of Anant Kumar Hegde's public statement on refund of Rs 40,000 crore to the Centre from Maharashtra. Of the funds central government had released for Maharashtra's development, Rs 40,000 crore have allegedly been returned by former CM Devendra Fadnavis. I did not make this allegation. BJP MP and former Union Minister Anant Kumar Hegde had made this charge. We want the Finance Minister of this country to make a statement on it on the floor of the House.

You believe what Mr Hegde said? I don't know. He is an MP and a former minister. How can one not believe him? No one can make such a statement without information. Without having an authentic information, how can he talk like this...

Now that your party is in power, did you see if it was a fact? Our Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is also trying to get it verified. He will find out.

What was your demand? If it has happened, it will be unfortunate. Centre and the state governments should have proper relations. The Centre is expected to provide assistance to the state governments irrespective of the parties in power in the states. If it happened, the people of Maharashtra will not forgive BJP.

What would be the next step? We will take it up again if there is no response. We will fight it in the House. If the statement is not true, let the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra come on record and say it... an enquiry should be there...

No pardon given to Beant killer Rajoana, says Shah

LIZ MATHEW & NAVJEEVANGOPAL
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 3

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted of the assassination of the then Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh in 1995, has not been pardoned.

"Please don't go by media reports. *Koi maaf ki nahi gayi* (no pardon has been given)," Shah told the Lok Sabha.

The Home Minister was responding to a question raised by Congress MP from Punjab Ravneet Singh Bittu, who is grandson of Beant Singh, during Question Hour.

Bittu raised the issue while MoS Nityanand Rai was responding to a question on cyclone Fani that affected areas in Odisha.

Bittu said, "Home Minister Amit Shah is sitting here. Answering this question is up to him. I am raising this because there were talks about capital punishment on rape in both Houses yesterday. Amit Shah-ji, please tell me why have you pardoned Balwant Singh Rajoana in Punjab."

Sukhbir Singh Badal, Lok Sabha MP from Ferozepur, Punjab, and president of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), an ally of BJP, said Shah's statement that Rajoana's death sentence has not been commuted has caused "pain and anguish to the Sikh community, which was under the impression that the death sentence had been commuted to life on the eve of 550th Parkash Purb celebrations of Sri Guru Nanak Dev".

In a press conference in Chandigarh, Gobind Singh Longowal, president of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee,



Shah in Lok Sabha: Please don't go by media reports. *Koi maaf ki nahi gayi* (no pardon has been given). PTI

the apex organisation managing gurdwaras, said, "Changing the decision was very unfortunate; (it) has hurt Sikh sentiments."

Pointing out that Sikh sentiments were "associated with Balwant Singh Rajoana", Longowal said the decision "should be reviewed and death sentence (should) be commuted to life."

Following media reports in September - that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had approved commutation of Rajoana's death sentence to life term as a humanitarian gesture ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, Beant Singh's family had stated that they would challenge any such decision in the Supreme Court.

The MHA had not made any official announcement.

A correspondence by the MHA to chief sec-

retaries of Punjab, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and the adviser to Chandigarh Administrator on September 27 stated, "I am directed to say that on the occasion of commemoration of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the Government of India has decided that 8 Sikh prisoners may be granted special remission and death sentence of one Sikh prisoner may be commuted to life imprisonment. The details of these nine Sikh prisoners are given at Annexure."

The letter and annexure, marked "SECRET", were purportedly signed by Deputy Secretary (PR & ATC) Arun Sobti. In the three-page annexure, the case of Rajoana was categorised on the last page as "Case of Commutation of Death Sentence to Life Imprisonment".

The details stated, "Balwant Singh Rajoana S/o Malkit Singh (Age: 55 years) R/o Village Rajoana Kalan, PS Sudhar, Ludhiana (Punjab)". Another sub-head read, "State/UT of Conviction: Chandigarh UR Administration and Punjab".

The letter stated, "...I am also directed to convey the concurrence of the Central Government to the State Governments/ Union Territories to the remission and release of eight Sikh prisoners (details mentioned in the Annexure) for the cases where approval/concurrence/consultation of/with the Central Government is required under Article 161 or Article 72 of the Constitution of India, as the case may be, or, under any other law in force. This issues with the approval of the competent authority."

While two prisoners among the eight whose name figure in the list are already out from Patiala jail, one prisoner was acquitted by the Supreme Court in January 2017.



PAYING TRIBUTE

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP veteran L K Advani and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at an event to mark the birth anniversary of India's first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad, at Parliament House. *Renuka Puri*

Facing flak over GDP remark, BJP MP seeks regulation for social media

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

UPSET OVER the reporting on his reference to the GDP in Parliament, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey appealed to the central government to come with a law against social media circulating wrong reporting of Parliamentary proceedings which, he said, has led to abusive remarks affecting people.

The MP from Gonda in Jharkhand came under criticism for his speech in the Lok Sabha on Monday when he said the GDP had no relevance. The Opposition came down heavily on him, and there were strong reactions on social media too.

"I seek your protection Sir (Speaker). When the Constitution was made it was mentioned in Article 105 and 105 (2) that whatever would be discussed in the House, the reporting of the matter would be proper and any member would be free to put his point without any fear and partiality. Social



Nishikant Dubey: I was just citing these reports. Those who want to accept GDP, do that.

media and breaking news was not there when Article 105 was made," Dubey said, raising the matter during Zero Hour.

Dubey said that he had referred to eminent economists who had made such a reference. He said he quoted a report by Simon Kuznets, who coined the phrase Gross Domestic Product. "In his report, Kuznets had himself accepted in 1934 that he was not satisfied with his GDP concept. A discussion is going on over the issue in the whole world. I have also brought a report of 2008 of a committee made by French President (Nicolas) Sarkozy in which Amartya Sen, who is con-

sidered as a Congress spokesperson and an eminent economist, also was a member has rejected it," he said, adding that a UN Convention in 2011 deliberated on the same and even OECD referred to it.

"I was just citing these reports. Those who want to accept GDP, do that. Those who want to accept Happiness Index, do that, and those who want to look at the farmers and villages can do that also. But in the media, especially in social media, I have been put through a lot of ridicule. Not just me, my family was also not left and put through lot of abuse. I appeal to the government that when such things happen, there should be a ban on social media or there should be law under which action can be taken against them," the MP said.

On Tuesday, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram took a dig at the BJP over Dubey's remarks. "GDP numbers are irrelevant, personal tax will be cut, import duties will be increased. These are BJP's ideas of reforms. God save India's economy," Chidambaram, who is in jail, said in a tweet.

Exhume, bring back last Sikh king's remains from England: Cong MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

CONGRESS MP Pratap Singh Bajwa made a demand in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday to exhume the remains of Maharaja Duleep Singh, the last ruler of the Sikh empire, from his grave in England and bring it to Amritsar, where his last rites should be performed as per Sikh traditions.

Raising the issue through a Zero Hour mention, Bajwa said the issue is close to the heart of entire Punjab and that "history should be corrected."

Duleep Singh was born in Lahore in 1838 to Maharaja Ranjit Singh. At the age of five, he sat on the throne of the Sikh kingdom, and



Pratap Singh Bajwa: History should be corrected

Punjab was annexed to British India after the second Anglo-Sikh war in 1849, Bajwa said.

Duleep Singh was removed from the throne and separated from his mother, Maharani Jind Kaur, who was imprisoned. Bajwa said Duleep Singh was then taken to England and converted to Christianity at the age of 16, and lived there under the patron-

age of Britain's Queen Victoria.

After 13 years, he was reunited with his mother, and upon learning the history and Sikh identity, he decided to reconvert and gave away British pension. In 1886, Duleep Singh set sail for India with his family but fearing mutiny the British detained him and placed him under house arrest, the Congress leader said. He added that Singh's grave is in the English countryside.

Through a separate Zero Hour mention, Ahamed Hassan of TMC raised the issue of killing of five labourers from Murshidabad, West Bengal, in terror attacks in Kulgam in October. He said families of the labourers let them go and work in J&K after Home Minister Amit Shah told the nation that total normalcy had been restored in the erstwhile state.



BJP MPs interrupt Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in the Lok Sabha. PTI

Protests in LS as BJP seeks Adhir apology, Congress raises security breach

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE LOK Sabha witnessed uproarious scenes when the BJP mounted a fresh attack on Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for his description of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah as "infiltrators", as well as his remarks referring to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as "Nirbala" (weak).

The Congress also protested in the Lok Sabha, raising the alleged security breach at party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's residence here and terming it a "matter of serious concern".

While BJP MP Poonam Mahajan raised Chowdhury's remark on Sitharaman, saying it is he and not Sitharaman who is "weak", Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal wanted Chowdhury to seek an apology for the remark against Modi and Shah.

Participating in the discussion on Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, Chowdhury had on Monday suggested that the Finance Minister has become weak and called her "Nirbala Sitharaman". He made the infiltrator barb at the BJP's top leaders while speaking on the NRC issue. As BJP members protested against his comment, Speaker Om Birla ruled that any unparliamentary remark would be removed from records.

During Zero Hour on Tuesday,

Chowdhury rose to speak on onion prices, saying that the BJP-led government had allowed middlemen to make money. "The markets are on fire because of the high prices of onion," Chowdhury said.

BJP MPs stood up and shouted that he should not speak until he apologises for his remark. Then Mahajan raised the issue of his remark on Sitharaman. "You are *nirbal* (weak) as you stand for one family. You are weak as you call the Prime Minister an infiltrator," she said amid noisy protests by BJP members.

During her reply on Monday, Sitharaman did not directly refer to Chowdhury's comment but concluded her speech by saying she is still Nirmala and "*sabala*" (empowered).

There was slogan-shouting from the treasury benches against Chowdhury's remark. Amid the shouting, Chowdhury said the government is anti-poor and anti-farmer as it is hardly doing anything when onion prices have crossed Rs 100 per kg. However, BJP MPs continued their protests. Amid disruptions, the Congress walked out.

Later, Anto Antony of the Congress raised the issue of replacing the SPG cover for the Gandhi family with "Z-plus" security provided by the CRPF. "If it was foolproof, how did seven people barge in?" he asked, referring to the alleged security breach at Priyanka's residence. Antony urged the government to not play politics over the security of the family that lost two Prime Ministers in violent deaths.

No submersion threat to Mumbai, believe in Indian scientists: Harsh Vardhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THERE IS no threat of Mumbai getting submerged due to a possible rise in sea level, the government said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday while urging MPs to have faith in Indian scientists and their data "rated best in the entire world".

Responding to a series of queries by Congress and Samajwadi Party members during the Question Hour, Minister of Earth Sciences Harsh Vardhan said that the question of Mumbai being submerged has arisen due to media reports based on something said outside the country.

"Whatever we are saying is based on the reports of our scientists, and the data produced by them are rated best in the whole world. There is no reason for you to worry about Mumbai. Mumbai is not going to be submerged," he said in the Upper House.

The minister said that the available data and model studies do not indicate inundation in a major part of southern Mumbai occurring at least once a year during 2040-50, as published in an international study report.

At the Mumbai coast, the average rise in sea level has been around 0.74 mm per year based on the tide gauge data collected during 1878-2005. Accordingly, the sea level at Mumbai coast will increase by 33.3 mm or 3.33 cm from the current level in 2050, he said.

This has been estimated by the Indian



'There is no reason for you to worry about Mumbai'

National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS), based on the long term trends in sea level change, using data recorded by the sea level gauge located at Apollo Bandar, Harsh Vardhan said.

To another query on whether the government was playing down the issue, the minister said, "I must tell you, this is the same country which was literally caught unawares in 2004 when we had tsunami. Today, the data that we produce for early warnings of tsunami are rated as number one in the world."

India is also sharing data on cyclone with other countries along the coast, the minister said. "So, there is no reason why we should doubt the capability of our scientists. We are officially rated number one in the world today," he noted.

The minister said that the coastal vulnerability maps prepared by the INCOIS, based on the assessment of probable implications to the coast due to sea level rise, suggest that "Mumbai region does not come under very high vulnerable class."

AIIMS, ICMR working on virtual autopsy technique: Govt in RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

DELHI'S AIIMS and Indian Council of Medical Research are jointly working on a technique for postmortem without dissecting the body and it is likely to be functional within the next six months, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. India will be the first country to start "virtual autopsy" in the south east Asian region, he said.

"The All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are working together on a technique for postmortem without incising/dissecting the body. This technique is likely to become functional in the

next six months," he said.

The ICMR and AIIMS have studied global practices and taken up this project for "digitified management of dead body". Vardhan said, adding that family members of the deceased feel uncomfortable with the traditional way of postmortem.

The minister said that all records will be digitally stored for review. He said the virtual autopsy will be cost and time effective as it would take only 30 minutes to complete one autopsy as compared to the two-and-a-half hours taken by a conventional postmortem. The new technique will facilitate and ensure there is no delay, he said. The process is being launched only at AIIMS but can later be introduced in other institutions, he said, adding that AIIMS would provide training.

GOVT & POLITICS

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TAKING ON ALL SIDES

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday proved he will not discriminate between opposition and treasury benches when it comes to rebuking members for being careless. When Shiv Sena MP Hemant Tukaram Godse asked a question on consumer affairs, food and public distribution, MoS Raosaheb Patil Danve, who was sitting in the last row with his senior minister, Ram Vilas Paswan, who had a fracture on his leg, asked Godse to repeat the question. "Honourable Minister, pay attention to questions. Listen carefully when they are asked," Birla said. The Speaker then said he would give Godse a chance to ask two more supplementary questions. Sensing the mood, Paswan got up to answer all the questions. Birla then suggested that Paswan can reply while being seated if he wanted, as he had a fractured leg.

DRAWING A LINE

ON A day Rajya Sabha debated the SPG amendment Bill, in which there were frequent references to protection of family members of the leaders, Home Minister Amit Shah's wife Sonal Shah was present in the visitor's gallery. As she was leaving after the debate, the staff from Shah's office came with her to Gate No. 4. There was some confusion with the vehicle. When she asked whether she would get a vehicle to return home, the staff called the minister's official vehicle. But Sonal Shah refused to take it. Despite requests from the staff, she waited for more than 15 minutes for another car to return home.

RAISING CURIOSITY

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi took several MPs by surprise on Tuesday afternoon when he is learnt to have walked into the chambers of Speaker Om Birla and remained cloistered there for a while. Coming as it does soon after BJP members' demand for breach of privilege notice against the Congress MP for his barbs against BJP's Pragya Thakur, the meeting set many tongues wagging. By evening, it emerged that it was a courtesy call, and apparently not a single contentious issue came up for discussions during the meeting.

MONEY MATTERS

UNTIL TWO months ago it seemed Jadavpur University (JU) was set to lose out on the Institution of Eminence (IoE) status, as the West Bengal government expressed its inability to commit Rs 2,000 crore under the scheme. But there's still a sliver of hope for the university, it seems. Turns out JU Vice Chancellor Suranjan Das met with a senior officer of the HRD Ministry last month to make a case for awarding the IoE tag to the university. The university is learnt to have told the ministry that it doesn't need Rs 3,000 crore to execute its plans for improving its international rankings — it only needs around Rs 1,000 crore. If the government can fund up to 75 per cent of that, then JU, the V-C is learnt to have said, can raise the rest of the required funds. JU now has to give this to the ministry in writing. If the government is convinced, JU may, after all, become an institute of eminence.

Lalu files nomination for RJD chief's post from jail

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, DECEMBER 3



Lalu Prasad

RJD CHIEF Lalu Prasad on Tuesday filed his nomination to become his party's national president for an 11th consecutive term, putting to rest speculation about his transferring power to his son Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.

Lalu filed his nomination from jail, with sons Tejashwi and Tej Pratap Yadav, along with Bihar RJD chief Jagdanand Singh and senior leaders Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Ramchandra Purve present.

As no other party leader has filed their nomination, Lalu is set to become national president unopposed. The formal announcement would be made during the party's national council on December 9.

Tejashwi, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, said, "My father may not be able to be present here physically, (but) he dwells in hearts of millions of people of Bihar."

Tej Pratap said, "I stick to my stand of working for making my Arjun (Tejashwi) the chief minister. My limited involvement in political activities of late is because of my engagement with court cases."

However, a senior RJD leader said, "Lalu Prasad continued to remain national president to help prevent any division in the party. Making Tejashwi national president ahead of the 2020 Assembly polls could have only sharpened the differences between the two

EXPLAINED Keeping the flock together

WHILE IJP patron and Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan transferred power to son Chirag Paswan by making him national president of the party, Lalu Prasad cannot afford to do so for his younger son Tejashwi. Lalu has already seen the rebellious activities of his elder son Tej Pratap during the last Lok Sabha polls and does not want to give any advantage to the JD(U) or BJP in the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar, scheduled for 2020. For the RJD chief, the challenge is to keep both his family and party united.

brothers. Lalu Prasad wanted to be in full control. The leader said another choice for the national president's post was that of Lalu's wife and former CM Rabri Devi. "But Lalu Prasad avoided giving any message of power shift despite his failing health. The idea is to keep Tej and Tejashwi united," said the leader.

Rajya Sabha passes SPG Bill as Cong members walk out

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

FOLLOWING A walkout by Congress members, the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the SPG (Amendment) Bill that limits SPG protection only to the Prime Minister and his family and to a former PM and his family for five years. Replying to the concerns raised by members, Home Minister Amit Shah denied that the Bill had any relation to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi, and described as "chance" the alleged security breach at Priyanka's residence.

Even as MPs from the Congress and some other parties decried the move to take away the Gandhis' SPG protection, citing the assassinations of former PMs Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, Shah said that security should not be treated as a "status symbol". "Their security is the highest for any citizen, Z+ with advance security liaison (ASL) and ambulance. It is the same security that

is available to the home minister, the President and Vice-President... I have to emphasise that contrary to statements made in the House, this amendment has not been done with one family in mind, that was the case with all the other four amendments before this. We are mindful of their security and have made adequate arrangements," Shah said.

In fact, he said, the only "loser" in this Bill is the Prime Minister, who will lose SPG cover in five years if he does not remain at the top post. "Had we meant to have special provisions, we would have written that his threat perception will be reviewed after five years. We did not do that," he added. He also said that since SPG protection for the Gandhis has already been discontinued, the Bill was not needed for that purpose.

Several members from the Congress and other parties raised the issue of security breach at Priyanka's residence. Shah clarified that as per protocol under which Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka's husband Robert

Vadra and other members of the family are not subjected to the usual security drill, the security personnel had let through a black Tata Safari following information that Rahul would be visiting. It turned out to be a Congress office-bearer from Meerut in the car. "What happened that day was *ittefaq* (chance), but we have taken cognizance of it, ordered an inquiry and suspended three people. But if you were really concerned about their security, you would have not made such a public hue and cry. Because these protocols are not to be discussed in public," Shah said.

He also pointed out that there had been little protest when security for former PM Manmohan Singh was withdrawn. At this, Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad showed the letter he had written to the PM and the reply. "There is a difference between formality and protest," Shah retorted.

Speaking on the Bill, SP MP Ramgopal Yadav pointed out how "threat perception" for security to

politicians changes with dispensations and spoke about how an alleged criminal whose phone interception had revealed a plot to murder him was killed in a police encounter. "He had a reward of Rs 3 lakh on him and he wanted to kill me and it was our government. He could not have survived. Within 15 days he was killed in an encounter by Sikandrabad police. This is the only remedy for criminals," Yadav said.

BJP MP Neeraj Shekhar recalled his experience of living as an SPG protectee for 11 years (as son of former PM Chandra Shekhar), starting when he was a 22-year-old "nobody" but the sheer paraphernalia made him feel "important."

Many parties including the JD(U), BJD and AIADMK supported the Bill even as Left parties and the RJD joined the Congress in opposing it. MPs opposing the Bill said that politics should not come in the way of security.

Later, the House passed the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill 2019.



Robert Vadra at the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. PTI

Vadra questions govt over SPG withdrawal, hints at joining politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 3

A DAY after the Congress claimed security breach at the residence of the party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi in New Delhi, her husband Robert Vadra termed the incident as a 'very big lapse' and said that SPG security cover for the Gandhi family shouldn't have been removed.

Speaking to reporters, Vadra also hinted the possibility of joining politics and contesting elections from his hometown Moradabad.

"It is a very big mistake but I will lay more emphasis on the security of women in the country. The government only knows the assessment on the basis of which the SPG security has been removed... But whatever the government does we will tolerate, and all the citizens of the country are with us. They will give us protection and will keep us secure," Vadra said.

"Of course it is political... The

SPG shouldn't have been removed. But they have to do the assessment and will have to see in Parliament when was the SPG cover allowed owing to what significance, it means they have to do assessment on their own," said Vadra, answering to a query on whether the SPG security was removed as part of politics.

Vadra said that he might join politics and fight elections from Moradabad.

"I can join but nothing will happen with me just joining. People should tell that they can see that I can bring some change, take their voices and issues forward. I can help them," said Vadra.

Vadra added that he will have to work hard and he will have to see how much change he can bring for the people and only then will he join politics.

"They see that I can do something for them and they feel I can understand them and understand that place and work hard so that I can definitely take their calling forward," said Vadra.

Modi in Jamshedpur: Cong tried stalling Ayodhya, Art 370

CM's chair was up for sale under previous Cong-JMM govt, says PM

ENS & PTI
JAMSHEDPUR, DECEMBER 3

TAKING ON the Congress-JMM-RJD alliance in Jharkhand Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Chief Minister's chair was for sale in the government under the coalition before the Raghuraj Das government came in in 2014.

Addressing a rally in Jamshedpur, which is one of the seats going to the polls in the second phase on December 7, Modi also accused the Congress party of stalling the Ayodhya dispute and procrastinating issues such as Article 370.

Modi told the crowd: "The talk of Article 370 was on since Independence. The Constitution said the Article was a temporary provision. Article 370 is now gone from Jammu and Kashmir. Tell me whether the entire country has stood behind us on this or not. When things are done with good intentions, you have the blessings of the whole country."

Speaking about the Ayodhya tangle, Modi asked the people, "Did Ram Janmabhoomi (dispute) happen after we came to power? Was it not the Congress party that obstructed a resolution? Was it not done for vote bank politics?"

While speaking about the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an election campaign rally in Jharkhand's Khunti district. PTI



Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, Modi sought to strike a chord with the vast tribal electorate in the state when he spoke of Ram's links with forest dwellers. "Lord Ram left Ayodhya as a prince but returned as *Maryada Purushottam* 14 years later as he spent time with Adivasis in forests, imbibed their values," he said.

The Prime Minister said while the Congress only got things tangled up, it was left to the BJP to "disentangle" difficult situations. He launched a blistering at-

tack on the opposition JMM-Congress alliance in Jharkhand, alleging that it followed the politics of "deception" while the BJP believed in serving people.

Modi alleged rampant corruption and political instability were the hallmarks of the governments helmed by the JMM-Congress alliance.

"Even the Chief Minister's chair was up for sale. Until five years ago, Jharkhand used to be in news for political instability. It saw 10 chief ministers in 15 years before the BJP government led by Raghuraj Das came and lasted a full term. Before him (Das), CMs got changed faster than the weather," he said.

Modi cited his 13-year stint as the Gujarat chief minister as an example of what a stable govern-

ment can achieve. "*Gujarat kahan se kahan pahunch gaya* (see how Gujarat progressed)," he said.

He said the first phase of polling on November 30 had clearly shown that the "backbone of Maoism has been broken".

At a rally in Khunti, Modi said that heavy polling proved people's faith in democracy and nation-building in an environment conducive for development. He asked voters to be wary of the opposition alliance as it was only interested in the "loot of Jharkhand's resources".

At Jamshedpur, Modi spoke about steps taken by his government for improving the condition of labour force and industrial development. He said his government wanted to develop Jharkhand as a silk and textile hub.

BJP rebel's decision to contest elections changes political equations in Jamshedpur

ABHISHEK ANGAD
JAMSHEDPUR, DECEMBER 3

BEFORE A modest gathering of nearly 200 people at Laxmi Nagar in Jamshedpur East constituency on Monday, rebel BJP leader and former minister Saryu Roy evoked his record of "selfless service" and intention to "root out corruption" as the prime motives to take on Chief Minister and incumbent MLA Raghuraj Das.

Roy decided to contest against Das an Independent candidate after the BJP did not give him a ticket to contest elections — the rebel leader claimed it was Das who did not want him to contest polls. With Roy in the fray, the public opinion is now divided and political equations have changed in the two seats of Jamshedpur East and Jamshedpur West.

In Jamshedpur West, the BJP has fielded newcomer Devender Singh against Congress candidate and former MLA Banna Gupta. AIMIM and JVMP are also in the fray. In Jamshedpur East,



Saryu Roy addresses a gathering in Jamshedpur East. Express

Congress has pitched Gourav Vallabh against Raghuraj Das while JVM's Abhay Singh is also in the fray.

Elections in the two segments will be held on December 7.

As people cheered for Roy in Laxmi Nagar, some gathered at a local salon in Dimna Chowk in Roy's former constituency of Jamshedpur West, discussing whether the Congress or BJP will lead in the "absence" of Saryu Roy. They seemed divided with some BJP supporters consider-

ing to vote for the Congress.

In the 2014 elections, Roy had polled 95,323 votes while Congress's Gupta got 84,803 votes in Jamshedpur West.

Ram Vilas Thakur, who is in his mid 60s, claimed, "I am a dedicated BJP supporter and had Saryu Roy been contesting, I would have pledged my support. But I don't know the new candidate. On the other hand, people know Gupta, and his work."

However, a customer at the salon disagreed. "The AIMIM and

dilemma... people are confused about whom to vote. However, the equation may change after PM Modi's visit as his appeal may cut across all divide and consolidate the BJP supporters."

In Jamshedpur East, Congress had come a distant second in the 2014 election with Raghuraj Das polling 1,03,418 votes against 33,261 polled by the Congress.

Congress, which is part of an alliance with the JMM and RJD, has fielded XLRI professor Gourav Vallabh.

However, Leader of Opposition and JMM working president Hemant Soren supported Roy after he announced his candidature. "If Saryu Roy fights against the CM, I appeal to the entire opposition to support him."

Roy recently thanked Soren and the JMM on social media for their support.

This has confused a few voters. "With the JMM supporting Roy, the fight is between Saryu Roy and Raghuraj Das. We will vote accordingly."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

'SECURITY BREACH' AT PRIYANKA'S HOUSE

Quick entry 'shocks' Meerut family: Gates never open so easily

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

A CONGRESS leader from Meerut and her family members got an easy entry into Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's home here on November 25. The incident has now added fuel to the discussion over the removal of SPG cover from the Gandhi family.

Sharda Tyagi (75), a former MLA from Kharkhoda area of Meerut, was in Delhi for the treatment of her daughter who has been diagnosed with a tumour in the intestines. The family visited AIIMS in the morning that day.

"From AIIMS, we were referred to ILBS, where we were told to come back on December 6. On our way back, I thought of taking an appointment with Priyanka ji for my son, who is contesting the local councillor elections," Tyagi told *The Indian Express*.

Sitting in a black Tata Safari Storme, the family was expecting a rigorous security check as the car honked at the gates. To their surprise, the gates were opened immediately and no security guard walked up to them for any verification, claimed the family.

"I thought I would be asked to give my name and details and the office would fix an appointment after a few days. I never thought we would be able to meet her the same day without any restrictions," said Tyagi.

Expressing shock at the easy entry into Priyanka's home, Tyagi called it a "security lapse". "The gates are never opened so easily," she added.

As the family stepped out of the car, the three children saw Priyanka and went to her for a selfie. "After the picture was taken, I told Priyanka ji that I needed 10 minutes. She suggested I speak to her assistant, after which we left," Tyagi said.

Assam Cong MLA cuts palm to write slogans in blood

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 3

A CONGRESS MLA on Tuesday cut his palm in the Assembly premises to write slogans in protest against prevailing conditions, closure of industries and tea gardens in the state, and for protecting the interests of the Assamese community.

Rupjyoti Kurmi, MLA from Mariani constituency in Jorhat district, carried a blade inside the Assembly and cut his palm to use blood to write a few finishing words on a piece of paper where lines were already printed.

With his blood, Kurmi wrote, "The honour and future of Assamese people would not be allowed to be sold off in the name of *Jati, Mati, Bheti* (community, land and hearth)."

Kurmi's act was criticised by several MLAs. Assam Assembly Speaker Hitendra Nath Goswami ordered an inquiry. Police said the legislator could face police action if the Speaker orders so.



NORTH

Four juveniles held for attempt to sodomise minor

Muzaffarnagar: Four juveniles were apprehended in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district for allegedly attempting to sodomise a 12-year-old boy, police said on Tuesday. The victim was playing outside his house on Monday when the accused asked him to come with them, police said. According to a complaint

lodged by the victim's family, the accused took the boy to a vacant house and tried to sodomise him. They fled after the boy fell unconscious. A case was registered against the four juveniles and they were apprehended. They were sent to a juvenile home after medical examination, police said. **PTI**



During the bust in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, security forces arrested two men and seized 41.293 kg of heroin. *Express*

EAST

Drug lab busted in Manipur, heroin worth Rs 165 cr seized

Imphal: A joint operation by police and 26 Assam Rifles busted a heroin manufacturing laboratory at Manipur's Kangpokpi district and seized drugs worth Rs 165.172 crore in the international market. Though the area where the lab was found falls under Kangpokpi district, the police jurisdiction is of Thoubal Police. Security forces also ar-

rested two persons during the bust and seized equipment used in manufacturing the narcotics. Thoubal SP S lbomcha Singh said the lab was set up at the residence of one Ningkhagam Awungsii. In all, the seized items include 41.293 kg heroin, 10 litres of morphinated liquid, assorted chemicals and Rs. 2.8 lakh in cash, police said. **ENS**

WEST

Body parts of man found in suitcase at Mumbai beach

Mumbai: Chopped body parts of an unidentified man have been found stuffed in a suitcase at a beach in Mumbai, a police official said on Tuesday. Some passersby spotted the black suitcase floating on the waters at Mahim beach near Makhdoom Shah Baba shrine on Monday evening and alerted the police, who

rushed to the spot and seized the luggage bag, he said. The police found a hand detached from shoulder, part of a leg and private parts of a man in a plastic bag inside the suitcase, he said. Efforts were on to identify the deceased, the official said, adding that the police were scanning missing person complaints in the city and suburbs. **PTI**

SOUTH

Plea in HC against Sister Kalappura's autobiography

Kochi: A writ petition filed in the Kerala High Court Monday has sought an urgent stop to the publication and distribution of the autobiography of Sister Lucy Kalappura, the Catholic nun who was part of protests against rape-accused Jalandhar bishop Franco Mulakkal. The plea, submitted by Licia Joseph of the SMI Convent in Kalamassery in

Kochi, argued that Sr Kalappura's Malayalam-language book *Karthavinte Namathil* is "highly defamatory" to the clergy, nuns and the religious. It also alleged that Kalappura's autobiography is attempting to convey a wrong message that the present-day clergy and nuns violate the fundamental principles of Christian doctrine. **ENS**

Dhavan says 'sacked' by Jamiat from Ayodhya review plea, AIMPLB backs him

Board says senior advocate with us; Jamiat chief clarifies later: value his service, he represents us

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3



Rajeev Dhavan

FAULTLINES SEEM to have emerged among Muslim organisations over the fate of the Babri Masjid review petition and legal representation in the apex court.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who represented Muslim parties in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title case, on Tuesday said that he has been "sacked from the Babri case" by the advocate on record (AOR) representing Jamiat-ulama-i-Hind, a socio-religious organisation which has already filed a review petition in the case.

