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Coronavirus scare after Indian nurse in Saudi put on watch

SHAJU PHILIP & LIZ MATHEW
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

AN INDIAN NURSE working in Saudi Arabia has been infected with coronavirus and is under treatment in the Gulf nation, according to Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Murali Manohar. The Consulate General of India in Jeddah said the nurse was not infected by the strain that has led to 18 deaths in China.

Responding to a Twitter user, the Consulate General posted on its official account: "Dr Tarik Al Azraqi, Chairman, Scientific Regional Infection Control Committee, Aser Region, has confirmed that d Indian Nurse being treated at Aseer National Hospital is suffering from MERS-CoV & not 2019-NCoV (Wuhan). We request everyone to refrain from sharing incorrect info."

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WORLD



ICJ TO MYANMAR: PROTECT ROHINGYA
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Govt has a use for stray cows: As surrogates for a high-milk breed

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

IN AN attempt to check the rising stray cattle numbers, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has proposed using stray cows as surrogates to give birth to 'elite cows' (with high

For data credibility, need to fix calendar for its release: Sen

'Suppression of data, its demonisation is demoralising our statistical system'

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

PUTTING IN place a release calendar for all official economic data sets and ensuring their timely release is key to restoring the credibility of India's statistics, according to Pronab Sen, former Chief Statistician of India. He now heads the recently-formed Standing Committee on Economic Statistics.

Responding to a question by *The Indian Express* if like China, withholding of key government data sets has dented India's global image on official statistics, Sen said suppression of data and the subsequent leaks have progressively resulted in the "demonisation of data" and ended up demoralising the country's statistical system.

The NDA government has come under fire for repeated instances of data suppression across ministries, including the delay in the release of Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2017-18,



Pronab Sen heads new panel on economic statistics

withholding of the Annual Consumption Expenditure Survey for 2017-18 and the Mudra survey.

As of now, the government does have a calendar for release of data sets such as national accounts, Index of Industrial Production and inflation. But there are no specific timeline for release of labour force statistics and consumption expenditure surveys. Timely release of data sets is crucial for both government policy formulation and investment decisions by the industry.

As chair of the new panel, Sen said his role ends with submission of good and timely data to the National Statistical Office (NSO). The National Statistical Commission (NSC) which has powers over and above the NSA,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Finality key to death sentence, can't be kept open-ended: SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

CHIEF JUSTICE of India S A Bobde Thursday said the "finality" of death sentence is important and a condemned prisoner should not think that sentencing remains "open-ended", and can be challenged whenever one wishes.

He was heading a three-judge-bench which was hearing a review petition filed by two convicts, Shabnam and her lover Saleem, handed the death sentence in Uttar Pradesh for killing seven of her family members who opposed their relationship.

The remarks come at a time when convicts in the December 16, 2012 gangrape-and-murder case have been filing petitions one after another to delay their execution ordered by a Delhi court.

Appearing for Shabnam, senior advocate Meenakshi Arora referred to reports that she had reformed while in prison and said this could be a mitigating circumstance. Stating that her client was a first-time criminal, Arora told the bench, also comprising

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

MERCY PETITION MITIGATES ERRORS
BY PRATIKSHA BAXI
PAGE 12

Justices S A Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna, that a heinous crime is different from the criminal.

At this, the CJ said: "If one goes by the innocence of a human being, even the worst criminal has an innocent heart. There is no one who is a criminal at the deepest level." He said this is why the court punishes the crime and not the individual.

On her reformation in prison, the CJ wondered if that was enough after committing such a heinous crime. He said it was not the judge, but the law that dealt with a criminal.

"When a court is dealing with a crime, a judge cannot forgive because he is doing justice on behalf of the victim, the society... The most important thing to be considered in sentencing is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



NEW CM'S FIRST CHALLENGE

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren meets relatives of the seven killed, allegedly by Pathalgadhi self-rule supporters, in West Singhbhum. **PTI**

Ongoing protests will deepen our democratic roots, says Mukherjee

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

CONSENSUS IS the "lifeblood of democracy" and the "largely peaceful protests" over "the last few months", especially by the young, will deepen the country's democratic roots, former President Pranab Mukherjee said Thursday.

He also said that the youth's "assertion and belief in the Constitution of India" is heartening. Democracy, he said, thrives on "listening, deliberating, discussing, arguing and even dis-



Mukherjee with CEC Sunil Arora (left) and EC Ashok Lavasa in Delhi. **PTI**

sent". Mukherjee was speaking at the first memorial lecture instituted by Election Commission (EC) in the name of India's first

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sukumar Sen.

The former President's remarks come against the backdrop of the nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, where the Constitution and the reading of the Preamble have been a common thread. Mukherjee is often praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was awarded the Bharat Ratna by the NDA government last year.

"Indian democracy has been tested time and again. The last few months have witnessed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Their cases falling, Muzaffarnagar police now invoke Juvenile Act, say protesters used kids

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

AS MORE and more cases against protesters charged with attempt to murder and rioting during anti-CAA protests in December began failing legal scrutiny and courts started granting bail, police in Muzaffarnagar invoked a strin-

gent provision of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 — almost a month after it booked 107 people — and claimed that protesters used children "for illegal activity".

Section 83 (2) of the JJ Act was invoked against at least 33 accused named in an FIR lodged on December 21 at the Civil Line police station in Muzaffarnagar

— that FIR was also against 3,000 unknown accused. A person found guilty under this charge can end up in prison for seven years. So far, 33 of the 107 accused have been granted bail, 14 of them after being booked under the JJ Act.

The first such bail order was passed on January 17 by Additional Sessions Judge Sanjay

Changing equations in region help Pakistan get relief at FATF meet

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE CHANGING geopolitical environment, including an imminent ceasefire deal with the Taliban in Afghanistan, has earned Pakistan diplomatic support from the United States and other western countries at a meeting of the Asia Pacific Joint Group of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in Beijing.

At the meeting Wednesday, Pakistan defended the country's compliance report on combating terror-financing networks. Diplomatic sources present at the meeting told *The Indian Express*: "It was a bit surprising the way US, UK, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and even Japan, all of



Brokering Taliban deal has helped Pak score points

them favoured Pakistan. There is a strong case against Pakistan, as has been since it was put on the grey list, but it was geopolitics at play... seems the changing geopolitical environment helped Pakistan."

Sources said Pakistan had an important role in brokering a ceasefire deal with the Taliban in Afghanistan, negotiated this week at Doha with a US official team led by Zalmay Khalilzad, its special envoy on Afghan reconciliation. It is believed that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

End of Art 370 was also to grant rights to West Pak refugees, but not one claimant is stepping forward

Most refugees in Jammu have managed to obtain permanent residency, say leaders

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JANUARY 23

FROM PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to BJP leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, one of the reasons they gave to justify the abrogation of Article 370 was to

give Partition refugees from West Pakistan voting rights in assembly and local body polls, and entry to state government jobs and colleges.

However, a central government scheme launched in 2018 to provide one-time financial assistance of Rs 5.5 lakh each to 5,764 such families settled in J&K has failed to attract a single applicant.

The reason: Officials and refugee leaders told *The Indian*



Labha Ram Gandhi with refugees in Jammu. **File**

Express that over a period of time, members of almost all of these refugee families managed to get their names included in voter lists for J&K elections and

procure permanent residency certificates.

"A number of WPRs (West Pakistan Refugees) have even managed to get jobs in the J&K government," a senior official said.

Sources said hardly any of these refugee families now possess documents to prove that their original native place was in areas of West Pakistan, or that they were listed as Non Permanent Residents (NPR) in voter lists of 1971 or 1976 — a key requirement to avail the benefit, apart from Aadhaar and bank details, and an affidavit signed by

a judicial officer.

According to estimates provided by refugee leaders, the number of WPR families settled in J&K has swelled to nearly 20,000. They mainly reside in the border districts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua.

"They appear to be wary of seeking financial assistance as it might land them in trouble for illegally obtaining permanent resident certificates and government jobs," said a senior official.

"The refugee leaders are saying that permanent residency has become irrelevant after the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RESPONDS TO EC REQUEST

Law Ministry OK to link Aadhaar with voter ID but with safeguards

Poll panel details protection: Voter data does not enter Aadhaar system

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE UNION Law Ministry responded positively to a request from the Election Commission seeking legal powers to resume linking of voter cards with Aadhaar numbers but asked the EC to "enumerate" the safeguards in place to prevent "theft, interception and hijacking" of data, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

In its response last month, the EC sent a detailed list of safeguards at both the application and infrastructure levels — and said that the electoral roll database system "does not enter" the Aadhaar ecosystem.

Last August, in a letter addressed to the Law Secretary, the EC had proposed amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Aadhaar Act, 2016, for powers to collect and use Aadhaar data for "cleaning" voters' list as a "back-end exercise".

According to the proposed

EXPLAINED
New Aadhaar push

THE LAW Ministry's positive response to EC's proposal for legal powers to link Aadhaar to voter cards comes at a time when citizenship, data protection and surveillance are being hotly debated. Any further move on this front may come under scrutiny.

amendment to the Representation of the People Act, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) may ask those seeking to enter the voters' list and those already enrolled to furnish their Aadhaar numbers.