For much of the day, there was outrage within All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), which is expected to file its review on December 6, the anniversary of Babri Masjid demolition, over

the issue and even murmurs that Jamiat was "compromising" with the government.

In the evening, AIMPLB issued the statement praising Dhavan, calling his representation of the Muslim side in the Ayodhya case "unforgettable" and commending the "honesty" and "boldness" with which he fought the case. Advocate MR Shamshad, AOR for AIMPLB and other parties, said Dhavan will be "persuaded to continue to appear" in the case.

"He was a counsel for the Muslim community at large," he said.

In a statement, also in the evening, Jamiat president Arshad Madani also denied that Dhavan has been removed from the case and said, "We value his services and he continues to represent us."

On Tuesday morning, Dhavan posted on Facebook: "Just been sacked from the Babri case by AOR Ejaz Maqbool who was representing the Jamiat. Have sent formal letter accepting the 'sacking' without demur. No longer involved in the review or the case. I have been informed that Mr Madani has indicated that I was removed from the case because I was unwell. This is total nonsense. "He has a right to instruct his lawyer AOR Ejaz Maqbool to sack me, which he did on instructions. But the reason being floated is malicious and untrue."

In his statement later, Jamiat chief Madani said: "It is not true that we have decided to go without senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan. We value his services and he continues to represent us. Ejaz Maqbool was always the advocate on record, which is why he filed the petition but it is wrong to infer from this that we have sacked Rajeev Dhavan."

Stating that AIMPLB is "thankful" to Dhavan, the Board's general secretary, Maulana Wali Rehmani, said the senior advocate fought the case "with courage, honesty and sincerity in spite of threats against him. We are ready to file the review petition and he will lead us".

Calling Dhavan's services "unparalleled and unforgettable", the AIMPLB statement says: "The steadfastness, sincerity, courage with which he fought the case despite opposition of a section that criticised him and carried on a so-

cial media campaign against him...he remained steady in his pursuit and was never disturbed by all this. AIMPLB is thankful to him on behalf of the entire Muslim community and all those who are for peace and justice."

Sources in Jamiat said the date of filing the petition led to the falling out, with Dhavan insisting on going through the petition before it is filed and the organisation pushing for an early filing. By law, a review petition needs to be filed within a month of the judgment being pronounced, in this case November 9.

Without getting into the controversy over Dhavan, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind backed AIMPLB's decision to file a review petition. IJH also backed the AIMPLB's move to reject the 5 acres of land awarded by the apex court.

— WITH INPUTS FROM APURVA VISHWANATH

Pakistan troops shell residential areas along LoC; 2 killed, 7 injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, DECEMBER 3

TWO PEOPLE were killed and seven others injured at Bandi Chechian village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district after Pakistani troops resorted to heavy mortar shelling and small arms fire on residential areas along the Line of Control (LoC).

The deceased were identified as Gulnaz Akhtar (35) and Shohaib (16).

Local residents said the shelling was intense and Pakistani mortar shells were falling in the area as late as 5.30 pm. Police and Army personnel were evacuating the injured to the district hospital at Poonch, they said, adding that people were staying indoors in view of the cross-border shelling at Bandi Chechian, Shahpur, Kerni, Qasba and Noora Bandi along the LoC.

Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand said Pakistani troops initiated the ceasefire violation in Shahpur and Kerni sectors around 2.30 pm. The Indian troops were retaliating befittingly, he added.

Was aware Ajit, Fadnavis were in talks: Sharad Pawar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 3

IN A second big disclosure in two days, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said he was aware that party leader Ajit Pawar was in touch with Devendra Fadnavis even as he distanced himself from his nephew's sudden political move to join hands with the BJP on November 23.

Pawar had on Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed "working together" but he rejected the offer. Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar took oath on November 23 as chief minister and deputy chief minister, respectively, even though the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress had almost finalised their alliance and named Uddhav Thackeray as the CM candidate.

However, Ajit resigned on November 26, following which Fadnavis also quit, resulting in the collapse of the government that lasted for only 80 hours.

"I knew Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar were in talks, but the speculation that I was aware of Ajit's political move is wrong," Pawar told NDTV in an interview.

Pawar, however, appeared softening his stand vis-a-vis Ajit, saying the latter was unhappy over pace of discussions with Congress leaders for government formation and the "tussle" for sharing power. The former Union minister also said that he had



NCP chief Sharad Pawar at Parliament House. *Anil Sharma*

never thought of aligning with the Sena, which wears Hindutva on sleeve.

"We knew that serious differences cropped between the two pre-poll alliance partners (Shiv Sena and BJP after the Maharashtra poll results on October 24) and an understanding was not honoured. Sena was unhappy and we were watching the developments," he said.

Pawar, however, didn't clarify on which "understanding" he was referring to.

Sena president Uddhav Thackeray had accused Fadnavis and BJP of not honouring the "promise" made to his party on sharing the chief minister's post in new government.

"There were no talks with the Sena before elections. We were fighting against the Sena and the BJP. There was no question of associating with them," Pawar said.

PM's cabinet offer reflects magnanimity, but couldn't happen: Sule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

NCP MP Supriya Sule on Tuesday said she was humbled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's suggestion that she should be part of the Union Cabinet and it shows his "magnanimity", but she asserted that it cannot happen.

"I was not in the conversation (between NCP President Sharad Pawar and Modi). I thank the Prime Minister from the bottom of my heart to show such faith and confidence in me. I am totally humbled by what he has said. But Mr Pawar has categorically, very humbly told the Prime Minister that it is not possible," Sule told PTI.

Her remarks came after NCP President Sharad Pawar, in an interview to *ABP-Majha*, dismissed reports that the Modi government offered to make him President.

"But there was an offer to make Supriya (Sule) a minister in the Modi-led cabinet," Pawar had said.

Pawar had met the Prime Minister last month amid parleys between the NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena.

BJP leader: Pawar's disclosure on PM meet 'politically incorrect'

Mumbai: A day after Sharad Pawar revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, during their on November 20 meeting, told him that they should "work together", a BJP leader Tuesday said the NCP chief's disclosure about it was "politically incorrect".

Senior BJP leader Madhav Bhandari said, "The meeting between Modi and Pawar was held 15 days ago. What transpired between the two big leaders is best known to them. But the manner in which Pawar has made public the details is incorrect. It is not politically right as it does not give the real picture."

Bhandari said that had both Modi and Pawar together addressed the media together, it would have given the correct picture about the meeting. **ENS**

MP govt to build Ramleela stages in urban local bodies

MILIND GHATAI
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 3

THE CONGRESS government in Madhya Pradesh has announced that it will revive the old tradition of Ramleela across the state.

Urban Development and Housing Minister Jaivardhan Singh told *The Indian Express* that the government plans to ensure that a Ramleela stage is built in all 378 urban local bodies. He said he has asked the department to find areas where such stages and Ramleela mandlis exist.

The Kamal Nath government will build stages in all urban local bodies or refurbish them if they already exist.



The Kamal Nath government has also promised to build a Ram Van Gaman Path

building a Ramleela manch will not cost much for the government but it will do a lot to revive an old tradition that bound people together.

When asked if the ruling party was trying to shed its old image, Singh said a Ramleela takes place every year at Raghogarh, his family's ancestral town in Guna district, and it has nothing to do with politics or

EXPLAINED **Another Congress bid to shed its pro-minority image**

IN A bid to shed the pro-minority image thrust on it by the BJP, the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh has been making a conscious attempt to give the saffron party a handle to target it. From building gaushalas to allocating funds for temples to putting on the back burner a Bill to curb cow vigilantism, the Kamal Nath government has taken steps to avoid a backlash from Hindu outfits.

religion. Singh first made the announcement at Bareilly in Raisen district on the sidelines of the 'Aapki Sarkar Aapke Dwar' campaign.

"Staging of Ramleela is our old tradition. Keeping this iden-

on exile. The government has also promised to expand the Ramraja Mandir in Orchha and has started building gaushalas at government expense, while accusing the previous BJP government of paying lip service to the cause of cows and using it to further its political agenda.

The opposition BJP was not impressed.

"Given the infighting among minister and bureaucrats, the Congress government should instead build smaller stages for Mahabharat. The government should first answer what happened to the Ram Van Gaman Path that it promised to build and the announcement by senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh to give land in Bhopal for a Ram temple," said BJP spokesman Rahul Kochari.

ity and tradition alive is our common responsibility," he tweeted, adding that the government will bear the cost.

The Congress government has also promised to build a Ram Van Gaman Path to trace the route that Lord Ram took while

WEST BENGAL

Slated Bills yet to get Governor's nod, Assembly adjourned for 2 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 3

IN AN unprecedented development, West Bengal Speaker Biman Banerjee Tuesday adjourned the Assembly for two days, saying that the Bills, slated to be placed in the Assembly, were yet to get Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's approval.

"The House will be adjourned for two days (till December 5). The Bills, which were scheduled to be placed, won't be tabled as they are yet to receive the nod of the Governor. The House will again start the session from December 6 at 11 am," the Speaker said.

He added, "We had sent those Bills for printing, but can't



Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar

place them in the Assembly as they are yet to get the (Governor's) nod."

Within hours, the Governor reacted sharply to it, saying that the delay was not from his end, but from the department concerned, and termed the situation projected by the Speaker as "factually untenable".

A statement issued by Raj

Bhavan said, "The situation projected is factually untenable. There has been no delay in handling the legislative work in the Raj Bhavan. Highest priority is accorded. However, all issues are thoroughly gone into after due briefing from the Department. There is no delay whatsoever at the end of the Hon'ble Governor in dealing with Legislative work."

As per the established norms, after the Cabinet approves the draft Bill, it is vetted by the state Law Department, and once approved it is sent to Governor for his nod. Once the Governor is satisfied that the Bill does not infringe the Union list or any Central laws, the ascent is given to for the Bill to be tabled in the Assembly.

LOWER THAN MURDER

32% conviction rate in rape cases: NCRB

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

NOTWITHSTANDING THE rising incidence of sexual assault on women, the conviction rate in rape cases is as low as 32.2 per cent at the national level, according to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The report 'Crime in India - 2017' also shows that the conviction rate was even lower in metropolitan cities (27.2 per cent) in 2017, the reference year for which the latest data is available. It shows delay in completion of trial in rape cases, and that conviction rate in cases of rape is even lower than that in cases of murder.

In 2017, at the national level, the total number of rape cases for trial was 1,46,201 but only 5,822 cases resulted in conviction. The conviction rate in rape cases in 2017 was just 32.2 per cent while it was 43.1 per cent in cases of murder.

What is more worrying is that the conviction rate in rape cases has increased marginally in recent years but chargesheeting rate has gone down. Data in the NCRB report show that



A protest in Mumbai against the Hyderabad rape and murder. Ganesh Shirsekar

DISPOSAL OF IPC CASES BY POLICE, COURT

Year	Total cases for Investigation	Chargesheeting rate	Cases for trial	Ending in conviction	Conviction rate
2017	46,984	86.6%	1,46,201	5,822	32.2%
2016	55,071	87.6%	1,52,165	4,739	25.5%
2015	50,509	96.1%	1,37,458	5,514	29.4%
2014	51,623	95.6%	1,25,431	4,944	28%
2013	47,457	95.4%	1,14,785	5,101	27.1%

chargesheeting rate in rape cases has come down to 86.6 per cent in 2017 from 95.4 per cent in

2013. In 2017, a total of 1,46,201 rape cases were in trail, of which

trial in only 18,333 cases were disposed of by courts. Of the total 18,099 rape cases where trial

was completed in 2017, only 5,822 cases resulted in conviction while 1,145 cases resulted in acquittal and 824 cases in discharge.

Significantly, a total of 28,750 rape cases were sent for trial during 2017, but only 3.5 per cent — 1,010 cases — resulted in conviction.

Out of the 1,27,868 rape cases pending trial in 2017 in the country, every third case was older than three years. Moreover, 12,216 rape case trials are pending for more than five years, and 1,840 rape case trials are pending for more than 10 years.

The NCRB started collecting data on rape cases since 1971. The data show that the number of rape cases increased from 2,487 in 1971 to 32,559 in 2017 — an increase of 1,209 per cent.

In 2017, majority of cases under crimes against women out of the total IPC crimes against women were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives' (33.2%), followed by 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (27.3%), 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (21%) and 'Rape' (10.3%), says the report.

Many states yet to utilise Nirbhaya Funds, govt figures show

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

ACCORDING TO the latest figures released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, five states — Maharashtra, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura and Meghalaya — have not utilised any of the funds released to them by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to implement schemes to enhance the safety of women in their states. Daman and Diu also did not utilise its MHA funds.

The funds had been released under the Nirbhaya Fund scheme, a Rs 3,100-crore corpus set up and announced in the 2013 Union budget by then finance minister P Chidambaram.

While the Nirbhaya Fund envisages dedicated budgets for infrastructure and technology development by various ministries aimed at enhancing the security of women, the WCD Ministry is the nodal agency for the disbursement of these funds.

Central ministries and departments as well as state governments and agencies submit proposals to the WCD Ministry, which sanctions the funds. The figures

for the utilisation of the Nirbhaya Fund were tabled in the Winter Session of Lok Sabha.

Delhi has utilised only Rs 1941.57 lakh of the Rs 39,090.12 lakh allotted to it — the highest allotment made by the ministry to any state.

Telangana, where the rape and murder of a veterinarian last week led to a national uproar, utilised a meagre Rs 419 lakh of the Rs 10,351.88 lakh allotted to it to put in place measures for women's safety.

None of the funds allotted by the Department of Justice to 11 states have been used. The DoJ had released funds to Jharkhand (Rs 495 lakh), Karnataka (Rs 697.5 lakh), Kerala (Rs 630 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (Rs 1507.5 lakh), Maharashtra (Rs 3105 lakh), Manipur (Rs 67.5 lakh), Nagaland (Rs 33.75 lakh), Odisha (Rs 540 lakh), Rajasthan (Rs 585 lakh), Tripura (Rs 101.25 lakh) and Uttarakhand (Rs 135 lakh).

Seven states — Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand — have not utilised any of the funds released by the WCD Ministry.



At Parliament complex. PTI

Harsimrat: Rape verdict must be pronounced in as many months as victim's age

New Delhi: Deploing the rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad, Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Tuesday said that the verdict in rape cases should be pronounced in as many months as the age of the victim and convicts should not be allowed to file mercy petitions.

Badal said that once death penalty has been awarded, there should not be any scope for filing a mercy petition.

Stressing the importance of speedy trial and severe punishment, she said, "I urge the government that in rape cases, judgment should be pronounced in the number of months equivalent to the age of the victim. So if the victim is 20 years old, the trial should be concluded in 20 months." PTI

Andhra, Telangana DGPs direct all police stations to file zero FIRs

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 3

THE DIRECTORS General of Police of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have issued directions to all police stations in their respective states to register an FIR when a person walks in with a complaint, irrespective of jurisdiction.

These complaints, called 'zero FIRs', can be registered by any police station when a complainant approaches them for a cognizable offence, irrespective of the jurisdiction, and they can immediately inform their counterparts in the appropriate police station while initiating action themselves.

The decision by both states comes after a 27-year-old veterinarian was gangraped and killed and her body was set on fire by four persons in Shamshabad area on the outskirts of Hyderabad on November 27. Family members of the veterinarian have said that had the police taken note of their complaint, she may have been saved. In a circular issued on

December 2, Andhra DGP Gautam Sawang stated, "It is observed that when public are approaching the police stations for registration of their cases, often they are being directed to go to the other police station on point of territorial jurisdiction which is not correct."

The circular states that there are specific directions on registration of FIR in the police station:

■ Even if the alleged offence has been committed outside the territorial jurisdiction of the police station, an FIR shall be registered and the same shall be transferred to the appropriate police station.

■ The police officers should be clearly informed that failure to comply with the direction of registration of FIR and a receipt of information about cognizable offence may invite prosecution of the police officer under section 166-A of IPC and it may also invite departmental action against them.

Telangana DGP Mahender Reddy also issued a similar circular.

If stranded between 9 pm and 6 am, women can call Punjab Police for drop home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 3

PUNJAB POLICE will help drop women home safely if they are stranded outside between 9 pm and 6 am, CM Amarinder Singh announced on Tuesday.

He said the state-wide facility will be available on DIAL 100, 112 and 181, through which the woman caller will be connected immediately to the Police Control Room (PCR). The Chief Minister has directed DGP Dinkar Gupta to ensure the implementation of the facility across the state.

The pick-up and drop facility

will be available to women who do not have access to a safe vehicle, including taxi or 3-wheeler. To give the woman caller a sense of total security, the Chief Minister has directed that at least one woman police officer should accompany her during the transportation.

Dedicated PCR vehicles will be made available at the Commissionerates, as well as Mohali, Patiala and Bathinda and other major towns in the state, for the implementation of the scheme, said the DGP.

The DSP/ACP (Crime Against Women) will be the Nodal Officer to implement the scheme in each district.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CABINET SECRETARIAT NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION

It is notified for general information of all the applicants that the Advertisement No. 1/19 published in Employment News on 27/07/2019-02/08/2019 and other leading newspapers on 27/07/2019 inviting applications for direct recruitment to the post of Interpreter to fill a total of 11 vacancies in 5 different languages {Persian(02), Arabic(02), Pushto(01), Chinese(05) & Korean(01)} for which written examination was scheduled for 08/12/2019, has been cancelled due to administrative reasons.

DAVP/58101/11/0038/1920

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः । न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः॥

International Gita Mahotsav
November 23 - December 10, 2019
Kurukshetra, Haryana

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER	THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER	FRIDAY, 6 DECEMBER
10:00 AM Senate Hall, Kurukshetra University International Gita Seminar	10:00 AM Senate Hall, Kurukshetra University Valedictory Session of International Gita Seminar	10:30 AM Jyotisar - The Birthplace of Gita Complete Recital of Srimadbhagavadgita by Devotees
11:00 AM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Programme by Artists of North Zone Cultural Centre	10:30 AM Jyotisar - The Birthplace of Gita Gita Paath	11:00 AM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Performance by Multi Art Cultural Centre
5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Rashmirathi - Cultural Performance & Krishna Leela by Renowned Film Actress Ameesha Patel	11:00 AM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Programme by Kurukshetra University	5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Bhajan Performance and Performance by Renowned Singer Daler Mehndi
5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show	5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Bhajan Performance & Performance by Renowned Singer Daler Mehndi	5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show
6:00 PM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Maha Aarti & Bhajan Sandhya	5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show	6:00 PM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Maha Aarti & Bhajan Sandhya
	6:00 PM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Maha Aarti & Bhajan Sandhya	
SATURDAY, 7 DECEMBER	SUNDAY, 8 DECEMBER	
10:30 AM Jyotisar - The Birthplace of Gita Complete Recital of Srimadbhagavadgita by Devotees	10:00 AM Jyotisar - The Birthplace of Gita Gita Yajna	
11:00 AM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Programme by Department of Art & Cultural Affairs, Haryana	10:00 AM Theme Park, Kurukshetra Recital of Ashdash Shloki Gita by 18,000 Students	
2:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Sant Sammelan	11:00 AM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Programme by North Zone Cultural Centre	
5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Sajda - An Event of Poetry & Live Music & Performance by Renowned Singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya	12:00 Noon Theme Park and Jyotisar Tirth Global Gita Chanting	
5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show	2:00 PM In front of KDB Office (Departure Venue) Gita Shobha Yatra	
6:00 PM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Maha Aarti & Bhajan Sandhya	5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Vrindavan Phoolon ki Holi - Cultural Performance & Performance by Renowned Punjabi Singer Satinder Sartaaaj	
	5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show	
	6:00 PM Purushottampura Baag, Brahma Sarovar Gita Maha Aarti and Deepdaan	

Phone: +911744-270187, 259505, 251288 | e-Mail: kdbkkr@gmail.com, Website: www.48koskurukshetra.com

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in



WORDLY WISE
GRAMMAR, WHICH KNOWS HOW TO
CONTROL EVEN KINGS.
— MOLIÈRE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

When the court kowtowed

For a while, it was Supreme Court vs PM in Pakistan.
But in the end, court was kind to Imran Khan



KHALED AHMED

SERIOUSLY ILL EX-PRIME Minister Nawaz Sharif, in prison for corruption, was allowed by Prime Minister Imran Khan to go to the UK for treatment. Soon, however, Khan started fearing a backlash from his supporters on the Pakistani street and took to criticising the judiciary for letting Sharif go. He had allowed the ex-PM to leave provided he sign an indemnity bond of Rs 7.5 billion as guarantee for his return. But a high court decision ruled this out and Sharif flew out to London. Khan, in reaction, lost his cool and publicly rebuked the chief justice of Pakistan for not making justice "even-handed" in the country.

This led to a tiff between the executive and the judiciary. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Asif Saeed Khosa, in a televised reprimand, reminded the PM that he had himself okayed Sharif's journey; only the high court had disallowed the indemnity bond. He asked Khan "to be careful". This was in November. But Khan had notified an extension of three years in Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's service due to end the same month. The chief justice must have known the dubious nature of this extension when reprimanding him.

The three-year "extension" given to General Bajwa was challenged at the Supreme Court by an eccentric lawyer of Rawalpindi who had been censured repeatedly in the past by the court for "frivolous litigation". Lawyer Riaz Rahi tried to withdraw his plaint at the last minute but the Supreme Court refused to let the matter go. Now it was the Supreme Court vs Prime Minister. The notification of extension to General Bajwa was found to be against the rule that ordained that the said notification be made public by the president after being recommended by the PM.

What followed was farcical. The notification was rewritten and forwarded to President Arif Alvi, who hurriedly signed it and made it public. This time, the court found fault not with the procedure but in the law. Rule 225 of the Pakistan Army Act of 1956 did not contain the clause that would enable extension to an army chief retiring at the designated age of 60.

It appears that the Khan government in general, and his Law Minister Senator Farogh Naseem in particular, were not aware that

army regulations simply had no mention of "extension" to be applied after the three-year tenure of the army chief; it also did not allow the extension to stretch for three years, which would have meant annulment of the right of the next senior-most officer to be appointed as chief. The court studied the amended notification and applied another humiliating reprimand to the government for not knowing that "extension" was simply not mentioned in the Army Rules. When this happened in court, Pakistan became aware — for the first time, it seemed — that the army chiefs who got extensions in power were ultra vires of the law.

Khan's ministers came on TV to say that in case there is no clear law allowing a practice then practice itself became what they called "convention" — but that cut no ice with a rather voluble court whose insulting reprimands to the PM's bureaucracy and cabinet were daily heard on the TV news. Three drafts laboriously composed by the government thereafter were ridiculed by the court on November 26 and rejected with the advice that the law under which the extension could be given was to be enacted first. There was much fluttering in the dovecots after that because General Bajwa was to retire at the midnight hour of November 29.

Why did PM Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government not think of studying the law before composing the "extension" order for General Bajwa? An easy explanation is that no one in Pakistan will challenge anything thought to be ordained by the army. Elected PMs have to work hard to complete their constitutionally ordained five years in power. They are usually overthrown prematurely followed by a general who normally takes a decade in power before low IQ, if anything, brings about his downfall. Before General Bajwa, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani had been given his three years by a PPP government without there being much of a storm in the country's teacup.

General Kayani's tenure had been "extended" by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2012, because Kayani had "helped Benazir Bhutto return to Pakistan after a period of exile" and had persuaded his boss General Pervez Musharraf to change his view on the sub-

ject. A wheedling President Zardari had opined that "General Kayani's extension strengthened my government as well as the parliament". Finally, when General Kayani left at the end of his extension, a smear campaign described him as "buying a ranch in Australia before migrating there". He, however, went enveloped in the familiar odour of corruption clinging to most usurping generals in Pakistan.

But Kayani's extension was challenged too. The petitioner was none other than convener of an ex-servicemen's legal forum, Colonel (ret'd) Inam-ur-Rehman, who said to the high court in Islamabad: "The Forum is of the opinion that the extension given to the army chief is immoral and unconstitutional because there is no provision for it in the Pakistan Army Act of 1956 and in the rules under which an extension of complete tenure could be granted to any person subject to the Army Act." What was the court's reaction to the petition? Daily Dawn noted: "Chief Justice Iqbal Hameedur Rahman has directed the petitioner to satisfy the court about his locus standi (being aggrieved) and to submit copies of relevant documents annexed with the petition and adjourned the hearing." The case petered out, as was expected. Imran Khan, then agitating against the "corrupt" governments in power, had opposed the Kayani extension, saying extensions weakened institutions.

Was the court kind to Imran Khan, in the end? Yes it was. It allowed the extension but only after the required laws for it had been passed; and gave General Bajwa six months of free passage which will be "regularised" after the needed laws are in force. Imran Khan was beholden to him for the 2018 election which he won amid rumours that the deep state had "fixed" the polls. The current Interior Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Ijaz Shah is said to have actually helped stage Khan's famous sit-in in Islamabad in 2014 from his privileged position inside the army's powerful ISI. And Khan has returned the favour by declining to prosecute Shah's close friend, the exiled ex-army chief General Musharraf, for treason.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

THE ABDICATION

Legislators' call for mob-like justice for sexual assault is a symptom of their own failure — to frame problem, find answers

EVERY DAY, MILLIONS of Indian women confront the possibility of sexual violence at home and in the wider world. It shapes their gait on streets and their silence in bedrooms, it decides the jobs they can and cannot do, and the limits of liberty they set for themselves. It makes them doubly vulnerable to caste and class impunity; it makes them fall in line. Those brave enough to seek justice often end up doubly violated by the police and judicial processes. What would these women hear if they turned to Parliament? A wail of bloodthirst that periodically — and cynically — passes itself off as an answer to endemic violence.

In the Rajya Sabha, Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan, while expressing her anguish about the gang rape and murder of a vet in Hyderabad, proposed that the accused "should be brought out in public and lynched". Justice, if it can still be so called, was reimagined in no less gory terms by P Wilson, a legislator from the DMK, who suggested surgical and chemical castration for rape convicts. Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu wondered aloud if the country should consider changes to the legal system that walled off any possibility for "mercy or appeal" to those punished for rape. In the Lok Sabha, Trinamool MP Saugata Roy asked for laws that make rape punishable "only by death sentence". Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed the government's openness to making stringent laws more stringent. In the Delhi assembly, too, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal spoke in favour of hanging rape culprits "within six months". A charitable view of this disturbing desire in legislators for "instant, on the spot" mob-like justice could be that it is an expression of their helplessness in dealing with sexual crime. But more realistically, it is law-making that is abdicating its responsibilities for making considered, sober interventions in public life. Instead, it is channelling the worst of society's instincts.

Sexual violence and assault on women do not take place in a comic-book world of "lynch-worthy" bad guys and the Hangman as saviour. It is seeded in homes and societies, in grossly unequal power relationships, in the imagination of sex and desire that shuttles between the extremes of repression and rape videos. It gets its vicious velocity from existing caste and religious inequalities. It makes it easy to bay for blood when poor men are accused of the crime and easier to fall silent when the victim is a Dalit or the accused a religious head. The Justice Verma Committee, which submitted its report in the aftermath of the December 2012 anti-rape protests, argued that the state's role was not to fashion more stringent punishment — and definitely not the death penalty — but to work towards creating cities and public places that make space for women, and justice systems that assure effective punishment, whatever the quantum. Since 2012, the political class as well as many institutions, from the judiciary to the media, have only faltered in addressing the patriarchal inequality inscribed in daily life. The women, who set out every day, on lonely toll plazas, and to hostile workplaces, against all odds, deserve better answers.

A TURNING POINT

Tariff hikes are not sufficient for telecom sector's sustainability. Government must re-examine its approach

ON SUNDAY, MAJOR telecom operators announced tariff hikes in the range of 15 to 40 per cent across different plans, marking an end to the brutal price war that has bled the incumbents dry. For Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, the new tariffs will come into effect on December 3, while for Jio, the hikes will be effective from December 6. This decision, which comes against the backdrop of both Bharti and Vodafone Idea reporting massive losses in the second quarter, after the Supreme Court upheld the government's position on what constitutes adjusted gross revenue (AGR), could potentially mark a turning point in the fortunes of the beleaguered sector.

That tariff hikes were inevitable is beyond debate. Failure to do so would have further weakened incumbents, increasing the possibility of a duopoly with a weak second player. Statements by telcos which indicated that liquidation was the only option, unless the government eases off demands for spectrum fees, underline the seriousness of this scenario playing out. Developments over the past years — both the manner in which a price war that bled incumbents was unleashed and the seemingly coordinated manner in which the tariffs have been hiked — raise questions. They call for closer supervision of an already over-regulated sector to ensure that healthy competition exists, not the mere semblance of it.

Tariff hikes alone are unlikely to be sufficient for long-term sustainable growth. The government needs to reexamine its approach towards the sector which is driven purely by considerations of revenue maximisation. While a cash strapped government will welcome any additional revenue, sticking to its position on what constitutes AGR in the Supreme Court has grave consequences for the sector's health. The government has tried to soften the blow by announcing a two-year moratorium for telcos in making their spectrum payment for past auctions. While this would positively impact telcos' cash flow in the short run, it alone is not enough. The current situation calls for an overhaul of the current licensing regime. Telcos have filed a review petition against the Court's order on AGR seeking waiver of penalties and interest. One step towards restoring the health of the sector would be for the government to give up its demand of interest and penalties. It should also reconsider lowering the licence fees, and rethink its stance on spectrum pricing.

CANT! WONT!

Acknowledging that the world doesn't give a tinker's cuss, the Apostrophe Protection Society has downed its shutter's

AT THE AGE of 96, the keeper of faith in the apostrophe has admitted defeat to public apathy. John Richards of the UK, who founded the Apostrophe Protection Society in 2001, has bowed to the superior force of "ignorance and laziness". Never mind they got off to a good start, winning the Ig Nobel for "efforts to protect, promote and defend the differences between plural and possessive". And they've shown more stamina than the movement to put the 'e' back in 'judgment'. More's the pity. Mores the pity? Why not, it looks neater.

Fooling with the apostrophe, which has governed possessives like 'Waterstone's' and contractions and elisions like 'mustn't' since 1496, is sometimes deliberate. The bookseller Waterstone's became Waterstones because according to the grammar of design (yes, such a thing exists, and it is quite implacable in action), shop signs and logos look nicer without that fiddly little character rearing up off the baseline. Harrods and Selfridges, too, have dropped it. And generally speaking, the English are deplorably prone to misplace their apostrophes in place names involving saints — St Johns, St Annes and so on.