The poll watchdog argued that seeding of voter cards with Aadhaar would help weed out duplicate entries and bogus voters, and hence, serve national

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How the Saudi Prince hacked Jeff Bezos's phone

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Today on 3 Things, we look at why was Bezos's phone was hacked and how the Saudi regime managed to do it.



UP CM Yogi Adityanath flags off the Ganga Yatra from his official residence in Lucknow on Thursday. Vishal Srivastav

GANGA YATRA FLAGGED OFF

Ganga cleaner now, not a single drop of sewage flowing into it: UP CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 23

FLAGGING OFF two raths (chariots) as part of the Ganga Yatra from his official residence in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday claimed that the river is now much cleaner and not a single drop of sewage is flowing into it. The yatra is aimed at sensitising people about river pollution.

He said 14 crore litres of sewage was discharged into the river through Sisamau drain in Kanpur for the past 128 years but it has now stopped due to the Namami Gange Project.

The river covers 2,525 km in five states and Uttar Pradesh accounts for the longest distance at 1,025 km, the chief minister said, adding that the clean-up is not only a matter of faith but also economy. The two chariots will reach Bijnor and Ballia before January 27 and conclude at Kanpur on January 31.

While the Bijnor yatra covers

Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Hapur, Amroha, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Kasganj, Farukhabad, Kannauj, Hardoi before culminating in Kanpur, the Ballia one will culminate in Kanpur before covering Ghazipur, Chandauli, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Prayagraj, Pratapgarh, Rae Bareilly, Fatehpur and Unnao. The two yatras will take road and river routes.

He also announced that his government has decided to undertake organic farming in 1,038 gram panchayats and 21 municipal bodies along the river in coming years.

Namami Gange is one of the flagship projects of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Last year, he had chaired the first meeting of the National Council for Ganga and reviewed the progress of the project in Kanpur.

Adityanath said the Ganga Yatra will pass through regions along the river and that parks, ponds and maidans will also be built on the banks.



TRIBUTES TO NETAJI

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad greets PM Narendra Modi and Speaker Om Birla at an event to pay tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 123rd birth anniversary, at Parliament on Thursday. PTI

Rajasthan govt to introduce resolution against CAA: Pilot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, JANUARY 23

RAJASTHAN DEPUTY Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Thursday said the state government will introduce a resolution against the CAA in the budget session beginning Friday.

Kerala and Punjab have already passed resolutions seeking the withdrawal of the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Pilot said the Centre should listen to people protesting against the Act across the country and asserted that democracy weakens if there is no dialogue.

"We are requesting the central government to reconsider the Act. The Constitution has given the right to protest but if someone does it, they are attacked and called anti-national," Pilot, who is also the chief

the Pradesh Congress Committee, said on Thursday. "The Rajasthan Assembly will pass a resolution against the CAA in this session," he told reporters after reviewing preparations ahead of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's rally in Jaipur on January 28.

Pilot said the legality of the CAA will be decided by the Supreme Court.

People have the right to express their disagreement in a peaceful manner and within the boundary of the law, he said, adding, "We do not support those who take law in hand".

"There is unrest among youths in the country today. The educated are unemployed and the economy is in a poor state and Rahul Gandhi wants to focus on it. The message from the rally will go across the country," he said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Pronab Sen

has a bigger role and can question delays in release of data.

Sen, however, flagged concerns regarding the draft NSC Bill, which had been put in public domain for comments, stating that the Bill in its present version will essentially turn NSC into a public sector undertaking with no powers of its own. "With this Bill, power of NSC will be zero. Think of what this Bill is doing. You are converting the NSC into a PSU. That's what you are doing. Has a ministry ever listened to a PSU? The Ministry tells the PSU, not the other way round. And, this Bill creates a PSU called the NSC," he said.

The likelihood of data getting suppressed continues, Sen said adding that the onus is on the NSC to ensure the release of the data. "The suppression issue is not our issue. Our issue is if you guys come to me and say is the data available? And the answer is yes, it is available, it is with the NSO, please go ask the CSI (Chief Statistician of India) what is happening to it. My job ends there. It's the NSC's job to ask where is the data. We are told the data exists, it's been approved, where is it?," he said.

"The important thing is that they have to come up now with a release calendar. The urban (PLFS) data is quarterly. Now what they've been doing is they've been bringing them out in chunks rather than on a regular quarterly basis. So, suddenly four reports come together. What good is it for. There's a reason why we had it quarterly," he said.

Sen further said, "... when data gets suppressed and then gets leaked, that happened over the last one year, the government's reaction has been to actually demonize the data. That's been the reaction. So earlier nobody questioned the data per se, now the government itself is questioning the data. And there's this bizarre situation of people outside the government, the users, are saying, no, this data is fine. It should be exactly the other way round."

The government is now working on mapping the unorganised sector for data, along the lines of the present Annual Survey of Industries. Sen, who is heading the sub-committee on Annual Survey of unincorporated sector enterprises and services sector data, said the data for unorganised sector would be important for decision making purpose.

"I was already chairing that committee on the unorganised sector data and services. So that's an ongoing thing. And that's supposed to be annual, and it will start now. But the services sector (data), is to my mind less important because the services sector data is going to be pretty much like the ASI, which is very, very important for research and analytical purposes. But in terms of regular decision making, not that important because it comes with practically a two-year lag. But, the other one, the unorganised sector data is important," he said.

The Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES), which had its first meeting on January 7, has constituted three sub-committees: one for Periodic Labour Force Survey and time use survey; second for IIP and Annual Survey of Industries (ASI); and the third for Annual Survey of unincorporated sector enterprises and services sector data. For next two-three months, the sub-committees would take stock of the ongoing work on the surveys allocated to them, after which the SCES will hold its meeting.

"We spent time saying that let's set up three sub-committees which will function essentially as the old ones. And after we've had time to take stock of what is going on, then we will have another meeting of the full committee to discuss where are the gaps, overlaps and whether there are defi-

OK to link Aadhaar with voter ID

interest. However, the amendment also states that no one will be denied enrollment or deleted from the voters' list for inability to furnish Aadhaar numbers.

The Law Ministry wrote back in September stating that the EC's rationale would "pass the benchmark test laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for collecting Aadhaar details for purposes other than getting benefits of state-sponsored schemes".

However, given the Supreme Court's emphasis on the need for "protecting the privacy of individuals", the EC was asked to list the safeguards

built into the electoral roll data platform.

The poll watchdog replied on December 12, 2019, stating that it has already taken "multiple measures" for the security of the electoral roll data.

"At the application level, various protocols like two-factor authentication encryption... algorithm communication only through https protocol, and frequent security audit of applications are ensured. Electoral roll database system does not enter into the Aadhaar ecosystem and the system is only used for the authentication purpose keeping a tight air gap between the two systems," the EC's re-

sponse states.

"At the infrastructure level, the servers are protected through multilevel security through the access control system, firewall, IPS and anti-virus. The raw data has been prohibited to be made available/ shared/ transferred/ distributed/ transmitted/ circulated to any other person," it states.

The EC had first initiated the exercise of linking Aadhaar with the Electors Photo Identity Cards (or EPIC) in February 2015, when H S Brahma was the Chief Election Commissioner. It was suspended in August that year af-

ter the Supreme Court restricted the use of Aadhaar to Public Distribution System (PDS), LPG and kerosene distribution. The poll panel had already linked 38 crore voter cards to Aadhaar by then.

In its final order, the apex court had held that although 'Right to Privacy' is a fundamental right, it can be curtailed if there is either a specific law authorising collection of Aadhaar or if the state interest is involved or the test of proportionality is satisfied. This prompted the EC's demand for legal powers to resume seeding of voter cards with Aadhaar.

Protests will deepen democratic roots: Pranab

people come out on the streets in large numbers, particularly the young, to voice out their views on issues which in their opinions are important. Their assertion and belief in the Constitution of India is particularly heartening to see. Consensus is the lifeblood of democracy," Mukherjee said. "I believe the present wave of largely peaceful protests that have gripped the country shall once again enable the further deepening of our democratic roots," he said.

Mukherjee listed out three challenges faced by the EC, even as he praised the panel for conducting the last Lok Sabha elections successfully. While the EC,

he said, has served its purpose well, "any attempts at its denigration will amount to denigrating the electoral process itself".

"People's mandate is sacrosanct and has to be above any iota of reasonable doubt. A firm believer in our institutions, it is my considered opinion that it is the 'workmen' who decide how the institutional 'tools' perform. The onus of ensuring institutional integrity, in this case, lies with the Election Commission of India. They must do so and put any speculations to rest," he said.

Among the challenges Mukherjee listed were the limits imposed on development work under the Model Code of

Conduct. As a solution, he backed the idea of holding state and Lok Sabha polls simultaneously.