Besides, the march of technology leaves ignorance and laziness eating dust. Consider the dreadful pidgin incubated by Twitter's restrictions on the length of a message. F u cn gt away wid dis, you would ruthlessly shoulder apostrophes aside. A few years ago, there was widespread outrage when Tim Berners-Lee, father of the World Wide Web, admitted that the second forward slash in http:// was redundant. Millions complained about needless damage to their carpal tunnels. Now that Richards' society has closed down, millions more may gaze irritably at the apostrophe key. Wouldnt you?



MANISH TEWARI

AIR POLLUTION, NOW a public health emergency, is not a problem unique to Delhi. As per the World Health Organisation, 14 of the 15 most polluted cities in the world are in India. Nearly all of them are in the Indo-Gangetic Plain — in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana. However, air pollution goes beyond state borders and political divisions. Reflecting the seriousness of the issue, the country recently witnessed both Houses of Parliament deliberating on air quality and climate change at length. This recognition by Parliament has been long overdue and is welcome.

Let us first raise an obvious question. When air pollution touches these severe levels every year in Delhi and other cities like clockwork, why must the Supreme Court give instructions on what steps the Union or state governments need to take? It is because the elected government did not take adequate steps. It is because the legislature did not raise its voice. The courts, often blamed for their activism, have only filled up the void left by an indifferent political executive.

Many cities in the world have experienced high pollution levels, and have made substantial progress with sustained effort. Beijing is a case in point, which adopted an intensive air pollution control strategy in 2013 — by the end of 2017, levels of dangerous fine particulate matter (PM2.5) had reduced by 35 per cent. As per a report by Climate and Clean Air Coalition, "most of this reduction came from

WHO'S TAKING OUR BREATH AWAY?

Tackling air pollution requires a holistic approach, not scapegoating farmers

When air pollution touches these severe levels every year in Delhi and other cities like clockwork, why must the Supreme Court give instructions on what steps the Union or state governments need to take? It is because the elected government did not take adequate steps. It is because the legislature did not raise its voice. The courts, often blamed for their activism, have only filled up the void left by an indifferent political executive.

measures to control coal-fired boilers, providing cleaner domestic fuels and industrial restructuring". If Beijing and other cities across the world affected by pollution can make such progress, why do we lack the intent or the resources to do the same?

In January 2019, the Union government launched the well-intentioned National Clean Air Programme, but provided a financial outlay of merely Rs 300 crore. This paltry funding will not clean the air in our country. The Centre needs to back announcements of action plans with funding that is proportionate to the magnitude of the problem, especially when states like Punjab are bereft of funds.

Like in Beijing, the government needs to take greater strides in controlling emissions from large sources like industries and power plants burning coal, and not dither from enforcing pollution norms within clear and aggressive timelines. Within Delhi-NCR, there are 10 thermal power plants that are yet to comply with the environment ministry's standards from 2015, despite the deadline of December 2019, barely weeks away.

It is also important to strengthen the Air Act of 1981. The Act should better reflect the impact of air pollution on public health and empower pollution control agencies with teeth and resources. Further, a new standing committee for air pollution and climate change should be created to facilitate regular parliamentary oversight on policy efforts.

Finally, we need to ensure that we tackle each of the major sources of air pollution, including sources like motor vehicles, industries, power plants, brick kilns, municipal waste burning and construction dust. Endlessly blaming stubble-burning from the neighbouring regions for Delhi's air pollution will not serve any purpose. They must be provided adequate financial incentives to manage the stubble that remains after harvesting. If we treat voiceless farmers as criminals, you support neither Indian farmers nor Indian agriculture. As a representative from Punjab, it was heartening to see MPs across party lines, in both Houses, agree that while stubble burning is an important episodic source of air pollution, there is absolutely no justification to make farmers scapegoats for the failure to address other major sources of air pollution.

Fittingly, the Lok Sabha debate on air pollution and climate change fell on the 102nd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Long before these issues became fashionable, she had made an impassioned speech at the 1972 Stockholm summit on the deep linkages between environmental protection and poverty alleviation. We need that kind of visionary leadership and political commitment if we are to deal with the public health emergency that is air pollution.

The writer is an MP and Congress spokesperson. Views are personal



DECEMBER 4, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

ELECTION NOMINATIONS
PRIME MINISTER CHARAN Singh and Mrs Indira Gandhi were among the first to enter the poll arena as nominations opened in 542 parliamentary constituencies for the seventh general election. Singh filed his nomination papers in the Baghpat constituency of Uttar Pradesh while Mrs Gandhi did so in the Rae Bareilly constituency that rejected her the last time. The other prominent leaders who filed their nominations on the first day included Karan Singh, C M Stephen and N G Goray.

JANATA-MNF ALLIANCE
THE RULING LOK Dal-Congress alliance received another setback with the communi-

cations minister, Zulfikarulla, announcing his decision to resign from the caretaker cabinet following an alliance between the Muslim National Front and the Janata Party today. Jagjivan Ram announced the Janata Party's alliance with the Muslim National Front, which includes the Muslim Majlis and the Muslim League.

UP ENGINEERS' STRIKE
THERE WAS NO change in the strike situation despite the president of the Power Engineers' Association having been won over by the state government. The announcement of the withdrawal of the strike by the president, through governmental sources, created

a confusion among the engineers. But subsequently, the striking engineers decided to continue their agitation till there was a negotiated settlement with the government and the state electricity board. The striking engineers offered themselves for arrest but the authorities refused to arrest them, apparently to give credence to the government version that the strike was fizzling out.

DHYAN CHAND DIES
HOCKEY WIZARD DHYAN Chand, who had delighted the world for over three decades with his brilliant stickwork, passed away at 4:25 a.m. at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi. He was 74.

15 THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

In the middle of an election campaign there is the inevitable temptation for politicians to say whatever they think will burnish their reputation. Over the weekend, in the wake of the attack, Boris Johnson vowed to end early release for terrorists. —THE INDEPENDENT

Between the lines of a survey

Surveys measuring the impact of government programmes have become less reliable — Respondents deny receiving benefits in the hope that they may avail of them again



PRAVIN SRIVASTAVA AND PARAMESWARAN IYER

“THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY” has always been among the most preferred and reliable tools to collect authentic information on almost anything — who has access to what facilities, which brands are better than others and everything in between. After all, what better way can one arrive at what a person has, wants or feels than just asking the person, right? Wrong.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been conducting large-scale and nationally-representative sample surveys, which rely on soliciting information from respondents through canvassing by field enumerators of the National Sample Survey. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) also has some experience in running large sanitation surveys over the past few years. In our combined experience, we have observed that over the past few years, the responses received during some of these large surveys are not always realistic. This is especially true when we attempt to gauge access to services for which there are ongoing and popular government schemes which are linked to monetary or other benefits like subsidised food, free clean cooking fuel, housing or sanitation infrastructure. The respondents are not always truthful, and seem to want to conceal the extent of benefits that they have received. But why?

It all boils down to basic behavioural economics. Although field enumerators attempt to elicit genuine responses, people respond favourably to incentives, either direct or perceived. A genuine response based on a sense of nationalism is diminishing.

When a person is asked a question about whether or not he or she has access to a facility that the government has promised to provide, there is an inherent incentive to deny having access to or receiving a benefit for the facility, in a hope that this may allow him or her to receive the benefit of the scheme again. This is even more relevant if the people have seen the actual delivery of the promised benefits for themselves, their kin or neighbour. In the past, when government schemes were more on paper and less on the ground, the incentive to conceal was lower, and would usually fit the acceptable margin of error in surveys. But today, when the benefits of government schemes are actually reaching the intended beneficiaries much more than ever before, the incentive to deny having facilities is at its highest. On the contrary, what does the household gain by acknowledging that it in fact does have access to the facility? Nothing.

We are not the first to be speaking of this phenomenon. Recent articles by columnist Swaminathan Aiyar and academic Neeraj Kaushal have also alluded to this deliberate respondent bias in many national surveys. Both our ministries, however, have experienced this play out first hand. In 2017-18, the DDWS commissioned the Quality Council of India to conduct a national survey on access to sanitation facilities. The QCI did a round of basic training of their field enumerators — typically local youth from the region to be surveyed, before starting the survey of 1.4 lakh randomly selected households. Midway through this exercise, they found that the numbers on access to toilets reported during the survey in some states in North India were significantly lower than the administrative



CR Sasikumar

records. They brought the findings to DDWS and decided to send some senior, well-trained enumerators to re-verify if the situation on the ground was really the way it was being reported.

And so, with a fresh round of training, a small group of senior enumerators from the QCI team went back to some of the villages and visited the same households. It is during this exercise that they found clear evidence of the inherent respondent bias during surveys. Many households denied having a toilet, but upon further probing and on convincing them that the findings of the ongoing survey would have no bearing on whether or not they received the government benefit for a toilet, most of them accepted that they in fact did have access to a toilet. Some had a toilet within their household premises, some had it as far as 100 meters away from their home which no enumerator would have known about! The re-survey team returned with photographs of these toilets, and in some villages the number of toilets were more than twice the initial estimate.

This exercise taught us two very important lessons. One, there is no incentive for people to correctly report their well-being during a survey, especially if there are specific ongoing government schemes to provide products and services. In fact, there is a clear incentive to under-report in such circumstances. And two, the enumerators may not have the capacity or the commitment to probe for genuine responses. More often than not, they will simply accept the first response that the household gives and are not trained to extract the facts. If we are serious about soliciting genuine responses, we need to invest a lot more time and effort to train our enumerators to probe for the truth.

The recently released report of the 76th

In the past, when government schemes were more on paper and less on the ground, the incentive to conceal was lower, and would usually fit the acceptable margin of error in surveys. But today, when the benefits of government schemes are actually reaching the intended beneficiaries much more than ever before, the incentive to deny having facilities is at its highest. On the contrary, what does the household gain by acknowledging that it in fact does have access to the facility? Nothing.

Round of NSS on “Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Condition” recognises this problem of deliberate under-reporting and mentions it in the report alongside the results. In this particular case, the under-reporting may have been accentuated even more as the survey also had a question on whether the household has received a benefit for toilets in the past three years. One can safely conclude that the moment a question on benefits received from the government for sanitation was asked, it would have conjured up an image of the Rs12,000 financial incentive linked to a toilet in the mind of the respondent, and this would have likely influenced the response itself, irrespective of what the reality on the ground was. There may also be a need for greater sensitisation of respondents to faithfully report information as responsible citizens, on the assurance that confidentiality of the data reported is maintained.

The MoSPI is committed to further improving the quality of data that it collects and presents and has made it an integral component in its Vision Document. It has also engaged with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to design skill training courses for survey enumerators, supervisors and data quality personnel who could then be used for such surveys. In addition, the MoSPI is evolving contemporary instruments and tools to better capture information and reduce respondent bias. It will take time for these efforts to bear fruit.

Srivastava is secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and chief statistician to the Government of India. Iyer is secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Views expressed are personal

An Ayodhya story, from 1857

A lesser-known narrative of the holy city — and the dispute



ANAND PATWARDHAN

DURING THE MAKING of *Ram Ke Naam*, we had followed L K Advani’s air-conditioned Toyota truck, dressed up by a Bollywood set designer to resemble Lord Ram’s war chariot. The rath yatra traversed the Indian countryside, whipping up Hindu frenzy to build a Ram temple on the exact location of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya. In the wake of their anti-Muslim slogans, clashes erupted all along the route and many were killed. Finally, Advani was arrested in Bihar and the rath yatra halted, but kar sevaks continued on to Ayodhya for their day of action on October 30, 1990.

The entrance of the Babri Masjid bore an inscription that it was built by Mir Baqi, commander of the Mughal emperor Babur in 1528. Up to this point in time, the Valmiki Ramayana was known only to scholars and priests who knew Sanskrit and Lord Ram was not a popular deity. Later, in the 16th century, Tulsidas composed his *Ramcharitmanas* in the Awadhi dialect of Hindi, making his Ramayana accessible to ordinary people for the very first time. For his efforts, Tulsidas, a poor Brahmin orphan, was attacked by the Brahmin orthodox and is said to have taken refuge in mosques to write his epic. During the reign of Emperor Akbar, as Tulsidas’s *Ramcharitmanas* became popular through recitals and folk performances known as Ram Leelas, Ram temples began to be built.

Our two-person film crew had reached Ayodhya well before the arrival of the kar sevaks in October 1990. We found more than 20 temples there that claimed to be Lord Ram’s birthplace — as this would attract more pilgrims and donations. A point to note is: Tulsidas, who often stayed in Ayodhya, never mentions in his epic or anywhere else that a temple marking the birthplace of Lord Ram had just been demolished by Babur. In fact, the temple-mosque controversy would not begin for another 300 years! The Supreme Court states that the earliest record of Hindu-Muslim clashes around the disputed site was marked by the British colonial power in 1856-57, when it erected a six-foot brick wall dividing the site to grant the inner portion of the mosque to Muslims and the outer portion to Hindus. Why does the year 1857 ring a bell? Because it also marks the First War of Independence (named the Great Mutiny by the British), when Hindus and Muslims heroically united and almost defeated the British. In other words, even

as Hindus and Muslims joined hands in the battlefield to oust the British, the latter found it convenient to stoke a potential religious conflict in Ayodhya.

The Supreme Court does not seem alerted by the date, 1857, or by the conflict-creating role of the British, nor does it go into the reasons why the conflict did not take root. Records show that back in 1856-57, Hindus led by Baba Ram Charan Das and Muslims led by a local Muslim landlord of Ayodhya, Achhan Khan, decided to maintain communal harmony and made a pact to pray within the temple-mosque site in two demarcated portions. This harmony remained unbroken till December 23, 1949. That is when Hindu miscreants broke into the Babri mosque at night and installed Ram idols there. As filmmakers, we recorded the evidence of one of those miscreants who personally installed the idols in the mosque citing a dream in which Lord Ram appeared to him as well as his other accomplices. He was jailed for his act but soon released on bail. Years later, Vishwa Hindu Parishad made, and widely distributed, a video depicting multiple images of a baby boy dressed as Ram “miraculously” appearing inside the mosque. The local district magistrate, K K Nayar, refused to remove the idols citing “law and order” reasons. He later joined the Jana Sangh (the precursor to the BJP) and became a Member of Parliament. The Court barred Muslims from the mosque after 1949 but appointed a series of Hindu priests to conduct prayers in one section. We interviewed the most famous of these priests, Pujari Laldas, who expressed great sorrow after the first attack on the mosque on October 30. He stated that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and RSS elements had never prayed at the Ram temple and the entire campaign was run purely for money and political power, and also cited many examples of corruption in the name of religion.

On December 6, 1992, with the BJP in power in UP, Hindu militants destroyed the Babri Mosque. Many Muslims in the region were killed including the son of the Imam who had last offered prayers at the Babri Mosque in 1949. A year later, Laldas was found murdered. There is another telling footnote to this story: Achhan Khan and Baba Ram Charan Das, who had forged the unity that allowed Hindus and Muslims to pray in harmony within the Babri compound for almost a hundred years, were charged with sedition by the British after the defeat of the freedom struggle of 1857. Both were hanged. On November 9, 2019, those who had demolished our national monument, effectively causing the deaths of thousands across the Subcontinent, were legally granted the very objective of their crime. Secular democracy was finally laid to rest.

The writer is a documentary filmmaker

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RIDING HIGH SEAS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A new mould for Mauritius’ (IE, December 3). The island nations in the Western Indian Ocean are going to play a very significant part in India’s vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The process of commissioning coastal surveillance radar systems and listening ports in the sub-region is extremely critical to our security architecture. The 2018 Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the IOR is a significant document in which France, a major power with a long-standing strategic presence in the sub-region, has called for closer engagement between India and the Indian Ocean Commission.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

A LONG HAUL

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘All’s not well with secularism’ (IE, December 3). In a plural society such as India, the concept of secularism will always remain foggy to those that do not comprehend the subtleties of democratic norms and practices. The prospects of co-existence of liberal secularism with religious groups seems to be bleak. It seems that the conflict between social democracy and fundamentalism will continue to plague Indian society for the foreseeable future.

Soubik Pochhali via e-mail

WRONG FEARS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The fight for dignity’ (IE, December, 2019). The Protection of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 is a progressive piece of legislation that aims to end the varied forms of discrimination faced by the transgender commu-

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

VIEW FROM THE RIGHT

MAHARASHTRA DRAMA

THE SHIV SENA breaking away from the NDA to form a government in Maharashtra with the support of the NCP and Congress is the focus of the editorials of *Organiser* and *Panchjanya*. While *Panchjanya* calls it a betrayal, *Organiser* calls it “maha-natak” or grand drama.

Organiser says that “as of now curtains are pulled down on more than a month-long drama, what was the mandate, who betrayed the mandate, whether the Shiv Sena has compromised with its core ideology, should (the) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have experimented with an alliance with Ajit Pawar and what will be the future of this government, etc — these questions will haunt the political pundits at least for some time”. It adds that the Shiv Sena had to hang on to political power “by hook or by crook” because its political space was shrinking “not because of the BJP but due to series of divisions and deteri-

oration in organisational structure after the demise of Balasaheb Thackeray”.

The editorial asserts that the three parties in power now have compromised on their morals and for the electorate, the BJP is still a moral compass.

Panchjanya says in its editorial that compared to any other party, the voters of Maharashtra had chosen the BJP, “but in its victory and defeat of others, (the) BJP forgot that its rise gives others a heavy heart”. It says though the NDA alliance had remained the same, the Shiv Sena has changed: It is “not the Shiv Sena of Balasaheb Thackeray who gave the clarion call for Hindutva”.

DEMANDING UCC

ANOTHER TOPIC THAT features prominently in *Panchjanya* and *Organiser* is the Uniform Civil Code. *Organiser* has two articles on the subject. The first is a report on “legal experts, scholars, academicians and social workers” coming together on November 23 to “press upon the demand for the immediate enactment of Indian Civil Code claiming that implementing uniform civil code will ensure equality of citizens irrespective of religion”. It mentions that the speakers at the event had asked the government to direct the Law Commission to study the common civil codes of developed coun-

tries and the one in Goa to come up with a draft “acceptable to all”.

The second article is about what B R Ambedkar had to say about the civil code. It says that Ambedkar had countered the argument that in a country as diverse as India there cannot be a single code and that Muslim personal law was “immutable and uniform throughout the nation”. It concludes by saying that the “present government has momentous opportunity to undo the crimes on the Constitution perpetrated over the ages and to reinstate Dr Ambedkar, and the document that he so passionately architected, into their glorious magnificence”.

In *Panchjanya*, Chancellor of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Firoz Bakht Ahmed, writes about one code in one nation. Bakht says that “today when India’s stature is growing in the world... there needs to be one Indian personal code, which includes the good things of all sides and aligns with everyone”.

MAMATA AND NRC

AN ARTICLE IN *Panchjanya* claims that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s opposition to the NRC in the state is to provide protection to “infiltrators” who are part of her vote bank in the state. It says that Banerjee’s “anger and frustration over implementing the

NRC in West Bengal is natural because she knows that the moment NRC is implemented, Muslims who have infiltrated from Bangladesh in hordes will be identified”.

The article is titled ‘Inheinh Ghuspaithh Pasand Hai’ or “She likes infiltrators”.

It says “infiltrators” are a national and international security threat, and intelligence agencies have been warning about them, “but despite all this, the secular groups in the country are brimming with love for Muslims and infiltrators”. The communist parties, Congress and TMC are protesting against a nation-wide NRC in the Rajya Sabha, the article says.

West Bengal has more than 30 per cent Muslim voters, 70 per cent of who, according to the article, vote for the TMC. It mentions eight districts in the state which it claims are “bastions of Bangladeshi infiltrators” and they have “completely distorted” the population in these parts.

It mentions that the Hindu population of West Bengal has come down to 69 per cent from 80 per cent earlier and that “nearly 15 to 20 per cent illegal Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators have made the state their bastion”. Beyond these people, other Muslims too vote to Banerjee as a unit, *Panchjanya* says. These are the reasons, it that Banerjee “appeases the Muslim community” in the state.

Compiled by Krishn Kaushik

TELLING NUMBERS

Arsenic and iron in water: 30k rural habitations, 20k in 2 states

AMONG RURAL habitations in Indian states, 55,511 face quality issues with drinking water. As of November 27 this year, 3.22 per cent of rural habitations across all states and UTs, accounting for 3.73 per cent of the population, were consuming drinking water with quality issues, according to data tabled by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in Parliament.

Iron is the most common contaminant of drinking water, with over 18,000 rural habitations affected, followed by salinity that affects roughly 13,000 rural habitations, arsenic (12,000), fluoride (nearly 8,000) and heavy metal. Rajasthan has the highest number of rural habitations affected by contamination overall, at 16,833. Most of these - 12,182 - are affected by salinity in drinking water, at 12,182.

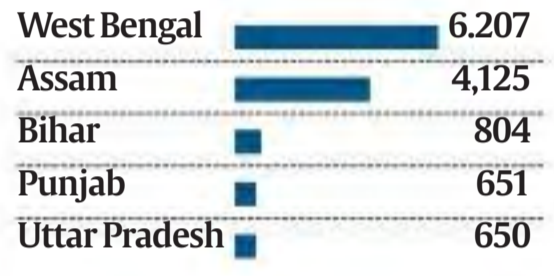
In terms of arsenic and iron pollution, West Bengal and Assam are the worst affected. Of the 30,000-odd rural habitations where drinking water is affected by either of these contaminants, over 20,000 are in West Bengal and Assam. West Bengal has the highest number of rural habitations affected by arsenic contamination, at 6,207, followed by Assam (4,125), Bihar (804), Punjab (651) and Uttar Pradesh (650). Assam has the highest number of rural habitations affected by iron contamination, at 5,113. It is followed by West Bengal (5,082), Tripura (2,377), Bihar (2,299) and Odisha (2,100).

States and UTs that are not affected by any of these contaminants include Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.

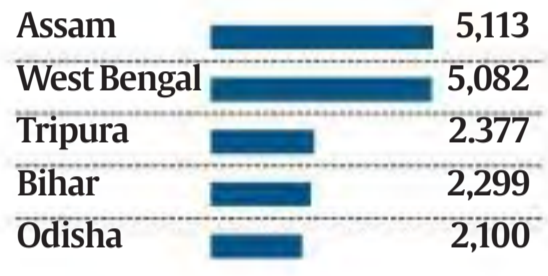
RURAL HABITATIONS WITH WATER QUALITY ISSUES (ALL INDIA: 55,511)



ARSENIC POLLUTION



IRON POLLUTION



Source: Ministry of Jal Shakti

TIP FOR READING LIST

THE SCIENCE OF WHY REST MATTERS

IN 2014, British journalist Claudia Hammond carried out a worldwide radio survey, seeking responses what activities people find most restful. 'The Rest Test' was described as the largest ever survey on rest, with 18,000 people responding from 135 countries - and two-thirds of them saying they would like more rest. From the responses, Hammond compiled a top ten restful activities, which are now the chapters of her new book.

The *Art of Rest: How to Find Respite in the Modern Age* argues that people are not resting enough. They want to say they are busy - as though it were a badge of honour - even when they feel exhausted. Hammond argues that people should start taking rest seriously as a method of self-care citing her findings that the amount of rest one gets is directly linked to one's sense of

well-being. While much has been written about the importance of sleep, rest is different - it is about how we unwind, calm our minds and recharge our bodies.

Based on her survey, the book takes readers through the top ten activities which people find most restful. These are listed in reverse order, beginning with mindfulness, followed by watching TV, daydreaming, having a bath, taking a walk, doing nothing much, listening to music, being on your own, spending time in nature, and finally reading as the

most restful activity. Hammond explains why rest matters, and examines the science behind the results to establish what really works. In its review, *The Guardian* says "The *Art of Rest* ought to be equivalent to a scientific siesta", and adds: "The only trouble is that this outstanding book is far too stimulating to be restful."



SIMPLY PUT

Kerala's ISIS connection

Security agencies estimate 100-120 individuals from Kerala either joined, or tried to join, ISIS. Investigators have identified three distinct modules of the ISIS in the state, each with its distinct network and mission.

SHAJU PHILIP
KOCHI, DECEMBER 3

AN NIA court in Kochi last week sentenced six accused in a case related to the so-called Islamic State to rigorous imprisonment of up to 14 years. Reports from Afghanistan's Nangarhar province suggest that ISIS fighters from Kerala are among the 600-odd militants who have recently surrendered before government forces.

Ten of the 30 cases that have been investigated - or are under investigation - by the NIA in Kerala are ISIS-related. Several accused have been arrested, and chargesheets have been filed in some of these cases. Some of those arrested were brought back to India from the Middle East and Afghanistan, and some were picked up for allegedly planning terror attacks in Kerala.

Recruitments allegedly happened through networks of families and friends; recruits typically came from particular rural pockets, where a local sympathiser of the terrorist group had influence. In some cases, brothers living under the same roof left for the "pilgrimage" together, along with their families.

ISIS's Kerala numbers

Security agencies estimate that some 100-120 individuals from Kerala either joined, or tried to join, ISIS. Some of them moved to Syria or Afghanistan from the Middle East, where they were employed; others migrated from Kerala. Even in 2018, when ISIS was largely in retreat in Syria and Iraq, 10-odd people from Kerala made the journey.

Many of those who joined the supposed holy war were killed over years. In August 2019, the family of Muhammed Muhsin, an engineering student from Malappuram, got a message that their only son had been killed in a US drone attack in Afghanistan.

In 2014-15, security agencies identified 17 Indians who were suspected to have joined ISIS. Three of them were from Kerala - they had moved to Syria in 2013-14, when they were employed in the Middle East. In May-June 2016, some two dozen people from Kerala, including women and children, left to join ISIS. Investigation unearthed the Kasaragod module of the ISIS (most of those who went missing belonged to that district) and led to other modules, involving separate networks, each with its own traits and mission.

Members of the Kasaragod module moved to Afghanistan with their families "to escape from the land of the kafirs (non-



600-odd ISIS followers recently surrendered before Afghan government forces in Nangarhar; recruits from Kerala are reportedly among them. Reuters

Muslims)".

Members of the Kannur module went, or attempted to go, to Syria to physically join the war on the side of the ISIS.

The third module is the so-called Omar al-Hindi module, named after Manseed Muhammed of Chokli in Kannur, alias Omar al-Hindi. Members of this group - who were convicted last month - were allegedly spread across India and the Middle East, and wanted to establish an ISIS "vilayat" in Kerala known as "Ansar-ul-Khilafa KL".

The Kasaragod module

Security agencies stumbled upon this group in June 2016 after 24 people, mostly professionally qualified young men and women, went missing. Most of the men had suddenly turned deeply religious after learning about Islam from the Internet and social media. They followed the hardline Salafi Islam, kept away from mainstream Muslim society, and had no links with any political party. The core group converted three women and two men to their understanding of Islam, arranged for their weddings, and travelled to Afghanistan.

The NIA identified Abdul Rashid, an engineer and education activist, as the leader of this ISIS module. He was accused of converting a Christian, Sonia Sabastian, and taking her to Afghanistan. Yasmeen Mohammed Zahid from Bihar, who was arrested in Delhi in 2016 while trying to go to Kabul with her child, was Abdul Rashid's second wife. An NIA court found her guilty last year; the Supreme Court upheld her conviction in August this year.

The NIA named 14 other members of this

module. Many of them were, however, believed to have been killed in Afghanistan.

According to the NIA, Rashid and several others were expelled from the Al-Quma Arabic College in Colombo for advocating violent jihad. In Kerala, Rashid secretly worked to build support for ISIS, and motivated the other accused by showing them online propaganda material such as the ISIS magazine, *Dabiq*. After reaching Nangarhar, Rashid remained in touch with several individuals in Kerala, encouraging them to leave India to join the outfit. Nashidul Hamsafar of Wayanad, who had tried to join Rashid, was deported to India by security agencies in Kabul in September 2018. This year, Riyas Aboobacker of Palakkad and Habeeb Rahman of Wayanad were arrested for their links with Rashid over encrypted social media platforms. Aboobacker had been in touch with Safran Hashim, the leader of the Easter terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka.

The Kannur module

Intelligence sources estimate some 40-50 individuals from Kannur, mainly from the Valappattanam region, have joined the ISIS in Syria. The men of this module were activists of the rightwing Muslim outfit Popular Front of India (PFI), and several families went en bloc to Syria. According to intelligence officers, militant elements within the PFI decided to break away after the Front's political wing, the Social Democratic Party of India, was formed in 2009.

The key figure in the Kannur module is Shajahan Valluva Kandy, who had twice tried to go to Syria, but been sent back along with his wife and two children. Shajahan told the NIA he had joined the ISIS to establish Islamic Shariah law in the subcontinent.

Most of the 16 persons of the module listed as accused by the NIA are believed to be in Syria. Shajahan had been associated with the PFI since 2006, when the outfit was known as National Development Front. One of his PFI comrades, Muhammed Shameer, motivated him to join ISIS; Shameer too, moved to Syria. Shajahan identified 12 people from Kannur who he said had either moved to Syria, or been deported to India by Turkey. In October 2017, five members of the module were arrested in Kannur. Turkish authorities had captured them while trying to cross over to Syria.

Another prominent figure of this group was UK Hamsa alias Taliban Hamsa. Hamsa's confession to NIA exposed the alleged ISIS submodule in Wandoor, and led to the arrest of one Shaibu Nihar, who had allegedly attended jihadi classes in Bahrain. This man had unsuccessfully tried to travel to Syria in 2016.

The Omar al-Hindi module

This group allegedly wanted to carry out terrorist attacks in South India and establish an ISIS unit in Kerala. The NIA court last week convicted six of the eight accused in the case, including the leader, Manseed Muhammed. Thirteen persons have been named as accused; the rest are absconding.

This group came into existence and operated through platforms such as Telegram, Facebook, and WhatsApp. It was busted on October 2, 2016, after the NIA raided a secret meeting in Kanakamala in Kannur. The group had allegedly planned to attack foreigners, especially Jews, near Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu, besides prominent political leaders, High Court judges, senior police officers, rationalists, and Ahmadiya Muslims. They had allegedly tried to collect arms, poison and bombs.

Engineering graduate Shajeer Mangalassery, 30, was the "emir" of the group. He had moved to Afghanistan from the UAE in 2016, and used code to give instructions to associates in Kerala. In a secret chat group called "Bab al-Noor", Shajeer had reminded his associates that the group was not meant for "chit-chat", and that their mission was to help the ISIS. According to the NIA, Manseed operated at the behest of Shajeer, who was killed in a US drone strike in Afghanistan.

Subahani Haja of Thodupuzha in Kerala and a member of the group, had fought with the ISIS in Iraq and Syria in 2015. He was trained by ISIS in Mosul, but had to return to India after he was injured in the war. He was arrested in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu, and is now in judicial custody.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

How to plant seeds with aircraft and/or darts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

ON MONDAY, The Delhi High Court asked forest authorities if seeds could be planted in inaccessible areas by throwing darts containing them from helicopters. Justice G S Sistani and Justice A J Bhambhani were hearing a public interest litigation it had initiated in 2015 on air quality in Delhi; a PIL too was filed last year by two law students.