"Another alternate could be to amend the Model Code of Conduct appropriately and ensure that no developmental work is stopped simply because of the fact that elections are taking place. Ideally, it may be confined only to the elections to Lok Sabha which takes place all over the country and should be for a period of 3-4 weeks when the actual election process starts with the filing of nomination papers and ends with the casting of votes. It need not be applicable to election to the Assemblies of the States and Union

Territories," he said.

The former President also called for lifting the embargo on the number of seats in Parliament. The restriction, he said, has resulted in a large electorate in each Lok Sabha seat.

"With an average of 16-18 lakh people being represented by one member of the Parliament, how can we expect the representatives to be in touch with the electors? There is a strong case for removing the freeze on the number of seats in the delimitation exercise," he said.

Mukherjee also advocated a Constitutional amendment to provide adequate representation of women in Parliament.

nitional differences in the different data sets, all of that," Sen said.

Muzaffarnagar

almost a month after the incident, the FIR, based on testimonies of police personnel deployed at the protest site, made no mention of any children indulging in any "illegal activity". The bail order too made no mention of the accused using children for "illegal activity".

The FIR stated: "The accused person, present at the Madina Chowk, indulged in rioting, created an atmosphere of terror, forcing everyone to shut their shops. They also destroyed public property and indulged in arson. Police officers were also injured and taken for medical examination. The accused was also involved in stone-pelting with intention to harm police deployed at the spot."

The sessions court, however, granted bail. It relied on Supreme Court judgments stating that Article 21 of the Constitution, which deals with protection of life and personal liberty, is one of the important factors in deciding grant of bail.

The other accused granted bail include Wasim, Asif, Shavez, Sartaj, Shah Nawaz, Waseem, Nouman, Ikram, Raja, Zeeshan, Kalim and Dilshad.

Police invoked the additional charge after 19 people were released on bail, either by police or court, due to lack of evidence or after withdrawal of charges of grievous offences. In the case of five accused, police themselves granted bail under Section 169 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which is invoked when "evidence is deficient". Ten were released by the sessions court after police were only able to prove that they had prima facie violated prohibitory orders, and were not involved in rioting or attempt to murder.

Death sentence

that it should be proportionate to the crime," he said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Uttar Pradesh government, opposed the plea for reprieve, say-

ing there will be no death penalty if such an argument is accepted. He said one cannot kill parents and then claim mercy saying he is an orphan now.

Shabnam and Saleem were found guilty of killing her parents, two brothers and their wives and her 10-month-old nephew in Uttar Pradesh in 2008. In 2015, the Supreme Court had upheld the Allahabad High Court judgment which confirmed the death penalty awarded to them.

Stray cows

of cow products like milk, ghee and urine.

When contacted, Malik said: "We are planning to do a pilot on this (stray cows as surrogates). We would like to show people that unproductive animals can be made useful. This is happening in other countries like Denmark and New Zealand."

He said the pilot project would be launched in government-owned farms.

Speaking to The Indian Express, K M L Pathak, former Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), Indian Council of Agriculture Research, said the proposal was "workable and effective". Saying that it would boost rural economy, he said that "stray cattle are genetically inferior and, by using this method, we can produce high quality cows." Pathak said cows aged between 2 and 12 years can be used as surrogates.

The DAHD, which comes under Union Minister Giriraj Singh, has also suggested setting up more cow shelters and cow sanctuaries.

The proposal comes at a time when some states like Uttar Pradesh are struggling to find a solution to the stray cattle problem. While the latest data on stray cattle is not available as the final results of the 20th Livestock Census (2019) are yet to be made public, the number stood at 5.29 million in 2012, with Uttar Pradesh alone accounting for about 1 million.

While a gender-wise break-up of the stray cattle population is not

available, it is estimated that males outnumber the females. Confirming this, Malik said this was the "general perception". Asked how the surrogacy proposal would check the problem of male stray cattle, Malik said: "Their number will come down through sex-sorted semen technique, which is being done now."

According to the provisional results of the 20th Livestock Census, the total cattle population in the country increased from 190.9 million in 2012 to 192.52 million in 2019. West Bengal (19 million) heads the list, followed by Uttar Pradesh (18.8 million) and Madhya Pradesh (18.7 million). Cattle constitute 36 per cent of the total livestock population (535.82 million).

Of the total cattle population, 145.11 million are female (98.16 million indigenous, 46.95 million exotic). While 32.58 per cent of the indigenous female cattle are 'in milk' (aged over 3 years), 16.84 per cent are 'dry'. On the other hand, 42.59 per cent of the exotic female cattle (aged over 2.5 years) are 'in milk' and 12.07 per cent are 'dry'.

According to the data, 3.68 per cent of the indigenous female cattle did not calve even once. The corresponding figure for exotic cattle was 2.48 per cent.