Aerial seeding is generally done by spraying seeds through an aircraft, helicopter or a drone. A variation of dart seeding has been used in the past in Delhi, but from the ground.

Agriculture from the air

Aerial methods in agriculture can be used

to plant crops, or spray pesticide. It is quick, and reaches otherwise inaccessible areas. It has been used with varying degrees of success around the world.

In the US, the use of aircraft for agricultural purposes dates back to an experiment in Ohio in 1921, when US Army pilot Lt John A Macready, under the direction of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, used a modified Curtiss JN-6 to spray lead arsenate dust over catalpa trees to kill sphinx moth larvae, according to the US National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA). Such aircraft used to be called crop dusters - an expression made familiar worldwide by Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 film *North by Northwest*.

In Indian markets, methods available for seeding include seed balls, which have seeds packed inside a ball made out of mud and

clay. Such balls can be aerially dispersed.

Darts for seed transfer

Dart seeding is used with the same broad objective as aerial seeding: plantation in inaccessible areas. The process involves throwing darts containing seeds onto an open ground.

A method used in Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in the late 1990s, described as a variation of dart seeding, did not engage a helicopter, Delhi Forest Department sources said. The department used a long iron rod to access ground that could not be reached due to shrubbery. Seeds were put into the rod; when the rod was inserted into the ground and then removed, the soil would cover the seed, unlike in aerial plantation when seeds are thrown into open ground. In aerial seeding, many seeds fail to germinate, sources said. If dart planta-

tion is done from a low-flying helicopter, seeds can reach deeper into the ground.

Plantation with both aerial and dart plantation is carried out close to the onset of monsoon as watering the seeds is often challenging in inaccessible areas.

The case in Delhi HC

The High Court has been issuing orders relating to air pollution from time to time, and discussed several ideas with the Chief Conservator of Forests. On Monday, it asked: "Have you thought of throwing darts from helicopters in order to sow seeds in areas which are generally inaccessible?"

An officer of the Forest Department contended that in Delhi there is no part of the forest that is inaccessible. He also submitted that there is no need for such technology.

THIS WORD MEANS | **NARWHAL TUSK**

The mysterious spiral: once 'unicorn horn', now weapon that thwarted terrorist

SAURABH KAPOOR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

AS THE breaking bad news around Terror Friday in London diminishes, the story - and pictures - that continues to travel is that of the Polish chef brandishing a mythical 'unicorn horn', seemingly threatening to skewer the knife-wielding attacker shrouded in firefighting foam.

The hero chef, identified only as 'Lukasz' in media reports, snatched a 1.5-metre tusk of a narwhal off a wall of the historic Fishmongers' Hall and chased after the terrorist Usman Khan, confronting him on London Bridge along with another member of the public carrying an admittedly less storied weapon - a fire extinguisher.

Khan had just fatally stabbed two University of Cambridge graduates, Saskia Jones and Jack Merritt, at an event inside the Hall. The fightback - which brought the terrorist down before the police arrived to shoot him dead - has triggered admiration and interest around the world, as much for the

heroism of Lukasz and his comrade as for the intriguing tooth-spear at the centre of it.

Whale with the tusk

One of the most mysterious of whale species, the narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) is of medium size among the giant mammals, and inhabits the freezing waters of the Arctic around Greenland, Canada and Russia. It's the only whale that has a tusk; and the narwhal's tusk is the only one in the animal kingdom that protrudes straight like a lance. The tusk has a spiral - the thread runs counter-clockwise along its length, and can be swivelled by the whale up to 12 degrees.

The narwhal's tusk has fascinated humans for centuries, and was at one time sold as the horn of a unicorn. In fact, it is a hollow tooth that grows through the whale's lip, reaching up to nine feet in length, according to the Polar Science Centre at the University of Washington.

The tusk is almost always a male privilege, grows through the whale's lifetime, and can weigh around 10 kg. About one in 500 narwhals grows a double tusk.



The narwhal's mysterious spiral tusk is believed to work as a giant sensor to help it test water qualities and to smooch other narwhals. HO/Reuters

For sex and feeling

Scientists are not agreed on the point of the tusk. Given that the average female narwhal lives longer than the average male, it is not believed to be a critical survival tool, or one that significantly impacts the ability to feed.

A 2014 study concluded the tusk was a sensory organ with millions of sensitive nerve endings, used by the Arctic mammal



The stuff of legend

The narwhal's legend thrives on its narrative connection with the mythical unicorn. And that's a story that began long ago. In his *Narwhals: Arctic Whales in a Melting*

World (2014), McLeish Todd referred to the writings of the Greek physician Ctesias of Cnidus, who is believed to have lived in the fifth century BC, and produced an account titled *Indica* (c. 398 BC). Ctesias gave a vivid description of a unicorn, which he believed was found in India. For many centuries thereafter, unicorns were thought to be for real, and they rose in popularity as a potent religious symbol linked to Jesus Christ.

The first records of narwhal tusks in Europe date to around 1000 AD. The Vikings likely hunted the ice whales, or acquired the tusks from Inuit hunters. This was the beginning of a high-end market that was exploited by traders who sold narwhal tusks as unicorn horns. It was only around 1620, when Arctic exploration had progressed significantly, that the narwhal was identified as the source of the "unicorn horns".

Even so, the tusks were coveted as a symbol of power and prized by European monarchs. In *Lore of the Unicorn: The Evidence and Reported Sightings of Unicorns Throughout History* (1930), the American author Odell Shepard estimated that around 50 whole

tusks existed in Europe in the middle of the sixteenth century.

The narwhal tusk of Queen Elizabeth I of England and Ireland (1558-1603) was considered to be worth as much as a castle at the time, and the one belonging to one of the Kings of France at twice that. In 1671, a narwhal tusk throne was used in the royal coronation ceremony in Denmark, and the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (Karl V of Austria) was said to have paid the nation's entire debt with two tusks.

The masses believed the "horn" had the power to cure disease and act as an aphrodisiac. It was only around the mid-eighteenth century that the demand for the tusks started to ebb in Europe.

Fighting for survival

Besides polar bears, walrus, sharks, and orcas, the 'unicorn of the sea' faces a threat from humans who harvest it for its skin, meat, and tooth. Climate change is impacting the Arctic, the narwhal's habitat, with unfavourable consequences. Many subpopulations are already in decline.

NHSRCL asked to prepare report on 6 high-speed corridors

IRAM SIDDIQUE MUMBAI, DECEMBER 3

EVEN AS uncertainty looms large over the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL), the executing body of the project, has been asked to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for six high-speed corridors in the country, of which two are in Maharashtra.

The two corridors that fall in Maharashtra are a 753-km-long Mumbai-Nashik-Nagpur corridor, while the second one is a 711-km route connecting Mumbai to Hyderabad via Pune. The four other high-speed networks whose feasibility will be studied are Delhi-Noida-Agra-Kanpur-Lucknow-Varanasi (865 km), Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Ahmedabad (886 km), Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysore (435 km) and Delhi-Chandigarh-Ludhiana-Jalandhar-Amritsar (459 km).

The new network is aimed at creating a diamond quadrilateral, which will connect major cities and economic centres of the country.

According to officials from NHSRCL, they are in the process to appoint a consultant to study the cost of the project, market demand to ascertain projected

According to officials from NHSRCL, they are in the process to appoint a consultant to study the cost of the project

ridership and suitable form of construction such as underground or at surface.

The report, once prepared, will be sent to the Railway Board for scrutiny after which it will require a Cabinet nod. The report will also look at the possibility of inter-modal transport integration among various existing and planned networks.

An official from the Railway Board said, "We have asked NHSRCL to rope in a consultant and submit the cost for the DPR. However, no sanctions have been allocated for it so far."

The NHSRCL, a special purpose vehicle created to execute the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, is yet to receive any funding from the Maharashtra government. Both Maharashtra and Gujarat had to put in Rs 5,000 crore each while the Railway Board would give another Rs 10,000 crore; 81 per cent is to be acquired through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

CRACKDOWN ON 'ILLEGAL BANGLADESHIS' IN BENGALURU

Govt to file reply on protection of kids of illegal immigrants today

AMRITA DUTTA BENGALURU, DECEMBER 3

FOR OVER a year now, two girls aged eight and nine, the daughters of a woman accused of being an illegal immigrant, have been living in a children's home in Bengaluru, while their mother is imprisoned in the Parappana Agrahara central jail. The question of the long separation of the children from the mother came up in the Karnataka High Court last month.

"What happens if children are separated from parents (accused of being illegal immigrants) in the process? Grown-up children will be okay, but what if children are small, and what happens if their education is affected?" the single-judge bench of Justice K N Phaneendra asked, while hearing the bail plea of 15 Bengali speakers, who were arrested in Bengaluru last year and charged with being illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Among those caught in the net last year were an infant (four months old) and the two sisters, aged eight and nine. While the infant was sent to judicial custody along with the mother Taniya (20), the sisters were separated from their mother Kakili (42) and sent to a children's home — where they have remained since.



Like many Bengali working-class migrants in the city, the accused worked in the city's waste collection business as ragpickers, according to police. Express

Like many Bengali working-class migrants in the city, the accused worked in the city's waste collection business as ragpickers, according to police. They were arrested on the night of Eid-ul-Adha last year from their homes in a settlement in Kammassandra, east Bengaluru.

"They were arrested on August 22, 2018, on the basis of credible information that they were illegal citizens. They were arrested under provisions of the Foreigners Act, Arms Act and the Aadhaar Act — the latter because their identity cards were found to be fabricated," said Bengaluru Rural Deputy SP Nanjunde Gowda.

Lawyer for the accused, Muhammad Pasha, who brought up the question of the sisters, said they moved the high court three months ago, when the plea for

bail was rejected by the lower court. "The maximum punishment under the Foreigners' Act is three years. They have already served 15 months. In such a case, even the Supreme Court says that bail should be granted. Besides, one of the accused is inside prison with an ailing child; one has been separated from her daughters. To keep them in prison is a violation of their human rights," Pasha said. "Such long periods can become difficult for a child. In these cases, when their parents are in prison, we send the children to the prison to meet the parent once in three months," said district child protection officer B Usha, who is the administrative head of the children's home where the two sisters have been kept.

The HC, while hearing the bail plea, has repeatedly raised

the question of how and where alleged illegal immigrants should be housed before they are repatriated.

Among those arrested in August and currently in Bengaluru's central jail is Mohammad Arif (18), according to the police. Speaking to The Indian Express over the phone, his father Abu Qalam said, "It was qurbani (Eid-ul-Adha) that day and Arif had gone to our friends' place. And he was caught in the raid. We last saw him five months ago. Since then, we haven't had the money to go to the jail."

Qalam said he had been living in Bengaluru for nine years, working in the waste segregation business. "Arif is 15 years old. He also worked as a ragpicker. We didn't have money to send him to school. A few days ago, because of the raids, we ran away from Bengaluru," he said, speaking from a location in Tamil Nadu he did not identify. "Our son is in jail. How can we leave him?"

The lawyer for the accused said, "If they can be deported, the government should make arrangements. If not, they should be allowed to apply for citizenship."

The court has directed the government to file its response on the protection of children of illegal immigrants by December 4.

In hawala probe, I-T notice to Cong for funds from Hyderabad firm

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE INCOME Tax Department has issued a tax notice to Congress party for allegedly receiving funds amounting to Rs 170 crore through bogus billing from a Hyderabad-based firm as part of the department's tax evasion probe in a Rs 3,300-crore hawala racket case, officials said on Tuesday.

Officials said the notice was sent as part of the post-search verification following multiple raids conducted in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad last month.

According to officials, the funds to Congress were sent by a Hyderabad-based infrastructure group.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had in a statement in November said that raids were conducted on 42 premises in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Erode, Pune, Agra and Goa on a group of people allegedly issuing bogus bills and conducting hawala transactions.

"The search action was successful in unearthing incriminating evidences and establishing

the nexus between big corporates, hawala operators and identification of entire chain of delivery, as well as siphoning of funds by way of bogus contracts to the tune of Rs 3,300 crore," the CBDT had said.

The raids resulted in busting of a "major racket of cash generation" by leading corporate houses in the infrastructure sector through bogus contracts and bills, it said. According to the CBDT, funds meant for public infrastructure projects were siphoned off through entry operators, lobbyists and hawala dealers in this case.

The companies involved in siphoning of funds were said to be mostly located in the National Capital Region of Mumbai.

"The projects involved in bogus billing are major infrastructure and EWS (economically weaker section) projects located in south India. Evidence of cash payment of more than Rs 150 crore to a prominent person in Andhra Pradesh has also been unearthed during the search," the CBDT had said. "Unexplained cash of Rs 4.19 crore and jewellery worth more than Rs 3.2 crore was also seized during the search operation," it had said.

PIL says burning Ravan effigies 'inauspicious practice', SC junks it

ANANTHAKRISHNAN NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE SUPREME Court has dismissed a plea which wanted the court to examine the Constitutionality of the practice of burning of effigies of Ravan during Dussehra, saying it cannot sit in judgment over people's beliefs and cultural practices.

Justice N V Ramana, heading a three-judge bench which heard the PIL by advocate Bipin Bihari Singh, agreed with his contention that Ravan, whom the Ramayan says was the king of Lanka, was a great scholar but added that people's beliefs about him vary from place to place and the court cannot monitor it.

Justice Ramana observed, "No doubt Ravan was a great scholar. Puranas say Lord Shiva blessed him. There is no doubt as far as this aspect is concerned. In some places, he is worshipped as a

hero. In India, there is a different view... How can we prevent people from following what they believe about it? The court cannot monitor religious beliefs."

The bench, also comprising Justices K M Joseph and V Ramasubramanian, dismissed the petition on November 29, finding "no merit" in it.

Singh's petition said he had filed the plea in view of the death of 61 people during Dussehra celebrations in Amritsar on October 19, 2018. He also referred to the stampede during effigy burning in Patna in 2014 in which 32 people were killed. Singh said he was not seeking a complete ban on the practice, but only wanted the court to take a call after eliciting expert views.

According to Singh, the "inauspicious practice" of burning Ravan effigy "cropped up and mushroomed in the Sanatan/Hindu belief system in the last 50 to 60 years...it has no antiquity".

Oppn slams Odisha govt after minor gangraped by ex-cop, 3 others

SAMPAD PATNAIK BHUBANESWAR, DECEMBER 3

THE ODISHA government has come under fire from the Opposition after a minor girl was allegedly gangraped by four people, including a former policeman, in Puri district on Monday night.

The minor was waiting for a bus when the former policeman, using his identity card, convinced her that he was still serving in the force and offered her a lift. He then took her to government quarters in Puri, where he gangraped her along with three others. The three other men left after the assault.

The girl managed to escape when the former policeman fell asleep under the influence of alcohol, and went to the nearest police station to lodge a complaint. The Congress took out a candle light protest. Senior leader Bijaylaxmi Sahoo said, "Protectors have become predators," referring to the former policeman.

BJP mahila morcha chief Pravati Parida said, "This is a question mark on the entire police force. CM (Naveen Patnaik), who is in charge of police, had said in the Vidhan Sabha not to politicise such incidents... But when drunkards lift women off streets and rape them, then should we tolerate this?" Parida said.

CFSL to take 7-8 months to analyse honey trap case evidence: MP govt

MILIND GHATAWAI BHOPAL, DECEMBER 3

THE MADHYA Pradesh government has informed the High Court that the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Hyderabad, has sought seven to eight months' time to complete analysis of the video and audio files and other digital evidence connected with the 'honey trap case', which came to light in September.

While expressing displeasure over frequent reconstitution of the special investigation team (SIT) probing the case, a division bench of Justices S C Sharma and Shailendra Shukla had in October asked the state government to send the entire electronic evidence to CFSL and get a report from an expert.

The evidence was seized by the police after raiding residences of five women accused in Bhopal. The police had said hundreds of video and audio clips, chats and text messages were seized from electronic devices used by the accused.

The High Court is hearing petitions seeking a CBI inquiry into the case, which allegedly involves politicians, bureaucrats and other government officials. Many of them were allegedly blackmailed for money or government contracts against threat to release their audio clips and videos in compromising positions with the accused.

The five women and a driver have been arrested in connection with the case so far.

Advocate General Shashank Shekhar told the court that the government will make all possible attempts to ensure that the CFSL report is received at an early date.

The bench has posted the matter for further hearing on February 10.

The court directed that a hard disk submitted by advocate Manohar Dalal should be handed over to Senior Superintendent of Police Ruchi Vardhan Misra. The hard disk was given to Dalal by Jitu Soni, editor and owner of "Sanjha Lokswami", the Indore-based evening paper that published a series of reports, presumably from material sourced from the hard drive.

The disk will also be sent to the CFSL. While hearing another plea, the court asked the SIT to submit a progress report in the investigation in four weeks.

While submitting the disk, Dalal told the court that Soni had sought the evidence for it to remain safe in the custody of the court or it could be misused. After he published the last three reports, Indore police cracked down on the newspaper and business establishments owned by Soni, who remains at large.

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE Switchgear Testing & Development Station (A Government of India Society) Govindpur, Bhopal - 462023 Ph/Fax No. 0755-2586283, E-mail: khairwar@cpri.in

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग (A Government of India Society) Govindpur, Bhopal - 462023 Ph/Fax No. 0755-2586283, E-mail: khairwar@cpri.in

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SEARCH FOR MISSING General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Khushi D/o Sh Jai Kishan R/o Jhuggi No. 10, Dindyal upadhyay Camp, Road No. 77, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi has been reported missing since 12.11.2019 from her house vide FIR No. 637/19 Dated 12.11.2019 u/s 363 IPC lodged at Police Station-Punjabi Bagh, Delhi. Her physical description is as under-

UP clerk suspended for Quran recitation in SDM court

ASAD REHMAN LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 3

A UP government clerk (nazir) in a tehsil in Auraiya district was suspended after a video, which showed "Qurankhaani" (a gathering to recite the Quran) being held inside the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) court located in an under-construction tehsil building, was widely circulated.

Laeq Ahmad (51) was suspended on Monday by District Magistrate Abhishek Singh after a preliminary probe found him responsible for organising Qurankhaani on the tehsil premises without permission.

The District Magistrate Singh, when contacted, denied that

Ahmad was suspended for holding the religious event, and said that he is facing charges of irregularities.

However, ADM (Judicial) M P Singh, who conducted the probe on the basis of which Ahmad was suspended, said that the nazir had organised "Qurankhaani" inside the SDM court without seeking anyone's permission, and therefore he was suspended.

Tehsildar Sandhya Sharma said that people have been complaining of negative energy in the new tehsil building because of a graveyard in front of it. "He (Ahmad) did not ask or inform anyone and read scriptures in the court. He did this so that the place can be rid of so-called negative energy," Sharma said.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD Sangrah, District Sirmour, H.P. on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the Item Rates Bids, in Electronic Tendering System from the Eligible Class of Contractors Registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in the Table.

Table with 6 columns: Sr No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Starting Date for Downloading Bid, Earnest Money (Rs.), Deadline for Submission of Bid. Item 1: Up gradation of MT on Road from Nohradhar to Punner Dhar via Bharari 0/0 to 18/300 including link to Village Bharari of 1.390 km (SH- Removal of Formation Deficiencies, C/O Retaining /Breast Walls, Cross Drainage works, P/L Sub Base WBM-1, M.T. Road Side Drain and Road Side Essential Parapets in km 0/0 to 18/390) under NABARD RIDF -XXV

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J&K (Camp Office: MMAB District Hospital, Anantnag) Phone No. 01932-227625, E-mail: gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Work, Cost, Earnest Money, Period of Contract, Class of Contractor, Cost of Tender. Item 01: Contract for providing Sanitation Services at Associated Hospital of Government Medical College, Anantnag (MMABM Hospital, MCH, UHTC Mattan & RHTC Sagam & Girls and Boys Hostels and Resident Doctor Hostels).

SOUTHCO UTILITY E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SOUTHCO UTILITY/CAPEX/IT ITEMS/24/2019-20 DATE: 04.12.2019 For and on behalf of SOUTHCO UTILITY, sealed e-tenders are invited for supply of following IT items from reputed OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) in two part bidding system under CAPEX PROGRAMME

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Item Description, Unit, Qty, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs). Item 1: Desktop PC with Windows OS, Nos. 399, 1.78; Item 2: Laptop with Windows OS, Nos. 321, 1.46; Item 3: 6 KVA UPS for Desktop, Nos. 399, 0.07; Item 4: MFP Printer (Mono, Laser) (print, scan, copy), Nos. 284, 0.38; Item 5: Server-1 (CPU-1x Intel Xeon Silver 4110 (2.1 GHz/8-core/85W) F10 Processor Kit), Motherboard-Intel @C621 Series Chipset, Memory -6 DIMM slots, Installed 32 GB Upgradeable to 192 GB, Hard Disk Drive- 1.2 TB SAS x3 with 10k rpm), Nos. 2, 0.05; Item 6: UPS for Server-1 (3KVA/2.4 kW), Nos. 2, 0.02; Item 7: Server-2 (CPU- 2x Intel Xeon - Silver (4 core / 2.6 GHz), Motherboard - Intel® C621 Series Chipset, Memory -64 GB DIMMS scalable up to 768 GB, Hard Disk Drive-2 x 1TB SATA 7.2 K.SFF SC DS HDD), Nos. 1, 0.02

The interested bidders would be required to enroll themselves on the tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHCO. Complete set of bidding documents are available in www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHCO portal from Dt 04.12.2019 / 10.01AM onwards (as per the e-tender schedule). Interested bidders may visit SOUTHCO's official web site www.southcoindia.com or www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHCO for detail specification. NB:-1) All subsequent addendum/Corrigendum to the above tender shall be hosted in SOUTHCO's official web site www.southcoindia.com and www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHCO only. 2) Southco Utility reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons thereof.

18 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



USA

Tesla CEO Musk faces trial in defamation case

Los Angeles: Elon Musk is going on trial for his tweets in a defamation case pitting the billionaire against a British diver he allegedly branded a paedophile. The Tesla CEO will be called to testify early in the case in Los Angeles federal court to explain what he meant when he called Vernon Unsworth, who helped rescue youth soccer players trapped underwater in a Thailand cave, "pedo guy" in a Twitter spat over year ago. Musk apologised for lashing out at Unsworth after the diver belittled Musk's efforts to build a tiny submarine to save the trapped boys as a "PR stunt". The Tesla CEO, however, said he did not mean to say Unsworth was a paedophile.

JAPAN

Man, 71, held for 'making 24,000 complaint calls'

Tokyo: A Japanese pensioner has been arrested after ringing a phone company 24,000 times to complain they had violated his contract, police and local media reported. Tokyo police said they took 71-year-old Akitoshi Okamoto into custody last week after he made hundreds of toll-free calls over eight days to the customer service section of major telephone operator KDDI. But this could be the tip of the iceberg, with media outlets reporting that he made thousands more calls from public pay phones to voice his displeasure with the company and insult customer service staff.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe left behind \$10 mn, many houses

Harare: The wealth of Zimbabwe's former president Robert Mugabe was long a mystery. Now the first official list of assets to be made public says he left behind \$10 million and several houses when he died in September. Some in Zimbabwe view that estate as far too modest for Mugabe, who ruled for 37 years and was accused by critics of accumulating vast riches and presiding over grand corruption. The report by the *Herald* newspaper does not mention any overseas assets, but it is thought that Mugabe had properties in South Africa and in Asia.

SUI-LEE WEE & PAUL MOZUR

TUMXUK, DECEMBER 3

INA dusty city in the Xinjiang region on China's western frontier, the authorities are testing the rules of science.

With 1 million or more ethnic Uighurs and others from predominantly Muslim minority groups swept up in detentions across Xinjiang, officials in Tumxuk have gathered blood samples from hundreds of Uighurs — part of a mass DNA collection effort dogged by questions about consent and how the data will be used. In Tumxuk, at least, there is a

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya prorogues Parliament for a month

With his party lacking majority in House, Rajapaksa says parliamentary polls to be held at the earliest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, DECEMBER 3

SRI LANKAN President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has prorogued Parliament for one month and fixed January 3, 2020 for the commencement of the next session, a move that will give his minority government freedom to rule without obstruction from the Opposition.

The Parliament should have met on Tuesday, according to schedule.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa issued a special gazette notification effective from Monday midnight, stating that Parliament would be reconvened on January 3.

"The President is constitutionally empowered to do so," officials said.

He is expected to make a ceremonial address at the reopening on January 3, during which he will outline his new government's policies, they added.

Gotabaya was sworn in as Sri Lanka's seventh President on November 18 after he defeated the ruling party candidate Sajith Premadasa by more than 13 lakh votes, marking the return of the powerful Rajapaksa dynasty.

His party — the Sri Lanka People's Front — lacks a working majority in the 225-member as-



Gotabaya was sworn in as President on November 18. Reuters

sembly and ending the session will give him freedom to rule without obstruction from the Opposition.

Gotabaya named his elder brother and former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa as the new Prime Minister after incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe of the United National Party resigned from the post following the election debacle. The 74-year-old leader will function as the Prime Minister until the general election in August 2020.

Wickremesinghe and his allies, who command majority in the House, are not expected to challenge the government and they will continue until the next parliamentary election which can be held anytime after end of February.

Gotabaya said he would conduct snap parliamentary elections at the first available opportunity.

EXPLAINED
Not like last time

THE LAST time the Sri Lankan Parliament was prorogued was when then president Sirisena sacked PM Wickremesinghe and appointed Mahinda Rajapaksa in his place. This led to a constitutional crisis that ended with Wickremesinghe being reappointed PM. This time, however, with Mahinda's brother Gotabaya winning the presidential polls, Wickremesinghe resigned, allowing Mahinda to take over as PM. With parliamentary likely to come up in early March, this suspension of Parliament is unlikely to be as dramatic as the last one.

Court stops Swiss embassy worker from leaving Lanka

Colombo: A Sri Lankan court on Tuesday blocked a Swiss embassy employee from leaving the country until she gives a statement to police about allegations that she was abducted and threatened in order to disclose embassy information.

Colombo's chief magistrate issued an order at the request of police preventing the woman from leaving until Dec 9 and requiring that she give a statement before that date.

The Swiss foreign ministry

called the Nov 25 incident a "very serious and unacceptable attack." The Sri Lankan government said evidence collected by its investigators did not support the sequence of events given by the embassy.

The day after a top Sri Lankan police officer, who had investigated the Rajapaksas, sought asylum in Switzerland, the worker at the Swiss embassy in Colombo claimed she was abducted and forced to hand over sensitive information. AP

Committee told to speed up Easter attacks probe

Colombo: Sri Lanka's new President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, instructed a committee inquiring into the Easter Sunday terror attacks to expedite their probe, identify those responsible for the attacks and bring them before the law even as he slammed his predecessors for failing to prevent the bombings.

A string of suicide attacks,

struck churches and luxury hotels frequented in Sri Lanka on April 21 — Easter Sunday — killing 258 people.

"They were very relaxed on national security. This led to the disintegration of intelligence services. The end result was they were unable to prevent the spread of Islamic extremism," Rajapaksa was quoted as saying by an official release. PTI

Court directs banks to provide Trump's financial records to House Democrats

BRENDAN PIERSON & JONATHAN STEMPEL
NEW YORK, DECEMBER 3

A US appeals court on Tuesday handed President Donald Trump another defeat in his bid to keep his financial records secret, directing Deutsche Bank AG and Capital One Financial Corp to comply with subpoenas from congressional Democrats demanding the material.

A three-judge panel of the Manhattan-based 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Trump's bid to block two House of Representatives committees from enforcing subpoenas to the two banks seeking the documents. Trump had sued the two banks in an effort to prevent the disclosure of his financial records.

The Republican President is expected to appeal the matter to the US Supreme Court. Lawyers for Trump could not immediately be reached for comment.

The subpoenas were issued months before House Democrats began an inquiry in September into whether there were grounds to impeach Trump over his request to Ukraine to investigate Democratic political rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. REUTERS



Trump, Macron clash at NATO leaders' meeting

London: US President Donald Trump barreled into a NATO leaders' meeting on Tuesday aiming insults at French President Emmanuel Macron.

Trump began his first of two days at the NATO conference by harshly rebuking Macron for recently saying NATO was experiencing "brain death" as a result of diminished US leadership in the alliance under Trump.

Before meeting with Macron, Trump laced into the French president for what he said were "very, very nasty" comments.

Hours after the broadside, Macron and Trump sat side by side for a meeting. Macron said he stood by his comments about the health of the NATO alliance. He also firmly expressed his frustration that Trump withdrew hundreds of American troops from Syria in October. AP

Kamala Harris drops out of 2020 White House race

ASTEAD W HERNDON & SHANE GOLDMACHER
DECEMBER 3

SENATOR KAMALA Harris of California dropped out of the Democratic presidential race on Tuesday after months of low poll numbers, a dramatic comedown for a campaign that began with significant promise.

The decision came after upheaval among staff and disarray among Harris's own allies. She told supporters in an email on Tuesday that she lacked the money needed to fully finance a competitive campaign.

"My campaign for president simply doesn't have the financial resources we need to continue," Harris wrote in the email.

The announcement is perhaps the most sudden development to date in a Democratic presidential campaign where Harris began in the top tier. She began her campaign on Martin Luther King Jr Day with comparisons to historic black politicians like Barack Obama and Shirley Chisholm. Her speech that day in Oakland, California, had more than 20,000 people in attendance, giving credence to the idea that Harris could become the first woman of colour elected president.

Harris had already qualified for the next presidential debate, scheduled for later this month, the only non-white candidate to do so thus far. Without her, Democrats may have an all-white debate stage after beginning the primaries with their most racially diverse field in history. NYT

TYPHOON KILLS 2 IN PHILIPPINES, MANILA AIRPORT SHUT



A neighbourhood damaged by Typhoon Kammuri in Legazpi City, Philippines. Reuters

■ Typhoon Kammuri killed at least two people in the Philippines on Tuesday as it tore roofs of houses and forced the international airport in Manila to shut down.

■ As the typhoon was exiting Philippines it hit one last major landmass, the island of Mindoro, where one man was crushed by a falling tree and another killed by a flying piece of lumber, police said.

■ 500 flights were cancelled at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and officials warned passengers not to come to the airport.

■ The Philippines is hit by an average of 20 storms and typhoons each year, killing hundreds and putting many in a state of constant poverty.

2019 could be second warmest year on record: WMO



EXPRESS IN MADRID

AMITABH SINHA
DECEMBER 3

THE YEAR 2019 is likely to end as the second or third warmest ever, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said Tuesday in the latest of a series of warnings in recent months about a rapidly worsening climate scenario.

"Global mean temperature for January to October 2019 was 1.1 degree Celsius (error margin of 0.1 degree) above pre-industrial levels. 2019 is likely to be the second or third warmest year on record. The past five years are now almost certain to be the five warmest years on record, and the past decade 2010-2019, to be the warmest decade. Since the 1980s, each successive decade has been warmer than any preceding decade since 1850," the WMO said in a provisional statement on the State of Global Climate in 2019.