FATF

Pakistan may have also had a role to play in reducing tensions between Iran and the US earlier this month. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had a bilateral meeting with President Donald Trump in Davos this week.

At the January 21-23 meeting in Beijing, the Pakistani delegation was led by Hammad Azhar, its economic affairs minister. China, which is president of the FATF and co-chair for the Asia Pacific Joint Group, supported Pakistan at the meeting.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told the media in Beijing: "Pakistan has made great efforts to strengthen its domestic counter-terrorism financing system with visible progress. Its political will and ac-

Affected nurse is being treated at Aseer National Hospital and is recovering well," the Minister posted.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in the case.

Coronaviruses are a specific family of viruses, with some strains causing less-severe damage such as common cold, and others causing respiratory and intestinal diseases. The outbreak in China's Wuhan province has led to pneumonia-like symptoms in patients.

Refugees

abrogation of Article 370. But the fact that most of them had acquired the status of permanent residents of (the erstwhile) J&K state means the government scheme for financial assistance to non-permanent resident WPRs has failed," said the official.

Labha Ram Gandhi, a refugee leader, admits that the process for disbursement of financial assistance has been a non-starter. "During Partition, the priority of migrating families was to reach a safe place, not taking along revenue papers or other documents relating to their native place," he said.

Asked about the delay in disbursement of money under the central scheme, Sanjeev Verma, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, told The Indian Express: "They are themselves not coming forward despite the administration having organised special camps and issued instructions to Deputy Commissioners to facilitate processing of these cases."

Verma says he is not aware of the reasons behind the non-submission of applications. "Even those who filed applications returned after some days to take back their files," he said.

Simrandeep Singh, Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), too, denied having received even a single application under the scheme. "I am surprised by the absence of any response from WPRs, especially when the government had laid down very little conditions to be fulfilled for direct transfer of relief amounts to bank accounts," he said.

According to Verma, the Jammu Divisional Commissioner, after the 370 move, WPRs in J&K will become permanent residents of the UT and eligible to contest and vote in the proposed Assembly and local body elections. They will be able to own immovable property, and obtain government jobs and admissions to professional colleges, too.

Before August 5, 2019, when the government announced its J&K move, WPRs were Indian citizens who were eligible to vote in Parliamentary polls, but not considered permanent residents of the erstwhile J&K state and hence unable to vote in local elections.

Asked about the non-listing of WPRs as NPR in voter lists of Parliamentary elections, refugee leader Labha Ram Gandhi said: "These elections were first held in Jammu and Kashmir in 1967. Over a period of time, many members of these refugee families, having never gone to school, did not get their names listed as NPR. Also, local politicians with an eye on their vote bank in assembly elections got some registered as voters in the category of permanent residents."

However, Gandhi admits that children of some of these refugee families "may also have managed to procure permanent residents certificate and jobs in the Jammu and Kashmir government". "This was possible only with the connivance of local revenue officials as no one had then imagined that government will ever give anything to these WPRs," he alleged.

FULL REPORTS ON
www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

Salesman killed: Wife, 3 others held

New Delhi: Days after a 31-year-old car sales executive was found dead in Shalimar Bagh, police arrested four people, including the victim's wife, for the murder. Police said the woman was allegedly in a relationship with one of the accused.

Judge kin shot dead: Final hearing in Feb

Gurgaon: More than 15 months after a personal security officer opened fire at the wife and son of a judge he had been deployed to protect in Gurgaon, the final hearing in the case is scheduled to take place next month.

Fire in DDA parking

New Delhi: A fire broke out inside a DDA parking space at Mansarovar Park Thursday morning. A total of 16 cars, nine bikes and three scooters were gutted in the fire. **ENS**

DEVELOPED TECHNICAL GLITCH MID-AIR

Aircraft makes emergency landing on Eastern e-way

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, JANUARY 23

A NATIONAL Cadet Crops (NCC) training aircraft made an emergency landing on the six-lane Eastern Peripheral Expressway Thursday afternoon, after the plane developed technical problems mid-air. According to officials, the two pilots in the aircraft emerged unscathed after a rescue operation was initiated by the Indian Air Force.

“On Thursday afternoon, an NCC Microlight Aircraft was flying from Bareilly to Hindon Airfield. About 8 km short of Hindon, the Microlight developed a technical problem. The aircraft safely landed on National Highway. Both pilots are safe. Further investigation is on,” said the NCC in a statement.