Petteri Taalas, secretary general of WMO, said these numbers were provisional since the year was not yet out but were unlikely to change



Participants on the second day of the climate conference in Madrid. Reuters

significantly over the next one month. The warmest year on record so far has been 2016.

The WMO report said the average global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide in 2018 had touched 407.8 parts per mil-

lion, which was 147 per cent of pre-industrial levels, which is taken to be 1750. Other greenhouse gases, like methane and nitrous oxide, had also touched record levels in 2018. This year, the daily average carbon dioxide concentration crossed 415 ppm for the first time ever, though it has receded after that. The annual average is likely to be below that level.

The state of the climate report also noted the unusually strong Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) that developed this year.

A positive IOD is characterised by warmer than usual waters in the western Indian Ocean, towards the Arabian Sea, and cooler than average temperatures in

eastern Indian Ocean, near the Indonesian coast. The reverse situation is called negative IOD. This difference in sea surface temperatures drives a number of regional weather events. This year the dipole was strongly positive, and was believed to have been partly responsible for unusually high rainfall in August and September as well as delayed monsoon withdrawal from India.

The WMO statement came on the second day of the climate conference in Madrid where negotiators from nearly 200 countries are meeting amid mounting pressure for action to safeguard the planet from the catastrophic impacts of climate change.



Kundera fled Communist Czechoslovakia and has lived in France since 1975

Milan Kundera gets back Czech citizenship after 40 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PRAGUE, DECEMBER 3

MILAN KUNDERA, the Czech-born author of *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* has been given back the citizenship of his homeland that he lost 40 years ago.

The Czech ambassador to France, Petr Drulak, told Czech public television he handed Kundera his citizenship certificate last week in his Paris apartment.

It's a result of Kundera's meeting with Prime Minister Andrej Babis in Paris last year. Kundera fled Communist Czechoslovakia and has lived in France since 1975, and it is there that he published his most famous books, including *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*, *The Art of the Novel* and *Immortality*. His later works, written in French, were not translated into Czech.

The 90-year-old lives in virtual seclusion, only travels to his homeland incognito and never speaks to reporters.

BLOOD SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS FOR DNA

China uses DNA to map faces, with help from the West

partial answer: Chinese scientists are trying to find a way to use a DNA sample to create an image of a person's face.

The technology, which is also being developed in the United States and elsewhere, is in the early stages of development and can produce rough pictures good enough only to narrow a manhunt or perhaps eliminate suspects. But given the crackdown in Xinjiang, experts on ethics in science worry that China is building a tool that could be used to justify and intensify racial profiling and other state discrimination against Uighurs.

In the long term, experts say, it may even be possible for the Communist government to feed



images produced from a DNA sample into the mass surveillance and facial recognition systems that it is building, tightening its grip on society by improving its ability to track dissidents and protesters as well as criminals.

Some of this research is taking place in labs run by China's Ministry of Public Security, and at least two Chinese scientists working with the ministry on

the technology have received funding from respected institutions in Europe. International scientific journals have published their findings without examining the origin of the DNA used in the studies or vetting the ethical questions raised by collecting such samples in Xinjiang.

In papers, the Chinese scientists said they followed norms set by international associations of scientists, which would require that the men in Tumxuk (pronounced TUM-shook) gave their blood willingly. But in Xinjiang, many people have no choice. The government collects samples under the veneer of a mandatory health checkup pro-

gramme, according to Uighurs who have fled the country. Those placed in internment camps — two of which are in Tumxuk — also have little choice.

Police prevented reporters from *The New York Times* from interviewing Tumxuk residents, making verifying consent impossible. Many residents had vanished in any case. On the road to one of the internment camps, an entire neighbourhood had been bulldozed into rubble.

Growing numbers of scientists and human rights activists say the Chinese government is exploiting the openness of the international scientific community to harness research into the human genome

for questionable purposes.

Already, China is exploring using facial recognition technology to sort people by ethnicity. It is also researching how to use DNA to tell if a person is a Uighur. Research on the genetics behind the faces of Tumxuk's men could help bridge the two.

China is building "essentially technologies used for hunting people," said Mark Munsterhjelm, an assistant professor at the University of Windsor in Ontario who tracks Chinese interest in the technology. In the world of science, Munsterhjelm said, "there's a kind of culture of complacency that has now given way to complicity." NYT

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
"Press Tender Notice"
(E-Tendering mode only)

ONLINE TENDERS are hereby invited on turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, for the following work:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Documents	Completion Period	Sale of Tender documents	Last date of receipt of Tender	Opening of Techno Commercial bid
1.	CEO/MM/Re-Cond Tie Line / 2019	Reconducting of existing Conductor 22kV Tie line from Kumsarsain to Nogli with ACSR Conductor (DOG) 6/14-72mm in Electrical Sub Division HPSEBL Taklach under Electrical Division Rampur Bushahr.	Rs. 276 Lacs	Rs. 6.9 Lacs	Rs. 5900.00	8 (Eight) Months	From 10.12.2019 to 06.01.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)	07.01.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)	08.01.2020 (at 11.30 AM)

The detailed tender notification can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB> and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification/amendment shall be uploaded on the above website. For further details on e-tendering, please contact on Phone:- 0177-2801745

(Er. Sanjeev Maria)
Chief Engineer (OP) South
HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4.

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION

VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH DOUBLING PROJECT

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Rajkot for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites E-Tender for the following work: **E-Tender Notice No. D.Y./CE/CR/JT/27.** (1) Name of work with its location: SIKV welding of 80Kw/52 Kg (80JTS) rail joints, junction joints, glued joints, switch expansion joints on UP/DN Main line and loop line in situ/on cess with contractor welding materials, petrol, equipment weld labour etc. in Daladi-Rajkot section in connection with Surendranagar-Rajkot Doubling Project. (2) Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 2,39,05,044.00/- (3) EMD: ₹ 2,69,600.00/- (4) Completion Period: 18 Months. (5) Date & Time for submission of bid and opening of bid: Submission: 30-12-2019 upto 11:30 Hrs. Opening: 30-12-2019 upto 12:00 Hrs. (6) Website particulars: Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen & address of the office: Office of the Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot. Website: www.ireps.gov.in

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely : Unknown S/O Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 50-55 years, Height : 5' 4", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Built : Medium, Wearing : Printed T-shirt and blue colour Lower, who was found in side Ajmal Khan Park near Gate No. 2, Karol Bagh, Delhi.** In this regard a case **DD No. 38-A dated 29.11.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi
DP/6775/CD/19 Tel. No. 011-23537374,23613252

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C-6)
1, KiloKil, Ring Road, New Delhi- 110014

PRESS NOTICE
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer C-06, invites on behalf of DUSIB percentage rate e-tender in Two envelopes/two bid system for following work:-
NIT No. 26/EE/C6/DUSIB/2019-20 E-tender No. 2019_DUSIB_184640_1
NOW: E-IUS (Revenue), SH: Providing and laying CC pavement and const. of SW drain in the deteriorated lanes of JJ Basti Kharkarwara.
Estimated cost:- Rs. 60,45,622.00
Earnest Money:- Rs. 1,20,913.00 Tender Cost:- Rs. 1,000.00 Date of Closing of Bid 18.12.2019 at 02.00 PM

The bid Form and other details can be obtained from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: Any amendment / change/clarification (if any) will be uploaded only on <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>, therefore intending tenderer may inspect the website regularly.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-C-6
DIP/Shabdarth/1059/19-20

OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CH. DADRI

नीलामी विज्ञापन

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित (साथ संलग्न सूची) **Decided Vehicle** की नीलामी दिनांक 18.12.2019 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे नगराधीश महोदय, चरखी दादरी की अध्यक्षता में गठित कमेटी की देख-रेख में पुलिस लाइन, चरखी दादरी के प्रांगण में करवाई जाएगी। जो भी बोलीदाता नीलाम होने वाले वाहनों को देखने का इच्छुक हो तो वह थाना सदर, चरखी दादरी के प्रांगण में नीलाम होने वाले वाहनों देख सकता है प्रत्येक बोलीदाता को बोली देने से पूर्व बतौर जमानत राशि 10,000/- रूपए जिला नाजर कार्यालय उपायुक्त, चरखी दादरी के पास जमा करवाना होगा। छोड़ी गई बोली की कुल राशि सफल बोलीदाता द्वारा उसी समय जिला नाजर के पास जमा करवानी होगी, अन्यथा जमानत राशि जब्त कर ली जाएगी। यह बोली स्क्रैप में करवाई जाएगी।

क्र. सं.	मद नं.	वर्क का नाम	वर्क का नं.	काल	वैसिस नं.	इंजन नं.	बुक नं.	रिजर्व प्राईज
60	73	HF DELUXE	HR-35G-588	काला	MDHA11EMA9E05021	HA11ECA9E12077	5600	
61	74	बजाज डिस्कवर	HR-38B-8441	काली-लाल	MD205DSR2NCM25183	59BNM111DH	6700	
62	75	स्वैलंडर प्लस	HR-13F-1869	काली	MBLHA10AMChH76526	HA10EJC8H17447	6800	
63	76	होडा प्लस	HR-13A-7077	काली	02D21C25482	02D21M17209	6200	
64	77	बजाज डिस्कवर	HR-36P-7405	काला	MD2DSJ222TPJ66907	JZUPTJ26951	6200	
65	78	बजाज डिस्कवर	HR-12S-1626	काला	MD2DJ222UPB09802	JZUBUE58768	6500	
66	79	बजाज डिस्कवर	---	काला	MD2DSJN22PCF03817	JNGBPF13455	6100	
67	80	CD DELUXE	HR-19B-7058	काला	06C9F2536	06C29E33165	5600	
68	81	होडा सेंटर	HR-43B-0148	लाल	06C29F2536	JC40E51008671	14000	
69	82	HONDA PENSION	HR-06Y-9526	काला	01J21C29390	01J21M15502	7200	
70	84	स्वैलंडर प्लस	HR-14C-1077	काला	06B16C59420	06B15M59678	6200	
71	85	प्लस	DL-H5AV-2274	नीला	04H009C25898	04H08M26070	6800	
72	86	CD-DELUXE	HR-25C-2428	काला	MBLHAENB901086	HA11ECB9D20027	6200	
73	87	स्वैलंडर प्लस	HR-16N-5171	काला	MBZH10MEH19601	HA10EJEHA05298	6300	
74	88	स्वैलंडर	A/F	काला	BMLHA10EJ99H07293	HA10EA99H1595	6800	
75	89	स्वैलंडर प्लस	DL-95H-7963	काला	01C20C20000	01C18M18956	6200	
76	88	प्लस	DL-8S-9526	काला	----	DJGBTF53417	7500	
77	91	CT-100	HR-13B-916742	काला	DUFBMG73571	DUMN631411	5200	
78	92	प्लसर	H92R-19H-5535	काला	CD2A1205CC02595	DJZGCC05486	6200	
79	93	बजाज क्वाकसी	HR-10G-0603	चैरी-चेरी	DFDBZ32521	00MBL081149	5200	
80	94	स्वैलंडर	A/F	काला	MBLHA10EJ189B1628	02118M14007	5300	
81	95	TVS-CENTRA	HR-19B-4772	लाल	MO624AH1952G58584	OHIGS22610	5500	
82	96	PULSER	DL-4SBC-4914	काला	MD2DHDH22PCH66415	DHGBPH05640	6200	
83	97	CALIBER	HR-42-5214	नीला	----	BDH8HK17652	6200	
84	98	स्वैलंडर प्लस	HR-19F-0295	काला	MBLFA10EJSA9E08467	HA10EAA9F12628	5800	
85	99	डिस्कवर	HR-99HV(T)-4031	काला	2D58AZZPPM94598	JBUBTM34024	5500	
86	100	SPLENDER	HR-51F-2931	लाल	99K19F04006	99K17E03905	5200	
87	101	H/HONDA PENSION	DL-9SL-0360	नीला	05J09C00975	05J08M01581	5500	
88	102	CD-DAWN	DL-01SP-4879	काला	04K27632046	04K27C3901	5000	
89	103	सुकुकी	HR-19B-7749	काला	MB8NG48BCG6810	5432NL	5200	
90	104	TVS-VICTOR	DL-03SJ-0417	काला	MDG2961141B13225	OF1941055461	5500	
91	105	स्वैलंडर	A/F	काला	MBLHA10EZA9G02924	HA10FA9614675	5800	
92	106	DISCOVER	HR-19B-3612	काला	DSVBLK99815	OSGBLK99990	6200	
93	107	होडा साईन	HR-19D-1199	काला	MV4JC399E98262458	--	5200	
94	108	BAJAJ CT-100	NIL	नीला	DOFBL48037	DOMELL08467	5000	
95	109	CD-100SS	HR-18-2912	लाल	---	98D10C07103	5100	
96	110	SPLENDER	HR-19C-3044	काला	07C16F45673	07C15E42868	5600	
97	111	CD-DAWN	HR-16D-5644	लाल	04B27F10900	04B27F11920	5500	
98	113	होडा साईन	HR-19H-6312	काला	ME45C361F680062	JC36E0018747	6200	
99	114	प्लसर एम्बेसन	HR-14L-9391	काला	MD2A12DZFCM01975	DJZCFM10992	18000	
100	115	HONDA DREAM	NIL	काला	17E4JC583FC8011374	CS8E1011292	6100	
101	116	DISCOVER	HR-29N-1145	काला	MD2DS1ZZZUPK60196	KZUBOK81606	7200	
102	117	HH एम्बेसन	--	सिल्वर	02K60C01078	02K60M01059	6500	
103	118	स्वैलंडर	A/F	लाल	05M16C0C582	05M15M06232	6300	
104	119	प्लसर	HR-16J-0958	काला	MD2DHDHJZPCE30772	DJGBT83922	6400	
105	120	SCOOTER	HR-19A-7135	हल्का रफेद	31MBEC3340	---	2200	
106	107/ए	होडा स्वेयर	HR-16D-233	-	02M60CC2053	---	5200	
107	108/ए	होडा होडा	-	-	MBLHA10EZA9K07566	---	1000	
108	109	होडा होडा	-	-	05A27F21871	---	1000	
109	110	TVS	-	-	N3302G418813	---	2000	
110	111	यामहा	HR-26-5053	-	MB8NH4JAA8141285	---	3200	
111	112	-	-	-	पुरे जली हुई कोई नमर हो है	---	1200	
112	113	-	-	-	पुरे जली हुई कोई नमर हो है	---	1500	
113	114	-	-	-	केवल वैसिस बचा हुआ है	---	800	
114	115	डिस्कवर	HR-80-4318	-	MDZDSJZZUPJ37897	JZUBJ58913	5200	
115	31	डीडी नं. 03 दिनांक 16.09.17 धारा 47(बी)-एक्ट थाना शहर दादरी	-	MC Boxer	DMMDGH00229	DMEBZJH74009	5200	
116	104	डीडी नं. 31 दिनांक 18.05.18 धारा 47(बी)-एक्ट थाना शहर दादरी	DL-04SAZ-1939	CD-DOWN लाल रंग	06D27E08361	05D27F05589	5000	
117	105	डीडी नं. 4 दिनांक 19.05.18 धारा 47(बी)-एक्ट थाना शहर दादरी	HR-16C-6309	HERO HONDA SPL सिल्वर रंग	02B18E22451	02B20F25543	5200	
118	106	डीडी नं. 4 दिनांक 19.05.18 धारा 47(बी)-एक्ट थाना शहर दादरी	HR-13D-9445	Disc-over काला रंग	JNGBSF35600	MD2DSJNZZSCF87879	5500	
119	32	डीडी नं. 2 दिनांक 25.02.17 धारा 102 सीआरपीसी थाना शहर दादरी	NIL	MC Disc-over	JBUBF35519	MDZSPAZZTPB49663	5800	
120	45	डीडी नं. 25 दिनांक 27.09.15 धारा 102 सीआरपीसी थाना शहर दादरी	HR-12X-5114	HF-Delux	HA11EFE9F19955	---	5100	

क्र. सं.	मु.नं.	दिनांक	अपराध	वैसिस नं.	इंजन नं.	समय नं.	रजि. नं.	मद नं.	फैसला तिथि	अदालत का नाम	रिजर्व प्राईज
121	126	01.05.15	379/411 IPC	MD625BF6551D91972	0F4051096333	MC TVS VICTOR	HR-16A-1190	49	23.12.15	JMIC DDR	5500
122	75	04.05.12	279, 337 IPC	MD2D0ZBZDPPF99321	DLUBUP79302	MC PLATINA	-	59	11.02.16	JMIC DDR	5200
123	139	11.05.15	279, 304A IPC	MDE4JC583ED8288310	IC58E81286272	MC HONDA SHINE	HR-19H-3907	54	15.04.17	ACJM DDR	6200
124	343	01.12.14	279, 337 IPC	3645 बाकी मिटा हुआ है	04K27E12073	MC CD DOWN	HR-51Q-5149	50	05.04.17	ACJM DDR	5200
125	153	07.06.15	279, 337 IPC	DUFBMB17805	DUMBMB3056	MCCT 100	DL-9S-6148	47	10.09.15	ACJM DDR	4800
126	09	09.01.14	379 IPC	MD2DSD5ZPCCB836783	DSGBDB74807	MC DISCOVER	-	65	26.11.14	ACJM DDR	1800
127	251	22.08.14	323/506 IPC	99J19F05878	99J17E06136	MC SPLENDER	HR-36J-8330	46	04.12.14	ACJM DDR	5300
128	19	10.01.18	279/304A IPC	MBLHA10EJA9E0470	HA10EAA9E07824	MS SPLENDER	HR-13E-2746	83	-	-	5500
129	565	12.11.17	279/304A IPC	MD2A18AZ3FPF08134	DUZPFF08337	CT-100	HR-99XE(T)-0184	81	-	ACCIDENTAL	3200
130	554	20.11.17	279/304A IPC	MBLHA10EZP940558	HA10EFB9411537	MS SPLENDER	HR-77-4351	79	-	-	5800
131	451	09.09.17	279/304A IPC	MBLHA10EE946114482	HA10E9HG14513	MS SPLENDER	HR-15A-4803	75	-	-	5200

क्र. सं.	दुकानों का विवरण	स्थान	अवधि
1.	दुकान नं. 01	बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	दिनांक 31.03.2022 तक
2.	दुकान नं. 03	बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
3.	दुकान नं. 04	बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
4.	दुकान नं. 05	बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
5.	दुकान नं. 06	बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
6.	मौथी का स्थान	कोसली बूथ के पास, बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
7.	साईकिल व मोटरसाईकिल स्टैंड	बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
8.	दुकान नं. 02	आउट गेट, बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
9.	दुकान नं. 03	आउट गेट, बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
10.	दुकान नं. 04	आउट गेट, बस स्टैंड, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
11.	दुकान नं. 01	गुजरवाड़ा, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
12.	दुकान नं. 03	गुजरवाड़ा, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
13.	दुकान नं. 09	गुजरवाड़ा, रेवाड़ी।	--सम-
14.	होटल	आई.एम.टी. बस स्टैंड बावल	--सम-
15.	साईकिल व मोटरसाईकिल स्टैंड	बस स्टैंड, धारुहेड़ा।	--सम-
16.	साईकिल व मोटरसाईकिल, कार स्टैंड	बस स्टैंड, बावल (पुराना)	--सम-
17.	दुकान नं. 1	बस स्टैंड, बावल (पुराना)	--सम-
18.	दुकान नं. 2	बस स्टैंड, बावल (पुराना)	--सम-
19.	दुकान नं. 2	बस स्टैंड, कोसली	--सम-

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
BARC Facilities, Visakhapatnam

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Online item rate tender in two bid (stages) system are hereby invited through e-tendering mode by The Regional Director, BARC Facilities, Anu Vihar, Mekarasi Hill, Gajuwaka-Yellamanchili Road, Maduturu Sub Post Office, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh-531011, on behalf of The President of India from eligible contractors for the following work:

NIT No: BARC (V)/CES/TL-1K/ET/39, Dated: 25.11.2019
Name of Work: "Construction of super structure of K Block of Laboratory Building-1 and other miscellaneous works at BARC campus, Alchutapuram, Visakhapatnam District, A.P." **Estimated cost** - Rs.10.0 Crores, **Cost of EMD** - Rs.20.0 Lakhs, **Completion Period:** 18 Months. **Detailed NIT & e-Tender Documents available for free view/download** : 05.12.2019 to 26.12.2019 (17.00 Hrs.). **Last date and time of online submission of tender:** Upto 15:00 Hrs on 10.01.2020

Detailed NIT & e-Tender Documents are available on website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE for free view / download and detailed NIT is also available on website www.barc.gov.in for free view only. Registered contractors only can download & upload tenders. Interested agencies may visit this website for registration.

Contact for assistance for registration and participation in e-Tendering:
a. Shri Rudresh: 09969395522 or email: twhelpdesk231@gmail.com
b. Shri Vikram Verma (vizag): 09849126688 or email: twhelpdesk394@gmail.com
c. Tender Wizard Help Desk - 080 4048200 (9 am to 6 pm - Mon to Sat).

For further information/ assistance/ clarifications, please contact on: (0891) 283 8035/3419 Fax: (0891) 283 8003 on all working days.

Sd/- D.Venkateswarlu
Regional Director, BARC(V)

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AMRITSAR

NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS

Bid No. 3 Dated: 29.11.2019

On behalf of the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, Superintending Engineer (O&M) invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for the Project detailed in the following Table. The Bidders may submit Bids for the following Project.

Sr. No.	DNIT No.	Date	Project Description	Approx. Value of the Project (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security/Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Period of Completion (in Months)	Cost of Document/Tender Fee
1.	SEIO&M/Amrut Phase-II/466	16.10.2019	Augmentation of Water Supply and Sewerage System for Amritsar Town, Phase-II, Package-1A (Under Amrut)	2478.09	24.78	12 Months	Rs. 1000/- Processing Fee Rs. 5000/- Taxes as Applicable

For further Specifications, Terms & Conditions, Kindly visit <http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>.
Last Date of Submission : 14.12.2019. Opening Next working day.
Further any Corrigendum/Amendment shall be published on the above said website only.

Sd/-
Superint

DEMOCRACY AND THE INTERNET

How to police political advertising

Lawmakers, not tech bosses, should take the lead



Mark Zuckerberg at a Senate hearing in April last year. Facebook is sticking to its guns, saying it will not regulate political speech — though there are signs it is wavering. Reuters

THE NEW YORK TIMES noted in 1859 that the telegraph was doing a lot to clean up politics. “The telegraph gives the speaker in the furthest East or West an audience as wide as the Union,” it wrote. That made it harder for politicians to promise to relax drinking laws in one city and impose Prohibition in another.

A century and a half later the internet, the telegraph’s distant descendant, has once again transformed politics. Social networks have become the platforms of choice for politicians hoping to get their messages out and to give their opponents a kicking. The results can be seen in both the American and British elections. Online advertising, modest a decade ago, now accounts for around half the total.

This time there is less happiness about the results. Elizabeth Warren, a contender for America’s presidency, has accused Facebook of “taking money to promote lies”, referring to the social network’s decision not to pass judgment on

the content of the political ads it shows to its users. (To demonstrate her point, Ms Warren bought an ad stating, falsely, that Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook’s boss, had endorsed Donald Trump for re-election.) In Britain the ruling Conservative Party has embraced disinformation. During a televised debate on November 19th, the party’s Twitter account re-branded itself as “factcheckuk”, in an attempt to present party-political talking-points as disinterested truth. All this is merely one part of a greater worry that the internet, far from being a benevolent source of useful information, has become a swamp of lies, misdirection and conspiracy theories that is harming politics.

Spooked — especially by the irritation of American politicians, who regulate them — tech firms have changed their rules. Twitter is to ban nearly all political advertising. Google, which owns YouTube, says it will ban ads that make egregiously false claims, and restrict the precision with which political

ads can be aimed at specific groups of people. For now, Facebook is sticking to its guns, saying it will not regulate political speech — though there are signs it is wavering.

Mr Zuckerberg is an unpopular man these days. Yet in this case he is right. The rules of digital democracy should not be set by unaccountable bosses in the boardrooms of a handful of American firms — let alone, in future, Chinese ones. If politicians want to change the behaviour of candidates, the levers are in their hands. It is their job to make the laws under which everyone else — technology firms included —

must operate.

Partisan rancour and short-term self-interest, particularly in America, may make that difficult. But history offers hope. Politicians have agreed in the past on whether and how to regulate other media technologies such as radio, television and newspapers. The rules created for analogue democracies offer a relatively uncontroversial starting-point for digital ones. In America, for instance, the source of political television ads must be disclosed. The same should be true online. Facebook’s decision to stand back looks more in keeping with the traditions of American democracy than

Twitter’s or Google’s commitment to step in. Britain is much stricter. Political advertising is mostly banned on television and radio, with the exception of a limited number of tightly regulated “party-political broadcasts”. Again, it is not clear why the rules for online videos should be more relaxed than those for pitches that appear on television.

New media offer new possibilities and hence raise new dangers. One is the ability to run “microtargeted” ads, aimed at small groups thought to be most receptive to their message. To the extent that it helps politicians deal with particular worries among voters, this can be beneficial. If abused, though, it could amplify exactly the sort of two-faced campaigning the telegraph was supposed to have banished.

It is too soon to limit microtargeting. Not only would it be hard to draw clear lines but, more important, politicians should be reluctant to ban each other’s speech. As a first step, they should enforce transparency, ensuring

that even narrowly targeted ads are available for anyone to examine. Rival politicians will have incentives to dig up evidence of foul play by their opponents, helping keep everyone honest. The tech giants are already making similar moves voluntarily. That could make it easier to convert them into legal requirements.

Another difference between old media and new is that the tech firms are planet-spanning in a way that newspapers and television never were. Democracy, though, remains a local affair. America and Britain have different traditions; those of France, Australia or India are different again. If governments decide to tighten the rules around online advertising—and perhaps attempt to drain the digital swamp more broadly—the result will be a profusion of local laws for the tech firms to comply with. That will be a burden, but it is the price of success.

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IN COLD BLOOD

Big demonstrations in Paris over the murder of women

There is nothing passionate about it

AURÉLIE, AGED 50; Justine, 20; Martine, 64; Safia, 35; Denise, 58; Monique, 72; Aminata, 31. The names on the placards, carried by tens of thousands of protesters through the streets of Paris and other cities on November 23rd, were those of women murdered by their partners in France so far this year. Strangled, stabbed, suffocated, shot or beaten to death, the victims now total 138. The grim phenomenon, which campaigners call femicide, has long been under-reported and poorly handled in France. The government now recognises the country’s “collective failure” on the matter.

France has one of the worst records in the EU for the toll of women murdered by their partners. In 2017, the most recent year for which comparative data exist, 108 women were killed in such circumstances in France, up from 92 two years previously. Germany saw worse, with 153 such murders in 2017, but the record in both countries is far worse than in Britain (75) or Italy (56). In France they constitute over 10% of all murders each year. In the past, as if to excuse them, such killings were often treated

In the wake of the #MeToo movement, France has become more attuned to what constitutes sexual harassment and aggression. Yet the country has had a blind spot when it comes to handling complaints about domestic violence

as crimes passionnels. Today, campaign groups want it known that these are in reality unspeakable cold-blooded murders.

Although Frenchwomen did not get the vote until 1944, France has since come a long way on women’s rights. More recently it has passed legislation to promote more women into the boardroom and elected office. In the wake of the #MeToo movement, France has become more attuned to what constitutes sexual harassment and aggression. Yet the country has had a blind spot when it comes

to handling complaints about domestic violence. On March 3rd this year, for example, Julie Douib, aged 35 and a mother of two small children, was shot dead by her partner. (He is now awaiting trial for her murder.) Before her death, she had filed five complaints of domestic violence to the police, according to Lucien Douib, her father, who has since become a campaigner against femicide. Her case is not atypical.

Pushed by such activists and by a vigorous junior minister for equality, Marlène Schiappa, the government has just finished a consultation on domestic violence. On November 25th Edouard Philippe, the prime minister, concluded that this has helped “break this chain of silence”, and expose the “indifference”, “major dysfunction” and “systematic underestimation” of the problem in France. A damning report commissioned by the justice ministry reveals that two-thirds of the murdered women were victims of previous acts of domestic violence. In September President Emmanuel Macron overheard the dysfunction at first hand when he sat in, anonymously,



Demonstrators carry signs to protest femicide and violence against women in Paris on November 23. Reuters

on a call to an emergency helpline. Mr Philippe has now promised a series of measures to try to ensure better detection and prevention of domestic violence in France. They include training the police in

handling complaints, opening more women’s shelters, making different bits of the judicial system liaise better, and possibly loosening the rules on medical confidentiality in certain cases. “Silence kills,”

declared Mr Philippe this week, adding that “The attitude of an entire society must be changed.”

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SECTOR WATCH AVIATION

Retired pilot claims dues, NCLT Delhi revives second case against Air India

AASHISH ARYAN NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE NEW Delhi bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) revived another case of insolvency against Air India, filed by a retired pilot of the airline. The pilot has claimed dues close to Rs 70 lakh from the debt-laden airline. The case will be next heard on January 14.

The dues of the retired pilot are for the period between July 2012 and January 2016. Apart from the retired pilot, a serving pilot of the company has also recently moved an insolvency application against the airline, claiming dues of nearly Rs 1 crore.

Under Section 9 of The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), salaried employees can, acting as operational creditors, initiate insolvency proceedings against a corporate debtor.

A two-member bench led by Justice Deepthi Mukesh also suggested that counsel for Air India could mention the case before NCLT President Justice M M Kumar and get both the cases listed there to avoid duplication in orders passed by different benches of the same adjudicating authority.

The NCLT had agreed to hear the case filed by the serving pilot, following an October order by a two-judge Supreme Court Bench of Justice Rohinton Nariman and Justice V Ramasubramanian, which set aside the tribunal's decision to adjourn the case sine die.

The apex court had asked the NCLT to reconsider the pilot's plea for initiation of insolvency against Air India. The two-judge SC Bench had then said though it was aware of case pending with it, the same could not come in the way of the NCLT hearing the insolvency petition filed by

₹70 LAKH CLAIMED

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the pilot under The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Cases such as these could create problems for the Central government's plan to float an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for divestment of its stake in the debt-laden national carrier. The government had planned to float the Eoi in November, but it could be delayed — it has been reported that a new proposal could come only by January 2020.

The Centre had floated an Eoi last year to sell 76 per cent stake in AI, which has a debt of around Rs 57,000 crore. The attempt had failed.

TOTAL 10,860 CASES FILED UNDER IBC AS ON SEPT 30, 2019

Amid shortage of benches, over 19,700 cases pending at NCLT

AASHISH ARYAN NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

A TOTAL of 19,771 cases were pending with various benches of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as of September 30, 2019, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur told the Rajya Sabha Tuesday. In his written reply to a question, Thakur said that according to data provided by NCLT, of the 19,771 cases, 10,860 cases had been filed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016.

Apart from insolvency cases, NCLT is also the adjudicating authority for cases filed under various company laws. The data from the government highlights the lack of functional benches of NCLT across the country. The government had, in July, announced setting up of 25 additional single and division benches of NCLT at various places including Delhi, Jaipur, Kochi, Chandigarh, and Amravati. Most benches remain non-operational or partly operational on account of lack of proper infrastructure or adequate support staff.

In his written reply to the same question, Thakur also said that the

EXPLAINED Lack of support & administrative staff a concern

THE LACK of functional benches of NCLT has been a cause of concern as the number of cases pending with the adjudicating authority is on the rise. Though the government has set up set up five new benches during 2018-2019 at Jaipur, Cuttack, Kochi, Indore and Amravati, the lack of administrative and support staff has rendered most of them non-operational or only partially functional.

plans whatsoever — stand at 587. These include big ticket names such as Adhunik Metaliks, Khaitan Electricals, and Orchid Health Care Private, among others, according to the IBCI data. The IBCI had, however, defended the number in its latest data newsletter and said that nearly 427 of the companies which underwent liquidation were earlier with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and/or defunct. "The economic value in most of these CDs (corporate debtors) had already eroded before they were admitted into CIRP" the IBCI had said.

As of September 2019, 535 firms have spent over 270 days waiting to get resolved. In August, the Centre introduced an amendment to increase the deadline to 330 days, but said the CIRP shall mandatorily be completed within this time. "This will include extension of time and any exclusion of time on account of legal proceedings," the government had said.

The Supreme Court, however, while delivering the judgment in the Essar Steel insolvency case, relaxed the criteria of "mandatorily" resolving the CIRP within 330 day, allowing the possibility of extending it beyond that if required.

benches of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) across India until September 30 — an increase of 51.6 per cent over the year-ago period.

However, a meagre 76 resolution plans have been approved in the current fiscal, while the number of companies which have either been liquidated or are headed at liquidation stands at 351 — which is one-third of the total number of insolvency cases filed until September 30.

In the past three years, the number of companies which have been sent for liquidation — either due to lack of feasible resolution plans or absence of any resolution

LENDERS MOVE AGAINST NSDL SHARE TRANSFER

Hold back remaining stocks of Karvy clients, SAT directs NSDL

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 3

THE SECURITIES Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Tuesday asked the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) not to transfer any more shares pledged by Karvy Stock Broking to the original owners as lenders protested against the unilateral transfer of shares by NSDL to the investors.

Issuing an interim stay, a two-member SAT bench said the final order will be issued on Wednesday after the affected lenders, including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank and Bajaj Finance challenged NSDL's decision to transfer shares from Karvy Broking back to 83,000 clients, which helped almost 90 per cent of the demat account-holders of brokerage to recover their securities.

The securities which NSDL transferred back to investors were originally pledged by Karvy with banks to raise funds without taking the permission of the owners. As most of the shares were kept as securities for loans given by banks to Karvy, any "unilateral" transfer of shares will have a major impact on their lending business, banks told the SAT.

Karvy had misused securities of over 95,000 clients which it was holding on behalf of the clients to raise over Rs 600 crore in loans. NSDL on Monday transferred back stocks of nearly 83,000 clients. Bajaj Finance was the first to challenge NSDL's move at the SAT within hours of the transfers, and the banks joined it on Tuesday.

Banks claimed that such "unilateral" transfer of shares, which are pledged with them as securities for borrowings, will deeply impact the entire business of loans against shares and will prevent them from undertaking this business. They also said they cannot be forced to pay for the "sins" of the regulated companies.

ICICI Bank has the maximum exposure of Rs 875 crore which was created only on October 1, 2019. IndusInd Bank has an exposure of Rs 105 crore, HDFC Bank Rs 195 crore, DCB Bank Rs 55 crore and Axis Bank Rs 85 crore, according to RoC filings.

On Monday, Sebi had directed NSDL to transfer the investors' securities, held by Karvy Stock

KEY POINTS

- 1 A two-member SAT bench said the final order will be issued on Wednesday after the affected lenders challenged NSDL's decision to transfer shares from Karvy back to clients.
- 2 The securities which NSDL transferred back to investors were originally pledged by Karvy with banks to raise funds without taking the permission of the owners.
- 3 Karvy had misused securities of over 95,000 clients which it was holding on behalf of the clients to raise over Rs 600 crore in loans.

Broking in their respective accounts. The decision resulted in nearly 83,000 investors getting back their securities that were illegally transferred by the broker to its own account and were even pledged without any authorisation. With this transfer by NSDL, nearly 90 per cent investors received their securities. Karvy had taken loans to the tune of Rs 600 crore by pledging securities worth over Rs 2,300 crore of 95,000 clients with lenders.

Bajaj Finance moved the tribunal against the Sebi order passed on November 22, which prohibited transfer of securities from Karvy accounts with immediate effect, saying due to this directive the non-banking finance company could not invoke the pledge. The regulator had also barred Karvy from taking new clients in respect of it.

On Monday, the National Stock Exchange and the BSE suspended Karvy Stock Broking's trading licence for all segments due to non-compliance of the regulatory provisions of the bourses. Sebi also rejected Karvy's plea to use its clients' power of attorney (PoA) to settle trades done by them as the broking firm illegally transferred securities worth Rs 2,300 crore of more than 95,000 clients.

'Banks need \$7 bn additional capital'

Indian banks need an additional \$7 billion (₹50,000 crore) equity by 2020-21 to support loan growth and cover for bad loans, Fitch Ratings said

SUPPORTING LOAN GROWTH
Indian banks are likely to require an additional \$7 billion of equity by FY'21 (2020-21) to support loan growth, achieve 75 per cent NPL (non performing loan) cover, and build a buffer over the minimum Basel III capital standards, the agency said

NEGATIVE OUTLOOK
In its 2020 Outlook for 'Asia-Pacific Emerging Market Banks', the rating agency maintained a negative outlook on Indian banks, based on its expectations of continued weak performance despite trends showing this could be past the trough, and ongoing capital requirements



SYSTEMIC RISK
Systemic stress across non-banks would deal a significant setback to recovery in the banking sector, reversing recent improvements in performance, and posing solvency risks to banks with the thinnest buffers

STRESS TEST FINDINGS
Fitch conducted a stress test to examine the potential impact on banks of pressures on NBFCs developing into a broad crisis. It estimated the scenario would leave banks with an aggregate shortfall of \$10 billion to meet regulatory minimums, and \$50 billion below the level that would provide an adequate buffer, it said

NON-BANK STRESS, coupled with rising macro headwinds, poses further challenges for asset quality, particularly at state banks. More capital is needed to insulate the banks' weak balance sheets and to sustain loan growth

PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS will require most of this capital as the \$10 billion being injected into banks in 2019-20 will go mainly towards bridging regulatory capital gaps, providing for ageing impaired loans, and absorbing the costs of merging 10 state banks into four by April 2020

A SLOWING ECONOMY could exacerbate asset-quality tensions for a sector which is already grappling with weak recoveries

Source: PFI

DUMPING BY CHINA?

Surge in imports from Singapore under lens

BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

AN UNUSUAL 118 per cent spurt in India's merchandise imports from Singapore to a record \$16.3 billion in 2018-19 has alarmed customs officials and puzzled the Commerce Ministry, which has asked for a closer scrutiny of the inflows, a senior government official told FE.

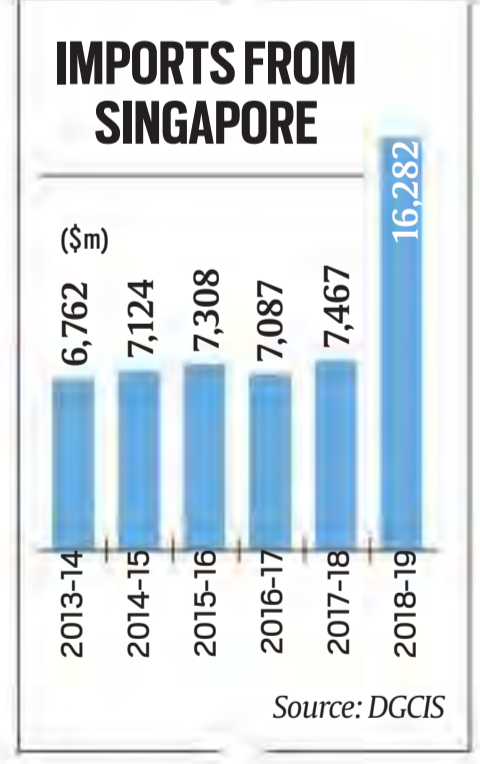
The move comes amid growing fears that Chinese exporters may be diverting supplies to India through Singapore, taking undue advantage of New Delhi's duty concessions to the island city-state under a free trade agreement (FTA), as Beijing's trade war with Washington continues unabated. New Delhi, too, has been mounting pressure on Beijing to trim the massive trade imbalance.

"The scrutiny of any potential violation of the rules of origin (of the imported products) is being tightened," said another source.

This level of annual spike in imports from Singapore has been unheard of despite the existence of the FTA for around 14 years now. In fact, at 64 per cent, it is the highest annual surge in imports from Singapore in recent memory was witnessed in 2006-07, a year after the FTA—formally called the Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement—was signed on June 29, 2005.

India's trade balance with Singapore exacerbated dramatically, from a surplus of \$2.7 billion in 2017-18 to a deficit of \$4.7 billion last fiscal, showed the DGCIIS data. It also helped drive up India's trade deficit with all ASEAN members substantially to \$21.8 billion in 2018-19 from just \$12.9 billion a year before.

Although the imports from Singapore have dropped 6.4 per cent year-on-year in the April-October period of the current fiscal to \$8.7 billion, they were still more than a double of what India imported from the city-state in



trade deficit with China eased by \$9.5 billion to \$53.6 billion. This has raised questions about the actual reduction in India's effective trade deficit with China.

India, last month, pulled out of the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) deal, as it feared, among other things, massive dumping by China and some others. So it wanted effective safeguard mechanisms and strict rules of origin to protect its industry but couldn't get others to agree.

In fact, New Delhi was pushing for "sufficient value addition" of at least 35 per cent in the country of exports for a product to be eligible for its tariff concession under RCEP pact, while others wanted to settle for just minimal value addition. India's existing FTAs with Asean, Singapore, Japan and South Korea already link duty concession to a 35 per cent value addition to prevent unscrupulous elements in other countries from taking advantage of the low or

zero-duty regimes, as per analysts.

What reinforced suspicion of a potential diversion of some Chinese supplies was the fact that, among the high-value segments, the maximum jump in imports from Singapore in 2018-19 was noticed in electrical machinery and parts, sound recorders and TV images (158 per cent rise year-on-year to \$3.1 billion), followed by a 142 per cent surge in certain capital goods (nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts) to \$2.7 billion.

Imports of some petroleum products jumped 209 per cent to \$1.6 billion, while those of organic chemicals rose 20 per cent to \$1.8 billion and plastics and products by 32 per cent to \$1.2 billion. Imports of iron and steel and such articles from Singapore witnessed an over three fold rise to \$638 million and rubber and articles by 263 per cent to \$306 million. China is the dominant exporter of most of these products. FE

S&P reaffirms India's rating, retains outlook at 'stable'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

CREDIT RATING agency Standard & Poor's has reaffirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-' with stable outlook, Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty said on Tuesday.

"They (S&P) have stated that India's economy continues to achieve impressive long-term growth rates despite a recent deceleration. S&P expects the Indian economy to continue to outperform its peers and that the growth will remain strong over the next 2 years," tweeted Chakraborty.

In September 2014, S&P had assigned India the lowest investment grade rating with stable outlook. Prior to that, it had assigned the same rating to India with a negative outlook. On November 8, Moody's Investors Service had cut India's sovereign credit rating

God save India's economy, tweets Chidambaram

New Delhi: Former finance minister P Chidambaram on Tuesday took a dig at the BJP over its MP Nishikant Dubey's remarks that the GDP has no relevance, saying "God save India's economy".

Dubey had said the gross domestic product (GDP) has no relevance and it should not be treated as 'Bible,

Ramayan and Mahabharat'. "GDP numbers are irrelevant, personal tax will be cut, import duties will be increased. These are BJP's ideas of reforms. God save India's economy," Chidambaram, who is in jail in connection with cases of alleged corruption and money laundering, said in a tweet. PTI

the second lowest investment grade score.

The rating agency said its decision to revise the outlook was partly attributable to "lower government and policy effectiveness at addressing long-standing economic and institutional weaknesses". FE

China trade deal might have to wait for 2020 election: Trump

REUTERS LONDON, DECEMBER 3

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said a trade agreement with China might have to wait until after the US presidential election in November 2020, denting hopes of a resolution soon to a dispute that has weighed on the world economy.

"I have no deadline, no," Trump told reporters in London, where he was due to attend a meeting of NATO leaders.

"In some ways, I like the idea

of waiting until after the election for the China deal. But they want to make a deal now, and we'll see whether or not the deal's going to be right'

DONALD TRUMP PRESIDENT, US

European share prices and US stock futures fell, while the Chinese yuan currency sank to a five-week low on the comments by Trump, who has sought to increase trade pressure on other countries in the past 24 hours.

On Monday, he said he would hit Brazil and Argentina with trade tariffs for "massive devaluation of their currencies". The United States then threatened duties of up to 100 per cent on French goods, from champagne to handbags, because of a digital services tax that Washington says harms US tech companies.

US THREATENS TO IMPOSE DUTIES ON IMPORTS OF CHAMPAGNE, OTHER FRENCH GOODS France, EU threaten retaliation if Trump imposes tariffs

REUTERS PARIS, DECEMBER 3

FRANCE AND the European Union said on Tuesday they are ready to retaliate if US President Donald Trump acts on a threat to impose duties of up to 100 per cent on imports of champagne, handbags and other French products worth \$2.4 billion.

The threat of punitive tariffs came after a US government investigation found France's new digital services tax would harm US technology companies, and will

intensify a festering trade dispute between Europe and the US.

"They're starting to tax other people's products so therefore, we go and tax them," Trump said in London on Tuesday ahead of a NATO alliance summit.

He had earlier said he would not allow France to take advantage of American companies and that the European Union treated the United States very unfairly on trade. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire branded the latest US tariff threat unacceptable and said the French tax did not discriminate against US companies.

WHY THE WAR OF WORDS

■ US President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron, who will meet later at the summit, have been at odds over the US' unilateralist approach to trade, climate change and Iran

■ The European Commission said the EU will act as one and that the best place to settle disputes was at the World Trade Organization

He later told a news conference: "We are not targeting any country."

The tariff spat marks a new

low in testy relations — from an early bone-crunching handshake to the US president appearing to flick dandruff off the younger man's shoulder — between Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron.

The two leaders, who will meet later at the summit, have been at odds over the American's unilateralist approach to trade, climate change and Iran.

The European Commission said the 28-nation EU would act as one and that the best place to settle disputes was at the World Trade Organization.

Goldman revises FY20 growth to 5.3% from 6%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 3

GOLDMAN SACHS has joined peers in sharply slashing India's growth estimate, but has predicted an 8.5 per cent gain in equity indices next year despite elevated valuations.

The brokerage attributed the evident dichotomy between GDP growth estimates and the benchmark target to the easy monetary policy that the central bank has been pursuing since the beginning of the year.

The reduction in GDP growth estimate to 5.3 percent from 6 percent comes to amid a rash of similar actions, especially after the September quarter growth slowed to a 26-quarter low of 4.5 percent. Its Japanese peer Nomura has pegged the growth to come at 4.9 percent for FY20, making it the lowest estimate among the analysts. Its India chief economist Prachi Mishra said the reverses on the GDP front have been greater than expected but added growth may be at a trough and may improve from here on.

Mishra said there are early signs of economic stabilisation now.

There are many more steps we have to take, says FM on reforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

SEEKING INVESTMENT from global players, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the government is open to further reforms for making India a more attractive investment destination.

The government has taken various steps, including reduction in corporate tax, she said at the India-Sweden Business Summit here. Without sharing details of future reforms, the finance minister said, "I only can invite and assure that the Government of India is committed for further reforms in various sectors whether it is banking, mining or insurance and so on."

She further said that the government is addressing challenges faced by the industry not just Indian-owned but operational industries which are present in India.

"Since after Budget I have made sure constant interactions with the industry, understanding their challenges, and therefore, since after the budget not waiting for another budget which is expected in February

'The Government of India is committed for further reforms in various sectors whether it is banking, mining or insurance and so on'

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
FINANCE MINISTER

2020, we took major structure reform in the form reduction in corporate tax.

"This one measure indicates how our government believes in reforms. Today I say there are many more steps we have to take," she added.

In the biggest tax reduction in 28 years, the government in September slashed corporate tax rates up to 10 percentage points as it looked to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth with a Rs 1.45 lakh crore tax break.

Base corporate tax for existing companies has been reduced to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for new manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March 31, 2023.

State-run banks disburse ₹4.91L cr in Oct-Nov: FinMin

2.86% of Mudra loans turn into NPAs as of Mar 2019: MoS Finance in Rajya Sabha

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday said 2.86 per cent of Rs 6.04 lakh crore worth of loans sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) have turned into non-performing assets (NPAs).

"Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have reported that as of March 2019, against a total amount of Rs 6.04 lakh crore disbursed by them under PMMY since inception of the scheme, an amount of Rs 17,251.52 crore had turned into non-performing assets (NPAs), which is 2.86 per cent of the total disbursed amount," Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

Even as NPAs continue to rise under Mudra, public sector banks continued with their loan disbursal programmes. Public sector banks disbursed a

FOCUS ON INCREASING ACCESS TO CREDIT

■ In order to boost credit availability in the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in September asked banks to reach out to customers and hold special credit disbursal

campus while keeping in mind prudential norms

■ During October, banks disbursed Rs 2.52 lakh crore while Rs 2.39 lakh crore in November

record Rs 4.91 lakh crore of loans during the festive month of October and November, the Finance Ministry said in a separate statement Tuesday. In order to boost credit availability in the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had, in September, asked banks to reach out to customers and hold special credit disbursal camps while keeping in mind prudential norms. Under her direction, outreach camps or loan melas were conducted across 374 districts across the country during October 2019. During October, banks disbursed Rs 2.52 lakh crore while

Rs 2.39 lakh crore in November. "Total support sanctioned by PSBs in the form of credit to (including co-origination and on-lending) and pool buyouts from NBFCs since the IL&FS default in September 2018 till November 2019 has risen to Rs 4.23 lakh crore, including pool buyouts of Rs 1.24 lakh crore. PSBs being adequately capitalised and record recovery underway, have sufficient liquidity to support credit growth," the Ministry said.

Regarding Mudra loans, Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor MK Jain last Tuesday warned about the growing

stress and asked banks to monitor such loans closely as unsustainable credit growth in the sector can risk the system. "Mudra loans are a case in point. While such a massive push would have lifted many beneficiaries out of poverty, there has been some concerns at the growing level of non-performing assets among these borrowers," Jain had said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PMMY on April 8, 2015, for providing collateral free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises with a view to generating employment, and providing access to easy finance to small enterprises.

Thakur said any complaint received in respect of implementation of the PMMY, including turning down of loan applications, delay in turnaround time and lenders' insisting on collateral/guarantor on certain occasions, are redressed in coordination with the respective banks.

Telcos propose Trai to regulate data tariff by fixing minimum price

KIRAN RATHEE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

DESPITE THE three telecom operators having just announced tariff hikes ranging between 15-50 per cent, industry association Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on Tuesday wrote to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) to set a floor price for data services. It has said that its members, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, and Reliance Jio, are in agreement with this demand.

In its communication to Trai chairman RS Sharma, COAI has written that in today's fierce competition voluntary tariff hike by operators will not suffice and a

regulation of tariff is required for which floor price for data services is required.

"We further submit that the tariff correction in the current level of fierce competition is not possible by any service provider voluntarily and thus the only option available is prescription of a minimum tariff for mobile data service by the Authority. At the same time, the Authority would be aware that unlike mobile data, voice services are considered as essential services especially by the subscribers at bottom of the pyramid and, therefore, would need to be continued under the present forbearance regime," Rajan Mathews, director general, COAI has written. **FE**

Maruti to hike prices from Jan; others likely to follow

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

MARUTI SUZUKI will increase vehicle prices across categories from January 2020 to pass on the rise in input costs, a move which could boost demand in December but impact sales thereafter. The carmaker did not reveal the extent of price increase but said it will vary for different models.

Sources said other manufacturers including Tata Motors, Hyundai and Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) are also likely to announce a price hike when they roll out the entire range of BS VI complaint models.

Maruti Suzuki said over the past year the cost of vehicles has been impacted adversely due to increase in various input costs.

"It has become imperative to pass on some impact of the additional cost to customers through a price increase across various models," it said in a regulatory filing.

M&M on Tuesday launched the BS VI version of its XUV300 compact SUV priced between Rs 8.30 lakh and Rs 11.84 lakh. When contacted, a Mahindra spokesperson said the company is contemplating a price hike during early January. "However, a final decision will be taken closer to the end of the current month," the spokesperson said. Tata Motors and Hyundai did not reply till the press time.

Over the last one year, car prices have jumped around 15 per cent on account of rise in insurance premium and safety norms, resulting in decade low sales virtually every month. **FE**

Lok Sabha passes Bill to regulate ship recycling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE LOK Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill to regulate recycling of ships as per international standards.

The Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 was passed by voice vote with Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya asserting that the proposed law will help the ship recycling industry and generate more jobs. India is the global leader in the business of recycling of ships.

"Protection of environment and safety of workers are the soul of the Bill," Mandaviya said. Congress member Hibi Eden opposed the Bill, questioning the "hurry" with which the government had brought it.

'Merger of PSBs will not lead to job losses'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday assured the Rajya Sabha that merger of 10 public sector banks will not lead to any job losses and employees' interest will be protected.

In August, the government announced a mega plan to merge 10 public sector banks into four with a view to creating fewer and stronger global-sized lenders with robust balance sheets that can be used to boost credit and spur growth.

During the Question Hour, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said lending and other banking services to eastern states will be improved after two Kolkata-based banks are merged.

While United Bank of India will be merged with Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank will be amalgamated with Indian Bank. These two banks are headquartered in Kolkata.

"Merger of banks will strengthen the lending capacity. It has been ensured that no person loses job. The employees of merging banks will benefit the maximum," he said.

"We have taken enough precaution," he said, adding that Narasimham Committee in 1998 and Leeladhara Committee in 2008 recommended amalgamation of the banks. "Amalgamating banks was advised to duly factor in and draw road maps for converging IT systems and HR and to put in place institutional arrangements to ensure expeditious integration," Thakur said.

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(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
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NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), Corporate Office, New Delhi invites Expression of Interest from the interested parties who intend to offer readily available godowns at different locations across the country to CWC on hired basis or intend to offer constructed godowns to CWC within six months on the vacant land in their possession. Interested parties can visit our website for details: www.cewacor.nic.in.

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DGVCL Toll Free No. 19123 OR 1800 233 3003

Tender Notice
Details are put up on www.dgvcl.com (for view and download tender documents) and www.dgvcl.nprocure.com (for view, download and online tender submission).

Sr. No.	Tender No.
1	DGVCL/SP/20025/11KV Disc Hardware
2	DGVCL/SP/20027/22KV D.O Fuse
3	DGVCL/SP/20028/22KV Lighting Arrestor
4	DGVCL/SP/20032/22KV Transformer
5	DGVCL/SP/20036/M S Bolts & Nuts

Note: Bidders may visit our website for regular updates till opening of the tender.
ACE (P), DGVCL, Surat.
Install MCB/ELCB/RCCB & Prevent Electric Shocks/Electrical Accidents

GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
O/O THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RENGALI RIGHT IRRIGATION PROJECT, DHENKANAL
PIN: 759001, Tel No. (06762) 223264, e-mail: ccerrip@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCERRIP - 05/2019-20

Online tenders are invited on EPC Contract (Turn- Key Basis) for Construction of Under Ground Pipe Line Irrigation System (Gravity Flow) in Sadasivpur Branch Canal of Rengali Right Irrigation Project in Dhenkanal district of Odisha on EPC-Turn Key basis.

- Name of Work : Construction of under Ground Pipe Line Irrigation system (Gravity Flow) for 640 Ha. of CCA and Command Area Development (CAD) for 1362 Ha. CCA of Sadasivpur Branch Canal of Rengali Right Irrigation Project in Dhenkanal district of Odisha on EPC-Turn Key basis.
- Period of completion : 11 (Eleven) calendar months including rainy season.
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal: From 09.12.2019, 10.00 AM to 26.12.2019 up to 5.30 PM.
- Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 26.12.2019 up to 05.30 PM.
- Time and Date of : 27.12.2019 at 11.00 AM.
- Opening of Technical Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Rengali Right Irrigation Project, At/Po- Dhenkanal, Dist- Dhenkanal
- Name & address of the officer inviting Bid : 10/A.O of 09.12.2019 to 03.00 PM of 16.12.2019
- Seeking clarification : Chief Construction Engineer, Rengali Right Irrigation Project 32351/11/0005/1920

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rengali Right Irrigation Project
32351/11/0005/1920

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RECRUITMENT - UNDER FUNDED PROJECT
[CONTRACTUAL AND TEMPORARY POSITION ON CONSOLIDATED PAY]
Institute invites applications from Indian nationals for the position of "Chief Executive Officer (CEO)" on contractual basis under funded project titled "Establishment of Atal Incubation Centre at AIC IISER PUNE SEED FOUNDATION SPV of IISER Pune".
For detailed advertisement and submission of applications, please visit www.iiserpune.ac.in and click on the link "Opportunities - Technical / Administration". The last date for submission of applications is December 20, 2019.
Advt. No.: 85/2019/IISER-PI/Proj_Recl/29.11.2019 REGISTRAR

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (उ.प्र.)
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)
Talibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur- 492 099 (CG) (www.aiimsraipur.edu.in)

No. AIIMS-RPR/Rect./Pub./2019/2023, Date: 02-12-2019

E-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur Chhattisgarh, Gol, invites e-tender for following:

Tender Title	EMD Cost	Published on CPPP/Website	Pre-bid Meeting date	Closing date
Supply of USG and Echo Cardiography Colour Doppler with Accessories for department of Pulmonary Medicine	₹ 81,000.00	29-11-2019	06-12-2019	26-12-2019 at 03:00 pm
Supply of Transcranial Doppler with Multifrequency Probe for Department of Neurosurgery	₹ 3,40,000.00	29-11-2019	09-12-2019	26-12-2019 at 03:00 pm

The details terms & conditions are available on the website: www.aiimsraipur.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in
Stores Officer, AIIMS Raipur

CORRIGENDUM
Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
(Ref: Short Tender Call Notice No. 167-D)

With reference to the Short Tender Call Notice No. 167-D for purchase of for purchase of different types of Clothing articles (including Ceremonial Uniforms), Nylon Web equipments and Police Flags for Odisha Police under State Budget Grant during the Current Financial Year, 2019-2020, please note that some modifications in the last date of issue of Tender Document, last date for receipt of sealed tender and sample and date for opening of sealed Tenders / Technical bids have been made as follows.

- Last date for issue of Tender documents extended up to **10.12.2019 up to 5.00 PM** instead of dtd: 03.12.2019 up to 5 PM.
- Last date for receipt of sealed Tender and Sample extended up to dtd: **11.12.2019 up to 5 PM** instead of dtd: 04.12.2019 up to 5.00 PM.
- Date for opening of sealed Tenders / Technical Bids re-fixed to dtd: **12.12.2019 at 11.30 AM** at the Office of the D.G. & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Buxi Bazar, Cuttack instead of dtd.05.12.2019 at 11.30 AM
- The other terms and conditions of tender documents remain unchanged.

A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning), Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)

12018/11/0027/1920

Xiaomi launches app for access to NBFCs

SHRUTI DHAPOLA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

AFTER A year of testing, Xiaomi has formally entered the micro-loans space in India with its Mi Credit app, a curated platform offering access to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Xiaomi had earlier launched Mi Pay based on the UPI-platform.

In India, the Mi Credit for now is a curated platform with multiple partners such as Aditya Birla Finances Limited, MoneyView, EarlySalary, Zestmoney and CreditVidya.

Xiaomi is an early investor in ZestMoney. With Mi Credit, Xiaomi is claiming a very simple user interface where users will be able to get a loan within five minutes from any of these providers.

However, the final creditworthiness is determined by the NBFC in question, each of which have different models to determine this.

In India, micro-loans of up to Rs 1,00,000 can only be given by NBFCs with a license.

However, Xiaomi India head and managing director Manu Kumar Jain did not seem averse to the company offering loans

itself. "If required, why not?" he said when quizzed on the same.

Getting an NBFC license, Jain said, would not mean Xiaomi would stop working with its existing partners.

"Having our own NBFC license would allow us to serve customers better, maybe those who are not being served by other partners. It just gives us a lot more leverage," he explained, adding in China their model has both.

Jain said they were working with fintech companies for now and was open to adding even banks on the platform.

BRIEFLY

RBI MPC starts deliberations on monetary policy

Mumbai: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Tuesday started its three-day deliberations on the policy review. The MPC's resolution will be placed on the RBI's website at 11.45 am on December 5.

Metal stocks fall amid fresh US tariffs

Mumbai: Metal stocks witnessed a selling pressure on Tuesday falling up to 6.2 per cent amid fresh concerns over global trade tussle in the wake of slapping of tariffs by the US on imports from Brazil and Argentina. Among metal companies, Jindal Steel & Power was the top loser as its shares fell 6.18 per cent.

Standard Life to sell 2.23% in HDFC AMC

New Delhi: Standard Life Investments Ltd, one of the promoters of HDFC Asset Management Company, will offload 2.23 per cent stake in the fund house on December 4-5. Besides, there will be an option to additionally sell up to 38.5 lakh equity shares, amounting to 1.81 per cent stake of the fund house. **PTI**

HDFC Bank net banking down for second day

Mumbai: The net banking platform and mobile application of HDFC Bank was down for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, even as the bank said it was working to resolve the technical glitch. **FE**

Grofers loss widens to ₹448 cr in FY19

New Delhi: SoftBank-backed Grofers reported widening of its loss to Rs 448 crore in 2018-19 financial year, while its income rose by over 56 per cent from the previous fiscal, according to regulatory documents filed by the company.

Eris acquires Zomelis trademark

New Delhi: Eris Lifesciences on Tuesday said it has acquired the trademark Zomelis and its associated trademarks from Novartis AG for the Indian market for \$13 million. **PTI**

About 92,700 BSNL, MTNL staff opt for VRS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

NEARLY 92,700 employees of BSNL and MTNL have opted for voluntary retirement, which is expected to save about Rs 8,800 crore annually in salary bills for the companies.

The voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) closed on Tuesday. "Approximately 78,300 employees have opted for the VRS as per data received from all the circles till the closing of the scheme. Besides VRS applicants, around 6,000 employees have retired. This is as per our target. We were expecting reduction of 82,000

headcount," BSNL CMD P K Purwar said. MTNL CMD Sunil Kumar said, "14,378 employees have opted for VRS against target of 13,650 employees. This will reduce our annual salary bill from Rs 2,272 crore to Rs 500 crore." In a separate development, BSNL has urged the telecom department to deploy adequate number of senior ITs officers. After the announcement of VRS, BSNL human resource director Arvind Vadnerkar has written to the Department of Telecommunications citing Purwar's request in July for deployment of 200 additional ITs officers on important senior managerial positions at the public sector firm.