According to sources, the aircraft was being flown by a Group Captain and a Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force, and was due to land at the Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad. The pilots manoeuvred the plane at the last minute to avoid landing amidst traffic on the



The two pilots in the aircraft were rescued after an operation by the IAF. *Express*

highway. It finally landed at 1.30 pm on the Dasna-Duhai interchange side, close to Sadarapur village. An IAF helicopter from the Hindon Base was sent to initiate rescue operations.

Neeraj Jadaun, SP Rural Ghaziabad, said: “On receiving information, we reached the spot to cordon off the area so that civilians don’t meddle with equipment. A call was made to the airbase. Since the plane’s wheel had

been damaged, it was not in a condition to fly. It was eventually towed off to the base.”

According to police, the front rotor and front wheel of the aircraft were damaged during landing. Traffic on the stretch was halted for more than 15 minutes, said a traffic police officer.

An eyewitness said: “We saw the plane coming down at a very low level, it was wobbling. Initially, we didn’t know where it

would land. But it dipped towards the side of the highway and landed close to the crash barrier.”

In 2017, 16 IAF planes performed touch and go landing manoeuvres at the Taj Expressway to demonstrate the Force’s ability of emergency landing, as per sources in the defence ministry. In July, 2018, IAF’s Mirage 2000 successfully test landed on the Yamuna Expressway from a height of 100 metres.

SRCC cancels talk on citizenship law protests in Northeast

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

CITING “UNAVOIDABLE circumstances”, the Shri Ram College of Commerce administration Thursday cancelled an event on the Citizenship Amendment Act which was to be organised by the North East Cell of the college.

The ABVP-backed students’ union of the college had complained to the principal, and asked that the event be cancelled as it had people from one ideology.

In a statement, members of the cell said they were informed of the decision “in an emergency meeting held mere hours before the event”.

A notice signed by the principal said, “Due to unavoidable circumstances, the programme scheduled today, being organised by the North East Cell, is hereby cancelled.”

The event included journalists Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty and Pradyot Manikya, trade unionist Nayan Jyoti, among others.

“We were told that they (administration) received informa-

tion about the possibility of violence on campus if the event was to take place. We were also told our speakers had the ‘same bent of mind,’” the organisers said.

“They also suggested this event be conducted at a later time. We insisted that this was not a politically motivated event and that it was conducted because there exists a complete lack of awareness about the North East protests in college,” they added.

They alleged that the students’ union had spread a message saying that they would “indulge in violence and spread misleading information among the students”.

Nayan Jyoti, who was among the speakers, said he received a call from the principal’s office 45 minutes before the event was to begin. “They said the event was cancelled. They didn’t give any reason,” he said.

Gajendra Chaudhary, president of the students’ union, said: “All speakers were from the same ideology. SRCC has always been neutral.” Principal Simrit Kaur did not respond to repeated calls and messages seeking a comment.

6 former DU presidents in poll fray

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE UPCOMING Delhi Assembly polls will see several former student leaders in the electoral fray.

While the BJP has fielded Ashish Sood, Anil Jha and Rekha Gupta, the Congress has put forward Rocky Tuseed, Alka Lamba and Neetu Verma Soin. A common thread among these names is that they have held the mantle of the DU students’ union president at different points of time.

Tuseed (25), former DUSU president (2017-2018) and an active member of NSUI, has been fielded by the Congress from Rajinder Nagar.

Jha, who is contesting from Kirari constituency, believes that being a part of student politics builds a foundation for the future political career of a candidate.

A former member of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Jha was DUSU president in 1997-98 and an active member of ABVP. “I have been active since my college days. People in Delhi know me and the work I have done,” he said.

Similarly, Soin, who won DUSU polls between 1999-2002, said choosing young leaders will help change the face of politics.

Lamba, who is contesting from Chandni Chowk, was a member of the Congress for 20 years. She quit the party in 2013 and became a member of the AAP. She is a former president of NSUI and was the president of DUSU in 1995.



BJP’s Anil Jha will contest from Kirari

‘170 colonies in forest area can’t be regularised’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE CENTRE’S move to regularise unauthorised colonies in the capital will not benefit around 170 colonies falling under the ‘reserved’ or ‘notified forest’ categories, the Delhi government told the Delhi High Court Thursday.

While steps are afoot to regularise over 1,700 unauthorised colonies in Delhi, it is not clear how many of the 170 colonies listed by the Delhi government were cleared for regularisation.

The Delhi government’s Department of Forests and Wildlife made the submission before Justice G S Sistani and Justice A J Bhambhani, after they were

asked to clarify the effect of directions to regularise unauthorised colonies in Delhi on areas falling under notified forest areas and wildlife sanctuaries.