AAI starts taking bids under Udan 4th round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE AIRPORTS Authority of India (AAI) has initiated the process of taking bids from airlines for various routes under the 4th round of bidding of its regional connectivity scheme UDAN.

eastern states, hilly states, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and islands, a release said.

Under the UDAN scheme, financial incentives in terms of concessions from the Centre, state governments and airport operators are extended to selected airlines to encourage operations from unserved and under-served airports, and keep airfares affordable.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

For general information that I, Mangat Ram S/O Daulat Ram, Residing at NA-224, New BaldevNagar, Jalandhar-144004, Punjab, inform that my name is wrongly written as Mangat Raj in Passport-P37831. The actual name of mine is Mangat Ram respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040522867-4

I, Kaushal Kumarr Jain S/O Sh.Rajinder Kumar Jain R/O 5E/25, B.P.NIT Faridabad-121001, Haryana have changed the name of my minor son from Arham Jain to Arrham Jain for all purposes. 0040522786-3

I, Krishna Kumar Sharma S/O Om Prakash Sharma R/O RZ C-109, Gali No-11, 50 Feet Road, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Krishan Kumar Sharma. 0070686518-1

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PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public as requested through the help of my client Smt. Babita Gupta wife of Shri Brijesh Kumar resident 1647/15, Second Floor, Govind Park, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, who is selling the Third Floor (Front Side Portion) without Terrace Rights, measuring 80 Sq. Yds., carved out of Kharsa No. 93, situated at Govind Park, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. If anybody having any claim, title, charge or interest in respect of the aforesaid Property may lodge his/her claim/objection in written with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice and after this period it shall be presumed that there is no claim/charge/interest/title on the aforesaid Property. Satish Khattana (Advocate) Chamber No. 311, Patiala House Court, N.D.-110001 Mob: 9971773737

EASTERN COAL FIELDS LIMITED (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) E-TENDER NOTICE A) Name of Area: Rajmahal Area, B) NIT No. and Date: ECL/RJML/GM/ITC/AE/EC/Tea/19-20/377 Dt: 26/11/2019. C) Name of Work: Construction of GM/Agent office for Huma 'G' Project. D) Estimated Cost: Rs. 81,30,455.25 E) Earnest Money: Rs. 1,01,700.00 F) Tender Fee: Nil G) Bid Submission Start Date: 27-Nov-2019 H) Bid Submission End Date: 7-Dec-2019 I) Bid Opening Date: 9-Dec-2019. For more detail login to our website www.easterncoalfields.nic.in Area Engineer (Civil) Rajmahal Area VISIT US AT www.easterncoalfields.nic.in

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU E-TENDER NOTICE NO. DRS/JGM/ANM Schools/06 OF 2019. For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Online tenders are invited from the Original Manufacturers (authorised dealer) only who are already registered with Health & Medical Education Department for the supply of "Mannequins/ Models for establishing Skill Labs in ANM/GNM Schools of Jammu Division" for the year 2019-20.

Table with 3 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Item, Detailed Specifications. Lists various mannequin models for medical training, including Human Fetus Replicas, Abdominal Palpation Mannequin, Child Birth Simulator, Hand Held Uterus Model, Postpartum Suture Training, Intrauterine Infection Training, Adult CPR Mannequin, Adult IV Training Arm Kit, Pediatric IV Arm Kit, Essential Newborn Care & Resuscitation Mannequin, Normal Newborn Baby Mannequin, Female Catheterization Mannequin, and Female Tubing Insertion Mannequin.

25 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



IN HER MEMORY

An exhibition dedicated to late Austrian-Romani painter Ceija Stojka, a survivor of the Holocaust who portrayed the atrocities of the Nazis against a million Roma people in her artwork, is on display at Madrid's Reina Sofia museum. Stojka had survived three Nazi death camps.

SNAP SHOTS



Happy Feet

JAPANESE ACTIVIST and actor Yumi Ishikawam (pictured), who had garnered immense support for her #KuToo campaign that protests against the mandatory wearing of high heels by women to the workplace in Japan this year, is leading yet another fight. Ishikawam's latest petition to the labour ministry on Tuesday — with over 31,000 signatures — attacks strict corporate dress codes that bar women from wearing glasses. On Monday, #KuToo was chosen among the buzzwords of the year, which is an interplay of the Japanese words *kutsu* (meaning shoes) and *kutsuu* (meaning pain).



Dreaming Big

ACTOR TAAPSEE PANNU (pictured) is set to step into the shoes of Indian women's cricket team captain, Mithali Raj, in the upcoming biopic *Shabaash Mithu*. The film will be directed by director Rahul Dholakia of *Raees* fame. The announcement was made on Raj's birthday on Tuesday. Raj said in a statement, "I have always stood for and voiced my opinion for equal opportunity for women not just in cricket but across all fields. I want to thank Ajit Andhare and Viacom 18 Studios for not just bringing alive my story on screen but also for giving me a bigger platform to be able to reach out to young women who dare to dream."



'The focus is great cinema, not just great indie cinema'

As MUBI enters India, Efe Çakarel talks about his experience of acquiring movies in the country and why he is headed to Chennai next

ALAKA SAHANI

IN 2007, Turkish-born Efe Çakarel, after a successful stint with Goldman Sachs in London and New York, founded MUBI — a curated movie streaming service. MUBI follows an interesting model of adding a new movie everyday at midnight; this is then available for 30 days. Çakarel, who has an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, developed this service, initially called The Auteurs, after a failed attempt to stream a movie on his laptop at a Tokyo café. With its headquarter in London and team spread across the world, this global online platform mostly showcases handpicked movies that are not easily available, experimental in nature and works of auteurs from across the world. Recently, it launched MUBI India, and available on it right now are movies by Saeed Akhtar Mirza, Mira Nair, Satyajit Ray, Kumar Shahani, Mrinal Sen, Mani Kaul, and Shyam Benegal among others. During his trip to Mumbai, Çakarel spoke about his plans for India. Excerpts:

The Indian market already has several movie streaming services. What is your vision for the country?

There are strong local players such as Hotstar, and then the big international ones such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Everybody is trying to do the same thing — provide as much content as possible. The content is mostly skewed towards television series, which are much more engaging, and big blockbuster movies. We, however, focus on great movies. Sometimes we have a movie that's made on a really big scale and sometimes it's a really small film that we believe people should watch. Now, people know what MUBI stands for and our business has grown amazingly. That's what we are expecting in India as well.

Some cinema purists have expressed concern over the possibility of MUBI diluting its content to cater to the pan-Indian audience.

We had been showing movies which previously did not get distribution in this country. The content was very art-house and eccentric. The people who are on MUBI right now are hardcore cinephiles. They're incredibly demanding regarding our cinema choices. However, there is a reason why a certain movie is on our platform. I always tell my team that don't take yourself too seriously, take what you do very seriously. You need to have a selection of films that's amazing. But we are not purely about independent cinema. *Joker* is a Warner Brothers movie. It's as big as it gets (in terms of scale), yet it is pure cinema. Putting that film on MUBI, maybe, would create some stir. But that's my message: it's a platform that focuses on great cinema, not just great independent cinema.

Still, why would you have *John Wick* and *John Wick 2*, especially when another platform is streaming them?

We think that Keanu Reeves is very good in these movies. We love what he does. In the context of 30 films available on MUBI at any given time, we will have some films,



(Clockwise from above) Efe Çakarel; stills from films *Ghare Baire*; *Duvidha*; *Mirch Masala*

and I don't want to call them guilty pleasures, which would have something special about them. We can argue why *John Wick* may or may not belong to MUBI, but in the end it's the programming team that makes those decisions.

MUBI has come to be seen as a platform where one can watch movies that people cannot find elsewhere.

That'll continue. During my next trip to India, I will spend a couple of weeks in Chennai. I'm getting fascinated with the cinema coming out from south India. We are going to show those films. In the coming months, people are going to see that we are as genuine and committed to championing great cinema as we've always been.

How easy or difficult has it been for you to source movies in India as we have lost a lot of prints?

We are new in India for the audience, but we are not new for the film industry. We have been at the film festivals at Cannes, Venice, Berlin and others. We have been buying and releasing movies. There are a lot of films that we may not have access to right now. However, when we started looking at the films that we'd like to show, for example, *Pyasa*, we found out that Ultra has the rights. When our programming team goes to them, they end up going through their

catalogue and pick up more titles. Similarly, we have been going to the National Film Archives of India, Shemaroo and others. These conversations have not been difficult.

Has there been any other challenge?

Commercial movies are difficult because Netflix and Amazon have completely distorted the market (by offering a higher price). Even though they don't have a long-term commitment regarding independent cinema or classics, when then entered the market it was like grabbing the land. So, the price expectation for content to be streamed in this country went up significantly over the past few years. I do expect to lose money here. It's going to take a couple of years to get it right. But I'm not focused on profitability at this stage. I'm focused on growth. So if I want a particular title, we need to figure a way to get it and we need to pay up.

Would movies have an afterlife on MUBI after 30 days?

Currently, no. Sometimes we bring the film back if there's a lot of demand or we are doing a retrospective, but after a certain gap. Good cinema is for everyone. It's just that people don't get exposed to it, especially the young generation. They are bombarded with movies such as *The Avengers*. You need to create an environment where they are exposed to these wonderful films.

Spice of Life

Chef Suvir Saran on his new book and how the colour of his skin remains a challenge in the US



Suvir Saran (left); the cover of his book

SONAL GUPTA

FOR NEW DELHI-born chef Suvir Saran the kitchen is more than just a home of invention. It's a haven for histories of food, stories and his own self. At the recently held Sair Conclave at Delhi's Bikaner House, Saran spoke about exploring India through local food, which, he says, can reveal much about the region's religious beliefs, traditions and culture. "The Indian mother, the home cook is what stood me in good stead and that's what I brought to people here," says Saran, whose fourth book, *Instamatic, Instapics, Instasayings, Instawisdom: A Chef's deeper, more insightful look into today's Instaworld*, will be out in January.

After suffering a stroke recently, Saran took a break from his daily life and indulged in his hobby to photograph the world. The book is a culmination of all these pictures and his thoughts, as an ode to the "millennial world" of Instagram and Snapchat.

It was while pursuing a degree in visual arts at the JJ School of Arts, Mumbai, that Saran found his love for cooking. Plagued by every hosteler's plight — missing home-cooked food — he started going over to friends' houses and cooking for them. The habit continued when he went to the US in 1993. A young 20-year-old Saran, juggling between his course at the School of Visual Arts in New York and his job at the Metropolitan Museum of Art gift store, started cooking Indian food for anyone who'd line up outside his home there. It took his boss' insistence on taking severance from a retail sales job to begin his professional journey as a chef. "I realised at a young age that in the kitchen I wasn't judged, I wasn't questioned or challenged. I was a young man coming of age in India and as a gay man, I had no other friends or icons I could relate to. So in the kitchen I could hide and cook," says Saran, who, at 25, became the youngest professor at the New York University, teaching food studies. For 17 years now, he has been teaching the course 'Healthy Kitchens, Healthy Lives' at Harvard to physicians.

But the journey hasn't been easy. "This is not a profession that was considered sexy or financially sound. By the end of it I became a chef who was invited on TV. Today, chefs are the new rockstars," says Saran, who featured as a contestant in the American series *Top Chef Masters*, and later as a judge on *Iron Chef*. He was the executive chef at Devi, a restaurant in New York that became the first Indian restaurant to earn a Michelin star.

He remembers struggling to even introduce Indian cuisine in the food circles of New York. "The colour of my skin was a challenge. It continues to be, even today. As India is turning right wing so is America, and every culture is going through these polarised moments. So they weren't as friendly to a person who wasn't Caucasian, making Italian, French or northern European cuisine. I had to work three times as hard," says Saran.

Where the Sidewalk Ends

Hindi writer Prabhat, winner of this year's Big Little Book Award, on being unafraid to talk to children about difficult things and why nature is significant in his books

PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

IN HIS village Raisana in Rajasthan's Karauli district, where a large part of his childhood was spent, there were not many sources of entertainment. There were no libraries and the bioscope came only once in a while. Hindi writer Prabhat, 47, winner of this year's Big Little Book Award (BLBA), remembers the many lonely evenings he spent and the stories that alleviated his boredom. "There weren't many opportunities to read but there was a rich oral tradition of stories. The women in the families would tell stories; they would sing *kathas*; in *dangals* and village gatherings, there would be some form of storytelling or the other. That's how I came to be interested in stories, and, eventually, in writing," says the writer, whose first books — *Kalibai* (Room to Read) and *Paniyon Ki Gadiyon Mein* (Lokayat) — came out in 2005.

The citation of the Big Little Book Award, given every year to a children's writer in a vernacular language (this year's chosen language was Hindi), says, "Apart from giving them joy, his writing gives children the opportunity to drown in an ocean of imagination, get engulfed in a vortex of curiosity, and to think and reflect... Prabhat is also known for presenting in his writing, images and experiences of rural life with authenticity and ease." Aimed for a readership of 5+ years, there is an earthiness to Prabhat's writing, a simplicity with which he brings to life clever linguistic twists and the contiguity between nature and civilisation that is fast disappearing. In *Kaisa Kaisa Khana* (Jugnoo Prakashan), for instance, a little girl, Rashi, discovers how the word *khana* can be used differently in different contexts. In *Kya Baat Ho Gayi?* (Eklavya), an accordion-style book of free verses, he discusses absence in the human and animal world. In *Cycle ka Sapna* (Eklavya), born out of a children's workshop at IIT, Bombay, he speaks of energy conservation and how one can reduce carbon footprints. "Unlike now, there was a time when our proximity to nature meant that we felt at home in it and not threatened by it. So, when I think of my childhood, I remember the loneliness but also the thrill of getting drenched in the rain when it finally came to our arid land. I want to share that joy with children," says the writer, who is now based out of Sawai Madhopur and works as a teacher trainer with a library education programme when he is not writing.

Much of his experiments with language, says Prabhat, who is equally at ease with poetry and prose, began when he found a nurturing ecosystem in the Hindi children's magazine circuit. "We moved to Jaipur in my teens



(Clockwise from top) Writer Prabhat receiving the Big Little Book Award; the books covers of his books *Kaisa Kaisa Khana* and *Kya Baat Ho Gayi?*

with my father's transfer. There, I came across a bunch of children's magazines such as *Parag* and *Suman Saurabh* that opened up a whole new world for me. I read voraciously and what began as imitative writing slowly came into its own," he says. The gentle rhythm of his narratives rely as much on his memory of listening to *kathas* in his village as on those years of relentless reading. The magazines would later go on to kickstart his writing life, too.

A lot of Hindi publishing for children thrives on the initiative of indie publishers. While diversity is their forte, mainstream distribution often becomes a problem. The recognition that comes with awards is a step up in that direction. "It makes you more confident of reaching a wider audience," says the writer.

Prabhat, who goes only by his first name because he does not want his surname to be a giveaway of his caste and religious identity, says that he has never shied away from touching upon difficult issues — such as separation, anxiety or diversity — in his books. "Children are perceptive enough to reflect on nuances if only one would have discussions with them. They are unconditioned and original in their thoughts. Life, death, separation — they experience it in their own way. I consider my whole life to be my subject. I pick and choose episodes that I think will touch a chord with children," he says.

Lessons in History

An exhibition in the Capital gives insight into the lesser-known links between India and France

SURBHIGUPTA

MICHEL RAYMOND'S India story began in 1775 when he moved to Pondicherry (now Puducherry) with his brother to open a shop. He, however, joined the military soon after, moved to Mysore when the British occupied the port city and then eventually joined Nizam Ali Khan's army in Hyderabad, became his right hand man and a force against the British. There was also Chevalier de Lalleu who headed the Swiss Army, maintained by the Nizam's estranged brother Basalat Jung, which had 500 Europeans, 500 Topasses, 1400 sepoy and a

small artillery train. After a brief stint in Hyderabad and a futile bid to tie up with the Marathas, he finally took his corps to Mysore and advised Tipu Sultan in the Battle of Pollilur in 1780. The two are among 12 military officers whose stories come alive at the exhibition 'Rajas, Nawabs & Firangees: Treasures from French & Indian Archives (1750 - 1850)' on display at the National Museum in Delhi.

"The exhibition gives an idea of the widespread presence of French military men in the peninsula, along with other European ones. Few of them reached the highest position in the hierarchy of Indian armies, and even became nawabs themselves, some were en-



Samuel Berthet (above); a painting showcasing Colonel Antoine-Louis Henri Polier watching a nautch

dowed with *jagirs*, and others died anonymously on the battlefield or elsewhere during their journey in India," says historian Samuel Berthet, who curated the exhibition, along with Bishwadeep Moitra.

He adds that the officers, two of whom — Jean-Baptiste Gentil or Antoine Polier — took back collections of Indian manuscripts which are part of the archives at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF). What has come to

India are high resolution reproductions of these paintings and manuscripts that adorn the National Museum walls at the exhibition. These give the Indian audience a rare access into the albums that are normally restricted to a handful of accredited researchers.

"There are so many travelogues and archives in France about India but not much is known about them. People were surprised that we did not include (Joseph Marquis) Duplex or (Charles Joseph Patissier de) Bussy but they are already well known. We also wanted to go beyond military history as few of them took incredible collections of Indian manuscripts with them. When people think of Indian miniatures, they think of the British collections and not the French ones," says Berthet. The exhibition covers most of the Indian territory, from present Kerala to Punjab, through Bengal, Awadh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Poona, Hyderabad, and Madurai. "All of them adapted and at times adopted the lifestyle of the court where they served, and learned the language," says Berthet. One of them who went native "with

both depth and aplomb" was Antoine-Louis Polier. He found a home in Shuja-ud-Daula's Awadh and commissioned paintings by the famous artist Mir Chand, manuscripts on Hindu mythology and was fluent in Urdu and Persian.

The second part displays a selection of many sacred texts preserved at the BNF. There is the *Kalpasutra*, a part of the 300 Jain manuscripts at the French archive, the Buddhist Dharani, the Adi Granth, written in Gurmukhi, from Polier's collection, and a copy of Quran, written in a script specific to India called the Bihari. Gentil, who was one of the first to collect albums of Indian paintings, also took with him folios of devotional poetry, and several copies of the illustrated Bhagavad Gita, which are part of the exhibition. The exhibition takes us to the world of the firangees and answers questions like how did they project themselves during their eastern sojourn, and how were they represented by indigenous miniature artists.

The exhibition is on at National Museum till December 7

BRIEFLY



Jasprit Bumrah missed the entire Bangladesh series.

Bumrah starts training under Delhi Capitals physio

New Delhi: Having recovered from a stress fracture of the back, star Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has started working out under IPL franchise Delhi Capitals' trainer Rajnikanth Sivagnanam at the Mumbai Cricket Association. Bumrah picked up the injury in September and did not play in the home series against South Africa and Bangladesh.

He will also miss the upcoming limited-overs assignment against West Indies starting December 6. "He has been training at MCA. It's a personal arrangement," an official source told PTI. The 25-year-old is expected to make a comeback for next year's tour of New Zealand, in which India will play five T20 Internationals, three one-dayers, followed by two Tests starting January 24. Although employed with Delhi IPL franchise Sivagnanam, it is learnt, he also works independently with players. Bumrah on Monday posted a video of him training in the gym with Sivagnanam. Incidentally, Sivagnanam was among the trainers who applied for the India job in August but lost out to New Zealand's Nick Webb for the position.

Ganguly wants India to play pink-ball Tests in every series

New Delhi: Indian cricket board chief Sourav Ganguly believes pink-ball Tests are here to stay and wants the team under Virat Kohli to play at least one such match in every series.

India became the last major cricket nation to embrace day-night tests when they hosted neighbours Bangladesh in front of a sellout crowd at Kolkata's Eden Gardens last month. As the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Ganguly's nudge prompted India to take the plunge into day-night tests, which pundits believe can address test cricket's dwindling attendance in most venues. "I am pretty upbeat about it," Ganguly told 'The Week' magazine. "I feel this is the way forward. Not every test, but at least one test in a series."

Encouraged, Ganguly said. "I will share my experiences with the board and we will try and implement it in other places. After this, everyone is ready. Nobody wants to play test cricket in front of 5,000 people," added the former India captain. Kohli has welcomed the innovation but said pink-ball tests should be an exception and not the rule. "I think (day-night tests) can be a one-off thing, it should not be a regular scenario," Kohli said in Kolkata on the eve of the Test match.

AGENCIES

BCCI helpline catches 100-odd cases of age, domicile fraud

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 3

THE INDIAN Cricket Board has banned more than 100 players — both men and women — this year for providing fake age and domicile certificates. These cases came to light via a helpline set up this year where complaints could be registered.

Of the 101 players banned, 75 were found to have submitted fake age certificates while 26 presented fake domicile certificates. "Earlier there used to be a suspicion that a particular player was overage, but nobody knew where to complain. If they went to the state association, there was a risk of action being taken against the complainant," Dr Abhijit Salvi, who is handling

the age verification of each player registered with the BCCI, told The Indian Express. "This year, we introduced the helpline for age fraud on the lines of the anti-doping helpline. Complaints poured in from players. Some provided proof, some couldn't. So we did our investigation."

The BCCI has hired people to independently verify birth and domicile certificates submitted by players. These individuals physically go to schools, colleges, hospitals, local municipalities and the addresses mentioned in the certificates to check if the details provided are correct. Salvi said they even checked computer-generated birth certificates that looked genuine to the naked eye. "We did investigation on our own and didn't involve the state associations. They don't know who are these people investigating the players. Sometimes we

took help from the anti-corruption unit. "The men go to schools, colleges and local municipalities to verify the dates of birth. Every state has at least one case of age fraud," Salvi said.

'Detrimental to the sport'

Rahul Dravid, Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy, has stressed on curbing the age-fraud menace and said it was "seriously detrimental" to the health of the sport.

"Age fraud leads to an erosion of culture. It leads to a scenario where a lot of talented boys don't get to play when they should actually be playing," the former India captain had said. Giving an example, Salvi hinted at some of the difficulties encountered in catching age cheats. "There has been a case where a player was registered five years ago in Delhi

but was registered from Rajasthan with a different name. We had his details and it helped us in banning him. There was a suggestion from Ajit Singh that in future the board should file police complaint in such cases BCCI anti-corruption unit chief Ajit Singh recommended a police complaint," Salvi added.

On Monday, it came to light that Delhi cricketer Prince Ram Niwas Yadav had been banned from domestic cricket for the next two seasons after being found guilty of age-fudging in under-19 tournaments. According to a BCCI mail to DDCA, he had misrepresented his age to the extent of five years. BCCI general manager (cricket operations) Saba Karim said it's the Board's endeavour to bring down age-fraud and they will even consider filing police complaints to check the menace.

Earlier there used to be a suspicion that a particular player was overage, but nobody knew where to complain. If they went to the state association, there was a risk of action being taken against the complainant."

ABHIJIT SALVI

DOCTOR HANDLING AGE VERIFICATION

"Going forward stringent measures will be taken to eradicate age fraud. There have also been cases in the new member states of place-of-birth being changed. In many such cases, we have banned players for two years. We will have a strict law in the future. It's an evolving process so it will take time but we are trying our level best," Karim said.

Kane, then rain

Williamson, Taylor and showers drench England's hopes of restoring parity in the series

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAMILTON (NEW ZEALAND), DECEMBER 3

KANE WILLIAMSON posted his 21st Test century and Ross Taylor his 19th in a record partnership which ensured New Zealand drew the second cricket test against England and secured a 1-0 win in the two-match series. New Zealand's most successful test batting stymied the tourists attack until shortly after lunch Tuesday when rain began to fall and washed out the last two sessions.

By that stage Williamson, who was 104 not out, and Taylor, 105 not out, likely had already done enough to save the match. Their unbroken 213-run partnership — New Zealand's best for the third wicket against England — had steered the home team to 241-2, a lead of 140 after it had started its second innings 101 runs behind England.

Both reached their centuries in the short passage of play — about 17 minutes — between lunch and the rain. Williamson brought up his from 230 balls in just over five hours and with 11 boundaries. Taylor did so, more spectacularly, with a six off the bowling of England captain Joe Root, from 184 balls, in 274 minutes with 11 fours and two sixes. At 83 he became, in his 96th test, only the second New Zealander after Stephen Fleming (7,172) to surpass 7,000 runs in tests.

"It was a great fighting effort over the last couple of weeks," Williamson said. "We know what a great unit the England side is and to lose both tosses and show that fight that we demand of ourselves as a unit was really pleasing."

Root must have known at the start of the day that his team's chances of achieving a win to tie the series was slight at best. New Zealand was already 96-2, just six runs behind, and the real threat of rain that hung over the day meant time wasn't on his side. England needed early wickets and a vital break through literally slipped through its hands when Joe Denly dropped Williamson from the bowling of Jofra Archer when the New Zealand captain was 64 and the score was 154, a lead of 53.

Williamson ballooned a catch to Denly at short mid-wicket, probably the easiest chance he will ever receive, and the fieldsman had two grabs at the ball before putting it down. As Taylor and Williamson ground on relentlessly through the lunch break and as storm clouds crept up on Seddon Park, Root saw his team's chances dissolve. "It was a shame about the rain today," Root said. "It was a shame about losing sessions earlier in the match. We felt if we didn't lose those the pitch might deteriorate slightly quicker and might have done a little more for us coming into this last day."

Root had done everything in his power to give his team a winning chance. His 226 in England's only innings, his third double-century in tests and his first as captain, lifted his team, along with Rory Burns' 101 and Ollie Pope's 75, to 476 in reply to New Zealand's 375. With New Zealand 28-2 in its second innings late on the fourth day, Root must have felt some confidence in England's chances.



New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson (right) and England counterpart Joe Root in a conversation after the drawn match at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Tuesday. AP

INVINCIBLES AT HOME

05 The 1-0 win was New Zealand's fifth successive series win in a row at home. The last time they lost a series was against South Africa in 2017.

02 Ross Taylor became the second New Zealand cricketer to complete 7,000 runs in Test cricket.

115 England bowlers had to toil for an average of 115 deliveries for every New Zealand wicket, their worst strike rate since the 1989 Ashes.

But Williamson and Taylor stood in his way and proved an impassable roadblock. England now heads to South Africa for a challenging four-test series. With its performance in Hamilton its confidence will be

higher than after its first test defeat which came hard on the heels of its Ashes defeat at home. "I think we've learned a lot as a group," Root said. "We learned about people in these conditions, how they go about different situations, how they react to it and what their characters are. There's been a lot of information and we need to take that forward, carry the lessons we learned here into South Africa."

New Zealand also will take some confidence into its impending three-test series against Australia, though it meets an Australian team in exceptional form after its recent 2-0 series win over Pakistan. The New Zealanders have no warm-up games before their first test against Australia, a day-night match at Perth, starting Dec. 12 and have to overcome the fact that none of its current 15-strong squad has played a test in Perth, Melbourne or Sydney.

'One-off goober'

Williamson gently chipped a slower delivery from Jofra Archer straight to Denly at short midwicket and, as the bowler leapt in celebration and Williamson made an apologetic gesture to Taylor, the ball popped out of Denly's hands. "It was a one-off goober,"

said Root using cricketing slang for a shocking error. There were comparisons drawn on social media to the widely regarded worst dropped catch in Test history when England's Mike Gatting put down a sitter off the gloves of India batsman Kiran More in 1993. "We worked very hard to try and create chances on a very flat wicket and they don't come around very often. It's very frustrating and I'm sure Joe will not hear the end of it for a long while," added Root.

Williamson had another life when he should have been run out on 97 but Sam Curran's shy at the bowler's end from mid-off was so far wide of the stumps that the batsmen had time to return for a second run.

Despite the errors, Root saw the improved England performance between the two Tests as "very pleasing" ahead of a four-Test tour of South Africa. Root enjoyed a return to form with his man-of-the-match 226 at the end a poor year when the skipper averaged below 30.

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 375 (Latham 105, Mitchell 73, Watling 55, Broad 4-73) and 241 for 2 (Williamson 104*, Taylor 105*) drew with England 476 (Root 226, Burns 101, Pope 75, Wagner 5-124).

Stability restored, Australia seek world conquest

REUTERS

MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 3

WITH THEIR batting order settled and Mitchell Starc back to his marauding best in their series sweep of Pakistan, a confident Australia will look forward to bigger tests ahead when they host New Zealand later this month.

Australia dominated with bat, ball and in the field to post their second successive innings victory over the South Asians at Adelaide Oval on Monday, continuing their upward trajectory since retaining the Ashes in England. The results were, in part, a reflection of a rebuilding Pakistan and the inexperience of their callow attack.

But the series also underlined the return of a ruthless streak which had been largely absent from Australian cricket since the team's disintegration in the wake of the Newlands ball-tampering scandal in March 2018. With the return of David Warner and Steve Smith from suspensions would embolden any team in world cricket, Marnus Labuschagne's rapid rise from fringe all-



Mitchell Starc's return to form has emboldened Australia.

rounder to bolted-on number three has been another massive boost.

Too often Warner and Smith had to carry the batting burden following the 2015 retirements of Michael Clarke and Chris Rogers, but in South Africa-born Labuschagne they

have another shoulder to lean on. The 25-year-old produced two big hundreds and 347 runs from the series, to be second only to the 489 runs scored by triple-centurion Warner.

Starc also continued his fine form from the Brisbane test, adding another seven bats-

men to his tally to finish with 14 for the series and top the wicket-takers' list with an average of 17.00. It has been quite the comeback for the lanky left-arter, who was picked for just one test of the Ashes and wore much of the blame for the first series loss to India on home soil during the last Australian summer.

Starc bowled through the pain after suffering a big toe problem during the first innings in Adelaide but has been cleared for the three-match series against the Black Caps starting in Perth on Dec. 12.

Australia's selectors meetings have tended to have long agendas due to the team's batting problems in the past, but panel boss Trevor Hohns was beaming on Tuesday after naming an essentially unchanged squad for the New Zealand series.

Only batsman Cameron Bancroft, unused in the Pakistan series, was released from the squad, which was trimmed to 13.

"We're very comfortable with our batting lineup. They're functioning quite well," Hohns told reporters in Adelaide.

"Very nice to have a couple of very, very good wins. It's been quite relaxing (as a selector), to be honest."

Our young bowlers will only improve from here: Azhar

MELBOURNE: Bringing two uncapped teenage pace bowlers to Australia, a nation unconquered by the greatest of Pakistan sides, was never going to end well for Azhar Ali's team. For coach Misbah-ul-Haq, the selections of 16-year-old Naseem Shah and 19-year-old Muhammad Musa reflected a need for "boldness" in a team that has fallen steadily down the world rankings in recent years.

Their bowlers had only two cracks at the Australian batsmen and may well have been glad for that, having leaked nearly 1,200 runs in two innings for the return of 13 wickets. Naseem and Musa managed one wicket between them, legspinner Yasir Shah conceded 100 runs for each of his four scalps and the team's most experienced quick, Mohammad Abbas, was worryingly down on pace when recalled at Adelaide Oval.

Of the bowlers, only Shaheen Afridi leaves Australia with reputation enhanced, the 19-year-old talent having produced some fiery spells to top his team's wicket-takers with five victims. While Pakistan have rarely looked less capable of breaking their Test series

We shouldn't get too disappointed about this and keep in mind that young bowlers like these will only play more cricket and get better. We need to show some patience."

AZHAR ALI, PAKISTAN CAPTAIN

drought in Australia, a rueful Azhar could at least see a brighter future as the squad's raw talent matures. "We didn't live up to the expectations that were based around this young team," the skipper told reporters. But we felt that these guys were in the best shape to deal with the conditions here, and that'll be the case in the future. We shouldn't get too disappointed about this and keep in mind that young bowlers like these will only play more cricket and get better. We need to show some patience."

Pakistan will take some solace in the form of Babar Azam, who came to Australia as the world's top T20 batsman and departs as a proven Test performer.

REUTERS

Chandigarh, Punjab boxers dominate Day 2 of nationals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KANNUR, DECEMBER 3

BOXERS FROM Chandigarh and Punjab dominated the proceedings on the second day of 4th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships here on Tuesday.

Chandigarh's Savita (54 kg) outboxed last year's bronze medallist KH Shamim Banu from Manipur in a 3-2 split verdict, while 2018 silver medallist Nupur (75 kg) from Haryana began her campaign with an easy 5-0 win over Rajasthan's Shweta.

Madhya Pradesh's Jigyasa Rajput (81 kg), a bronze medal from the previous edition, also started on a winning note as she defeated Uttarakhand's Babita 5-0.

In the 64 kg category, Chandigarh's Neema showed superb form and fitness to notch up a win against Sarmila Rai of Sikkim.

Monika (51 kg), Ritu (57 kg), Manju (60 kg) were other boxers to win from Chandigarh as five pugilists from the region moved into the next round.

While a total number of 52 bouts were played in the day, Punjab's Mandeep Kaur Sandhu blanked Uttar Pradesh's Shilpa Baliyan 5-0 in the featherweight category.

Punjab's Gagandeep Kaur (69 kg) and Kamaljeet Kaur (51 kg) also notched up easy wins. The pugilists will be competing in all the ten weight categories — 48kg, 51 kg, 54kg, 57kg, 60kg, 64kg, 69 kg, 75 kg, 81 kg and +81 kg. The preliminary matches will be played on the first four days followed by the knockout stage starting from December 6.

The final matches will be played on December 8.

Nikhata beats Pinki in Big Bout

Greater Noida: NE Rhinos' Nikhata Zareen beat Pinki Rani of Bengaluru Brawlers in the women's 51 kg to help her team notch up a win on the second day of the Big Bout Indian Boxing League here on Tuesday. After a slow start, Nikhata rallied to a 3-2 verdict.

She inspired NE Rhinos to rally from 1-3 down to 4-3 win against the Brawlers. Daksh and Laldin Mawia posted victories in the men's 75kg and men's 52kg bouts. NE Rhinos picked up their first point through Mandeep Jangra who marked his return to the boxing ring with a hard-fought split decision win over Dinesh Dagar in the men's 57kg bout.

The 2018 World Championship bronze medalist Simranjit Kaur dished out a few lessons to 19-year-old Jony in women's 60kg clash while the seasoned Gaurav Bidhuri secured a split decision over the energetic and competitive Mohammed Etash in the men's 57kg bout.

Indian athletes turn to racehorse drug

Use of ligandrol detected by NADA first time this year; 5 including boxer Neeraj test positive

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

IT'S A drug that is common among racehorses and gym junkies. Now, it has illegally found its way in Indian sport. And the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is concerned.

On Monday, the anti-doping watchdog announced that boxer Neeraj failed a dope test. A strong contender to qualify for next year's Tokyo Olympics, Neeraj - who has won multiple international medals and has spent a majority of the year at national camps and competing at tournaments - tested positive for banned performance-enhancing substance ligandrol, also known as LGD 4033.

The drug, experts say, is available in India only through the black market and until last year, no Indian athlete had tested positive for it. This year, however, five sportspeople, including Neeraj, have tested positive for ligandrol. Neeraj was provisionally suspended and her hearing will begin shortly, while the other four have been banned for between four and eight years.

Four others are all weightlifters: NADA has handed four-year bans to Neetu Khara, Siyaram Gujjar and Nikhil Tugnait while repeat offender Dipika Shripal was suspended for eight years.

Ligandrol is being studied as a treatment for cancer and other chronic diseases where patients experience muscle weakness and wastage. However, it is banned for use by professional athletes. "We are concerned with the increasing use of LGD 4033 by weightlifters and boxers. Till last year, there were no violations with respect to this drug. This year, there are quite a few," NADA director general Navin Agarwal said.

NADA's concerns stem from the fact that ligandrol is still classified as an investigational drug, meaning it is still being studied for safety by using it in clinical trials. In several countries, including the USA and Australia, these drugs are not approved for human consumption.

In fact, as per several research papers and equestrian magazines, this is a common drug found among racehorses. "They (LGD 4033) have no therapeutic use in the racing horse. They are generally administered to improve performance and affect the outcome of a race," website Horse Talk noted earlier this year.

The drug is popular among bodybuilders, too, who hail it as a "muscle-builder... to improve appearance without any of the nasty side effects experienced with steroid use," according to Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

In recent years, there has been a growing consumption of ligandrol among sportspeople as it can help repair and build muscles. So much so that in the last one year, the anti-doping agencies in USA and Australia warned



Neeraj, who was part of the World Championships squad last month, is now staring at a four-year ban. *BFI*

athletes over the use of this drug, which has been on the World Anti Doping Agency's banned substance list for a couple of years.

Australian swimmer Shayna Jack, who tested positive days before this year's world championship, is one of the high-profile athletes suspended for ligandrol's consumption. According to the US Anti Doping Agency (USADA), the drug is banned among athletes as it can be used for "muscle-building effects."

"Even though it's not legally available in medication anywhere in the world, there are laboratories that manufacture LGD-4033 and sell it as a 'research chemical.' This is a red flag, and any product marketed for sport performance or muscle building that also claims to be for 'research use only' or 'not for human consumption' is especially risky and should be avoided by athletes," USADA said in a statement on its website.

The drug, marketed as a 'health supplement', is openly sold on various Indian websites and is priced between Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000.

Neeraj, whose sample was collected on September 24 and was tested at Qatar's Anti-Doping Lab, has accepted the findings of her sample. With the Olympics seven months away, NADA has accepted her request for an expedited hearing. The boxer, who was provisionally suspended starting November 13 is now staring at a four-year ban.

DOPE OFFENDERS DOUBLE COMPARED TO LAST YEAR

■ More than 150 athletes in 19 sports have tested positive for doping this year, more than double compared to 2018, National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) data has revealed.

■ According to NADA, 156 Indian athletes have tested positive for consuming performance-enhancing drugs up to November 30. The anti-doping watchdog has conducted 3,814 tests on athletes from 44 sports till the end of last month. Both figures are likely to increase by year-end.

■ The number so far this year is much higher compared to 2018, when 70 athletes were caught for doping last year. The figure for 2017 was 73 while in 2016, it was 77. NADA director general Navin Agarwal said they will tighten the screw on the athletes in the run-up to the Olympics next year. "We have increased detection rate this year and in the coming months, all Olympic-bound athletes will be continuously tested," Agarwal said.

CHEAT LIST		
A total of 156 athletes have failed dope tests till November 30 this year. Here are the sports with most positive cases		
Sport	Samples Collected	Positive cases
Bodybuilding	127	60
Weightlifting	304	26
Athletics	1127	20
Powerlifting	55	14
Wrestling	167	7

■ Out of the 156 positive cases, 60 are in bodybuilding alone. Curiously, there are two positive cases in shooting, a sport where incidents of doping have been rare in the past. In July, NADA banned national-level pistol shooter Pawan Yadav for two years for propranolol, a blocking agent that reduces blood pressure in times of extreme stress. The identity of the second shooter has not yet been revealed.

MIHIR VASAVDA

Kipchoge to defend Olympic marathon title — if selected

REUTERS
NAIROBI, DECEMBER 3

ELIJUD KIPCHOGE, the greatest marathon runner in history, the world record holder and only man to go under two hours for the distance, has told Reuters he will defend his Olympic title in Tokyo next year - if selected.

It should be reasonably safe to assume, even taking into account the often chaotic and inexplicable selection procedures that have long dogged Kenyan athletics, that Kipchoge will be given the chance to run next August.

"If selected I will be there," he told Reuters in an exclusive interview in Nairobi on Tuesday. "It (Tokyo) is at the front of my mind, and I trust and believe that when the time comes I will be on the starting line."

That line will now be in the northern city of Sapporo, where the marathons and walking events were moved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in a bid to avoid the worst of the debilitating heat and humidity of the Tokyo area.

But Kipchoge, as ever, was careful not to voice a strong opinion on the issue. "I think the medals are the same," he said. "I will be among the competitors, I don't complain, I'm in the hands of the IOC and anywhere they decide, I will go with it." That will be music to the ears of the organisers, especially in marathon-mad Japan, where the 35-year-old will be treated to the sort of adulation last seen when sprinter Usain Bolt was sweeping all before him.

Kipchoge has won 11 of his 12 official marathons, including the 2016 Rio Olympics, and with the world record and the sub-two hour mark under his belt, along with a string of lucrative big-city races he is a colossus of his sport. However, there are a growing number of critics who, while accepting his extraordinary talent, say that his and others' record-breaking times should be treated with a grain of salt, such is the benefit available from the latest running shoes.

Kipchoge became the first man to run a marathon under two hours in October and also set the official world record for the distance of 2:01.39 in Berlin last year - both performances



Eliud Kipchoge has won 11 of his 12 official marathons.

helped by controversial prototypes of his Nike shoes.

The shoes have carbon-fibre plates and a thicker midsole that the manufacturers claim

improve running economy by 4% or 5%.

Various versions of them have been worn by many of the leading distance runners in recent years, including Kipchoge's compatriot Brigid Kosgei, who smashed the 16-year-old women's marathon record by 81 seconds a day after Kipchoge cruised to his remarkable, pacer-aided 1:59.40 in Vienna.

This has led to calls for restrictions on the manufacturing process of the shoes, but Kipchoge is against the idea. "This world is full of development and development comes with technology," he said.

"I trust that even in the shoe sector, technology should be there. It's not a big (advantage), it's not a rocket science with the shoes...The shoe actually helps a runner to recover very fast, especially after the marathon."

"All in all, it's a normal shoe - it's the human being that runs."

Kenya eyes jail sentences for athletes caught doping

Kenya plans to impose criminal penalties — including possible jail terms — on athletes

caught doping, and it is now working on new legislation on the matter, its sports minister said on Tuesday. The East African nation is known for its long- and middle-distance running prowess, but it has been caught up in a string of doping scandals over the last five years. In 2016, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) put the country on its Category A list of nations on watch for anti-doping violations. Amina Mohamed, the sports minister, said a team was working on legislation aimed at criminalising doping by mid-2020.

"We are giving it the urgency it deserves," she told reporters.

Current Kenyan law stipulates jail terms of up to three years for support staff found guilty in connection with doping, but not for athletes.

The original draft of the law, announced in 2016 when Kenya was faced with expulsion from the Rio Olympics due to widespread doping, had stipulated fines and jail sentences for athletes, too, but it was watered down. From 2004 to August 2018, 138 Kenyan athletes tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs, according to a WADA report.

CHAMPIONS BOAT LEAGUE

Kashmir's Dal to Kerala's snake boats: Valley rowers find new home

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 3

MOHAMMAD RAFIQUE'S dream glide on the Dal Lake wasn't the iconic shikara, floating along at a leisurely pace. It was the surging dragon boat — the 14-15 seater that is part of the Asian Games and popular among boat clubs in Jammu & Kashmir.

This year, however, the ripples under the dragon boats went silent after the state was placed under a lockdown following the government's decision on Article 370. And, around 25 Kashmiris travelled all the way to Kerala to take their spots at the centre of the 100-seater *chundan vallam* (snake boat), forming the bulk of the Mighty Oars team of NCDC Kumarakom.

Over the next three months, as they raced in the backwaters of Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Kollam in the inaugural Champions Boat League (CBL), Rafique says those from the Valley found a semblance of normalcy far from their homes.

Pulling oars with the rest of their team on the boat 'Devas', to the rhythmic beats and chants unique to this sport, their efforts also tied in with Kerala Tourism's maiden efforts to revitalise the renowned races.

"I really enjoyed going to Kerala because

no one troubled us there. I'd like to thank them because, be it Hindu or Muslim or Christian, for three months they gave us a lot of *izzat* (respect)," says Rafique.

His team-mate Aijaz Ahmad Dar boasts that the Kashmiris now have several offers from other teams. "Because we have the best power, we can pull the boats sitting in the centre. *Do ke barabar hum ek-ek hai* (One of us is equal to two)," he chortles.

By the time of the last race on November 23 in Kollam, the bunch had made the centre spots, which need heavyweights to add wattage to the stroke, their own. "It was my best experience of travelling outside Kashmir, everything from the food to the polite way in which everyone spoke to us. *Jaan bhi maang le yeh log toh de denge* (I will give up my life for them, if they ask for it)," Dar gushes.

It was not easy, though. The versatile athletes, who dabble in dragon boat, canoe and even water polo back in J&K, struggled to adjust into the low-slung snake-boats as their backs hurt before easing into their roles.

For Rafique, who first travelled outside J&K five years ago for the Nationals in Assam, it felt like old times when his local China Club would race against other boat clubs.

"Life has been very difficult in Kashmir and my family faced a lot of problems, espe-

Life has been very difficult in Kashmir and my family faced a lot of problems, especially with the sick struggling to reach hospitals. There were problems when we returned despite us wearing our team kit. But through this all, I found peace racing on the boat in Kerala.

MOHAMMAD RAFIQUE
KASHMIRI ROWER WHO TOOK PART IN CBL

cially with the sick struggling to reach hospitals. There were problems when we returned despite us wearing our team kit. But through this all, I found peace racing on the boat in Kerala," says the man in his mid 20s, whose father worked at a kitchen in Ladakh till life went awry at the close of this summer.

Having taken a liking to the popular coconut-based stews of Kerala, Rafique now hopes he can return next season. "If the Almighty wills, and if I am alive, I would love to return. But no one knows what might happen in Kashmir," he says.

Rafique's Kerala stint tied in with a successful bid by Mandeep Malhotra, an agency veteran with stints in Singapore,

Shanghai, Mumbai and Melbourne, for a tender floated by the Kerala government to re-jig the 53-year-old boat races.

Malhotra says he also aimed to better the lot of Kerala's oarsmen. "Rs 2,000 and two bananas is all they made. The sport was dying a slow death and needed to become sustainable," he says.

When broadcasters Star took on the property budgeted at an investment of Rs 40 crore, he says, the quaint community rowing activity morphed into India's third-largest prize money league at Rs 5.9 crore, after cricket's IPL and football's ISL. Each race fetches the team Rs 4 lakh now, besides the winner's cheques.

The 100-ft-long war boats are shaped like snakes with raised hoods, and put together without a single nail from carefully selected logs. "Each boat travels to a temple, church and mosque to seek blessings," says Malhotra.

Initially, around 20 Kashmiris and Manipuris turned for trials ahead of the Nehru Trophy race in August at the snake boat hub of Alappuzha. "Passion has no boundaries, and there was no WhatsApp or Facebook group. But they found out about the teams being formed and came in large numbers, some even quitting their jobs," Malhotra says.

Shooting, athletics send India's SAG haul to 27 medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 3

INDIAN ATHLETES dominated the track and field and shooting events to clinch 27 medals, including 11 gold, on the second day of competitions and remain in the second position at the medals tally in the 13th South Asian Games on Tuesday. India completely dominated the first day of athletics events by clinching 10 medals (4 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze) while the shooters also fetched nine (4 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze) to swell the country's tally.

The volleyball men's and women's teams won a gold each while the taekwondo players contributed 1 gold and 3 bronze medals. India also bagged gold medals in both men's and women's table tennis team events. India's medal tally stood at 43 medals (18 gold, 16 silver and 9 bronze), behind hosts Nepal's 44 (23 gold, 9 silver, 12 bronze). Sri Lanka was third with 46 medals (5 gold, 14 silver, 27 bronze).

On the first day of athletics competition, Archana Suseendran (women's 100m), M Jashna (women's high jump), Sarvesh Anil Kushare (men's high jump) and Ajay Kumar Saroj (men's 1500m) won a gold each to begin India's athletics campaign on an impressive note. Suseendran clocked 11.80 seconds in the 100m dash to emerge as the fastest woman of the games, leaving behind Sri Lankans Thanuji Amasha (11.82) and Lakshika Sugand (11.84) for silver and bronze respectively.

In the women's high jump, Jashna cleared 1.73m to clinch the gold while Rubina Yadav bagged a bronze with an effort of 1.69m.

Kushare cleared 2.21m to win the men's high jump gold while compatriot Chetan Balasubramanya claimed the silver with an effort of 2.16m for a 1-2 finish for India.

Saroj won the gold in men's 1500m with a timing of 3.54.18 seconds while Ajeet Kumar clinched the silver by clocking 3.57.18s. The bronze went to Tanka Karki (3.50.20s) of Nepal. Kavita Yadav then added a silver in the women's 10,000m race by clocking 35 minute 7.95 seconds.

Earlier in the day, India's Chanda (4.34.51s) clinched the silver medal in the women's 1500m event while compatriot Chitra Palakeez (4.35.46s) settled for the bronze. The gold in this event went to Sri Lanka's Uda Kuburalage (4.34.34s).

'World Record' for Mehuli

At the Satdobato Shooting Range, Indian shooters bagged nine medals, including four gold, with Mehuli Ghosh winning the yellow metal with a score better than the world record. The 19-year-old Mehuli clinched the gold with a score of 253.3 in the final, which is 0.4 more than the current world record of 252.9 which is in the name of Apurvi Chandela.

Mehuli's effort will, however, not be considered as a world record, as the South Asian Games' results are not recognised by the international body (ISSF). Shriyanka Sadangi took the silver with a score of 250.8, while Shreya Agrawal (227.2) clinched the bronze in a 1-2-3 podium finish by the Indians.

India also won the team gold in the 10m air rifle event. In the men's 50m 3P event, Chain Singh clinched the gold medal with compatriot Akhil Sheoran winning the silver.

Yogesh Singh and Gurpreet Singh won the gold and silver medal in the 25m center fire pistol event. India also swept the volleyball gold medals by winning both the men's and women's titles.

In table tennis, Indian men's team beat Nepal 3-0 in the summit clash while their women's counterparts defeated Sri Lanka team 3-0 in the final to clinch gold medals.

In taekwondo, Kashish Malik won a gold in women's 57kg category while Radha Bhati (women's 46kg), Kanha Mainali (men's 54kg) and Prithviraj Chavan (men's 68kg) won a bronze each.



Kashmiri rowers are part of the new Champions Boat League in the backwaters of Kerala. *File*

6.O.A.T

Barcelona legend Messi pips Van Dijk and Ronaldo to claim record sixth men's Ballon d'Or as Rapinoe wins women's award

REUTERS
PARIS, DECEMBER 2

LIONEL MESSI claimed a record sixth Ballon d'Or award on Monday, beating Liverpool's leading nominees and Cristiano Ronaldo to lift soccer's most prestigious individual trophy.

The Argentine, who won the Liga title with Barcelona but only managed third place in the Copa America with his country, added to his 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015 trophies.

He finished above Dutchman Virgil van Dijk and Portugal's third-placed Ronaldo, who has won the award five times.

"I am very lucky, I am blessed. I hope I will continue for a long time," Messi told reporters. "I realize that I'm lucky even if one day it will be time to retire," he added. "It will be tough but I still have some years ahead of me. Time flies so I will enjoy football and my family."

Senegal's Sadio Mane, who along with runner-up Van Dijk and fellow Liverpool nominee Alisson Becker of Brazil and Egypt's Mohamed Salah, helped the Merseyside club win the Champions League, came fourth in the poll of international journalists.

"It was amazing," said Van Dijk. "There are a couple of players like him (Messi) who are fantastic. I'm proud of what I've achieved with Liverpool and Holland. It's going to be tough (to win the award) when these guys are around." Messi, whose stellar career was rewarded with another trophy, and Ronaldo, had between them won 10 consecutive Ballon d'Or awards until Croatia's Luka Modric prevailed in 2018.

Megan Rapinoe earlier won the women's Ballon d'Or after leading the United States to a record-extending fourth World Cup title in France this year as they retained the trophy.

The 34-year-old midfielder, the standout player at the June-July tournament, succeeded Norway's Ada Hegerberg who did not take part in the World Cup. Rapinoe was not present at the ceremony in the Theatre du Chatelet, where the show 'An American In Paris' is on.

"I'm so sad I can't make it tonight. It's absolutely incredible congrats to the other nominees. I can't believe I'm the one winning in this field, it's been an incredible year," Rapinoe said in a recorded message.

Ron's sister jumps to his defence

Cristiano Ronaldo's sister failed to see the funny side after Liverpool defender Virgil van



In 54 appearances this year, Lionel Messi has managed an astonishing 46 goals and 17 assists. Reuters

Dijk joked that the Portuguese forward was "not really a rival" in the Ballon D'Or award voting. Ronaldo was absent from the presentation for the prize he has won five times, preferring to go to Milan where he was voted Serie A's Player of the Year.

Asked by a Dutch reporter about Ronaldo's absence, Van Dijk replied: "Why, was he a candidate?", provoking an Instagram tirade from Ronaldo's sister, Katia Aveiro.

"Dear Virgil, from where you are now, Ronaldo has come and gone one thousand times," she said. "Cristiano was three-times league champion in that country where you have played for years and still haven't put your hands on the tin," she said, referring to her brother's Premier League titles with Manchester United.

After listing more Ronaldo achievements with Real Madrid, she said: "Now, Virgil, go and win some of those titles that really matter and we will talk again. When you have a hand full of them, maybe you can sit at the same table as Cristiano."

VAN DIJK FELL SHORT BY JUST SEVEN POINTS

Ballon d'Or is voted by one leading sports journalist from every country and is distinct from FIFA's 'The Best' award, which is voted for by national team coaches, captains and a member of the media from each country. Each journalist participating in the Ballon d'Or process votes for five players in order of preference for the award.

■ There was a difference of just seven points (686-679) between Messi and Van Dijk. India's vote went to Messi, followed by Van Dijk, Mane, Salah and Ronaldo

Some of the choices made by the voters raised a few eyebrows:

■ None more so than Sri Lanka, whose five choices were Trent Alexander-Arnold, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Antoine Griezmann, Robert Lewandowski and Marc-Andre Ter Stegen, in that order

■ Algeria's first choice was Senegal's

THE OVERALL TOP FIVE IS AS FOLLOWS

Messi	686 pts
Van Dijk	679 pts
Ronaldo	476 pts
Mane	347 pts
Salah	178 pts

Mane while his own Riyad Mahrez was only the third choice. There was no Ronaldo in the top five

■ Bhutan, too, voted for Mane but neither Messi nor Ronaldo was in the

top five. All were Liverpool players.

■ Ivory Coast voted for Liverpool custodian Alisson. Neither Messi nor Ronaldo was named.

■ Spain, where Messi has played the whole of his professional life, didn't go for him. Van Dijk was the first choice, followed by Ronaldo and Messi.

■ Guatemala voted for goalkeeper Alisson. There was no Messi or Ronaldo. Four of the five players were from Liverpool.

■ Italy didn't vote for Juventus' Ronaldo as first choice, instead going for Van Dijk.

Ronaldo named Italian league player of the year

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MILAN, DECEMBER 3

CRISTIANO RONALDO was named the Italian league's player of the year on Monday following his debut season at Juventus.

Ronaldo was at the Gran Gala del Calcio in Milan to collect his prize, instead of attending the Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris where he was third in the voting for best player in the world. The Juventus forward turned up about an hour before the main award was announced, arriving more than two hours after the other guests, and waited outside in the car until the moment came for him to go on stage to pick up the prize for his place in the team of the season.

"It's an honor to hold this award," Ronaldo said in Italian. "I thank my Juventus teammates."

"I'm very happy to play in Italy, it's a very difficult league. Thanks to everyone for having voted for me. I want to do as well this year, too." For the first time at the Italian ceremony there were also awards for female players. Roma and Italy forward Manuela Giugliano won the top prize.

All the awards are voted for by a mix of footballers, coaches, referees and journalists.

Ronaldo signed for Juventus from Real Madrid in July 2018 and helped the Bianconeri to their eighth successive Serie A title. The 34-year-old Ronaldo scored 28 goals in all competitions for Juventus, including 21 in the league.

Gian Piero Gasperini won the award for best coach after leading Atalanta to third place and a Champions League berth.

Atalanta was the team of the season, ahead of Juventus and Italian Cup winner Lazio. "This award I share with the whole club, all the players, the whole of Bergamo because we did something really amazing, all of us together," Gasperini said.

"We did incredibly last season, it was unthinkable, including the Italian Cup final. It's because of that that we're getting all these awards." Gasperini beat former Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri and Bologna's Sinisa Mihajlovic.

Brescia's Sandro Tonali won the award for the best Serie B player after the 19-year-old forward helped to win the second division title last season.

Man United a closed chapter: Mourinho

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON, DECEMBER 3

JOSE MOURINHO says his time at Manchester United is "a closed chapter" and he is only interested in beating them when he takes his interim Tottenham side to Old Trafford on Wednesday.

It is the new Tottenham manager's first return to the touchline at United's home ground since his sacking by the club last December. "This is a closed chapter for me," said Mourinho, who has won all three of his matches in charge of Spurs.

"I left the club, I took my time to process everything that happened, I took my time to prepare myself for the next challenge."

"Honestly, United for me is in my book of experiences, it's in my history book." United are struggling under Mourinho's successor, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, but go into the game just two points behind fifth-placed Spurs. "It is not for me to analyse United now," Mourinho said at his pre-match press conference.

"I analyse them as an opponent, how they play. How can we beat them? How can they beat us? For me that is the important thing."

Mourinho is excited about the prospect of returning to Old Trafford.

He said: "I feel good, I like to play big matches, I like to play against the best teams and go back to a place where I was happy."

"I have a great relationship with the Manchester United supporters. I went back as a pundit and I was humbled by such a beautiful reception."

"Tomorrow I go back as the coach of the team that will try and beat Manchester United. I understand that what they want is the exact opposite of what I want. Of course during the match I expect them to forget me."

Reports say Spurs midfielder Christian Eriksen has refused to sign a new deal with the club, while there has been speculation over the futures of Belgian defenders Toby Alderweireld and Jan Vertonghen.

Mourinho said he was speaking with Spurs chairman Daniel Levy about the contract issues but refused to be drawn on the details. "I'm not going to discuss these individual things," he said.

"If I tell you that I didn't speak with Mr (Daniel) Levy about Eriksen, Alderweireld and Vertonghen, I would be lying. So, yes I'm speaking with Mr Levy about it."

"The important thing, really, is (they are) great professionals, big relationship with Tottenham, amazing understanding of what the club is and what we need from them," he added. "So, all three ready to play, all three ready to forget the contractual situation."

No fear

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says he does not fear for his future as Manchester United manager



This is a closed chapter for me. I left the club, I took my time to process everything that happened, I took my time to prepare myself for the next challenge. Honestly, United for me is in my book of experiences, it's in my history book."

JOSE MOURINHO
TOTTENHAM MANAGER

despite a spate of Premier League sackings as he prepares to face his predecessor Jose Mourinho. Spurs turned to Mourinho after dismissing Mauricio Pochettino last month, while Arsenal and Watford have subsequently sacked Unai Emery and Quique Sanchez Flores.

Solskjaer is under increasing pressure, with United ninth in the Premier League, 22 points behind leaders Liverpool and eight off a top-four spot as they prepare for Wednesday's match against Tottenham. "No, it doesn't make me more concerned," Solskjaer said at his pre-match press conference on Tuesday.

"I'm just focusing on my job and that's just doing as well as I can, and look forward to the next game, and look long-term, plan things with board. "It's that time of year. It's never nice to see your colleagues lose your jobs -- three in a very short space of time."

"It's a game of margins," he added. "Sometimes you have luck, sometimes you don't, but it doesn't make me any more concerned that it's December."

"I'm good, absolutely no problem. Sometimes you laugh when you read stories about what I've said and stuff, at least I know the sources are just made up, blatant lies."

The United boss bemoaned his team's failure to turn draws into wins, saying they were not getting the results their football deserved.

The club are winless in three games and Solskjaer's job will not get any easier with a derby against Manchester City on Saturday to follow the game against Mourinho's Spurs side.

The Norwegian, though, dismissed any need for crisis talks with the United board.

Ljungberg seeks ex-boss Wenger's guidance

REUTERS
DECEMBER 3

ARSENAL CARETAKER boss Freddie Ljungberg said he would seek advice from former manager Arsene Wenger as he prepares for his first home game in charge against Brighton & Hove Albion in the Premier League on Thursday.

Ljungberg, who was named interim boss following Unai Emery's sacking last week, guided Arsenal to a 2-2 draw at Norwich City last Sunday that extended the eighth-placed club's winless run in the league to six games.

The Swede, a member of Wenger's "Invincibles" team that went a complete season unbeaten en route to the 2003-04 league title, said he was keen to speak to the Frenchman as he bids to turn around the club's fortunes.

"I would really like to speak to him," Ljungberg told a news conference on Tuesday. "I'm in contact with him but I haven't spoken to him because it's been a bit hectic, but it's on my list to do so."

Wenger left Arsenal in May last year after a reign of 22 years during which he redefined the Premier League club and became their most successful manager, winning three Premier League titles as well as seven FA Cups. Ljungberg said he is determined to improve the atmosphere at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsenal were beaten 2-1 at home in the Europa League by Eintracht Frankfurt in Emery's final match in charge. "When it comes to the Emirates, the fans want us to win and they want us to play good football," Ljungberg said.

"The only way to try and get a good atmosphere is to try and achieve that. If that's me or someone else as a coach, I don't think that matters. "The fans were amazing against Norwich, we were on top & I felt they got more and more energy from that... I need to develop the game plan, how we want to play football."



Freddie Ljungberg was a member of Wenger's 'Invincibles'. Reuters



ARTICLE 15
A STORY ABOUT EVERYDAY DISCRIMINATION.
A DISCUSSION TO QUESTION IT, EVERY DAY.

Director: Anubhav Sinha | Curator: Shubhra Gupta, Film Critic, The Indian Express
Screening Date: 6th December, 2019 | Time: 7:00 PM
Venue: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

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Dr. Sumit Nandan, Professor



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Maanik Sinha, Photographer