Delhi government’s Additional Standing Counsel Sanjoy Ghose, while placing the affidavit, apprised it of the Supreme Court’s ruling, which had ordered that prior approval

of the Central government is required for any non-forest activity within the area of any forest.

It said that there are “currently 170 unauthorised colonies, in which a part or full colony fall under different categories of forest areas, under the jurisdictions of North Division (4 colonies), South Division (114 colonies), and West Division (52 colonies).”

New Delhi: Weeks after the body of an insurance agent at LIC was found in a canal in Bulandshahr, police have arrested four men for allegedly abducting and killing him. According to police, the accused called the victim, Deepak Dua, to Noida on the pretext of buying an insurance policy, but killed him on January 6.

“On January 17, we received information that Dua’s body was found near a canal,” said B K

Singh, Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch.

Police first arrested one Monu Sharma, who led them to other accused.

“They were arrested on January 22. The accused said that they had lost money on betting and were in debt,” said a police officer, adding that they demanded Rs 25 lakh but when Dua refused, they allegedly strangled him. **ENS**

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, AMBALA CANTT
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt. for & behalf President of India invites **OPEN E-TENDER** on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following works. Tenderer may upload their offer up to prescribed closing time & date. No tender will be accepted manually.

Tender No. & Tender Title	Approx. Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion Period	Cost of tender document (in ₹)	Date & Time of closing
Tender Notice No. RE/UMB/S&T/Tele/Gr.286/RJK-SHTS/T-79 Date : 16.01.2020					
Tender No. RE-UMB-SNT-Tele-Gr.286-OD Trenching, Laying, Back Filling, Jointing, Termination and Testing of OFC, 6 quad & PUJF cables including Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Way Station Equipments, Head Quarter Control Room Equipments With Power Supplies and Emergency Socket in SP/SSP/TSS in Raja Ka Sahaspur Jn-Sambhal Hatim Sarai single Line section in connection with Railway Electrification work Under Moradabad Division of Northern Railway.	69.08 Lakh	138200.00	06 months	5000.00	20.02.2020 at 15.00 hrs
Tender Notice No. RE/UMB/S&T/Tele/Gr.285/NP-JIND/T-78 Date : 16.01.2020					
Tender No. RE-UMB-SNT-Tele-Gr.285-ID System design, supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of SDH (STM-1), primary drop/insert multiplexer and associated works in Sonapat-Jind single line section in connection with Railway Electrification work under Delhi division of Northern Railway.	49.69 Lakh	99,500.00	06 months	3000.00	20.02.2020 at 15.00 hrs
Tender Notice No. RE/UMB/S&T/AMC/Exch/2019-21/T-77 Dated : 13.01.2020					
Tender No. RE/UMB/S&T/AMC/Exch/2019-21 Annual Maintenance Contract for Electronic Exchange (Make-CORAL-IRIS 512 lines) installed in CPD/RE/Ambala Cantt office complex.	4.55 Lakh	9115.00	24 months	1000.00	20.02.2020 at Dy. CST/RE/UMB office at 15.00 hrs

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded from there. This facility is available free of cost.

All terms & conditions may be seen and downloaded from Railway website. i.e. www.ireps.gov.in.

Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender document cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.

(Jagdish Kumar)
By Chief Signal & Telecom
Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt.
for & on behalf of the President of India

No.PR/188/2020
Satya Adv.

“SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE”

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040

No.: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-2019-20 Date: 23.01.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Standard Tender Document - KW1, KW2 & KW3)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered Contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
Works Reserved for Schedule Caste (SC) Category			
1	Improvements and repairs to approach drains Ward No. 127, Mudalapalya. (Call-2)	15.00	18,750/-
Works for General Category			
2	Construction of Prayer Hall & allied works @ Panchasheelanagara in Ward No. 127, Mudalapalya. (Call-4)	40.00	80,000/-
3	Asphalting to Road in Industrial Estate and surrounding area in Rajajinagar in Ward No. 106, Dr. Rajkumar Ward.	60.00	1,20,000/-
4	Asphalting to Roads in 6th Block and surrounding area in Rajajinagara in Ward No. 106, Dr. Rajkumar Ward.	60.00	1,20,000/-
5	Improvements to Road, Culverts, Drains and footpath at AD Halli at 1st Cross to 12th Cross in Agraharadasarahalli in Ward No. 105.	60.00	1,20,000/-
6	Drilling of borewells and providing pipeline in Agraharadasarahalli in Ward No. 105.	65.00	1,30,000/-
7	Improvements to Road, Culverts, Drains and footpath at KHB Colony in Agraharadasarahalli in Ward No. 105.	60.00	1,20,000/-
8	Development of Udaya School park 18th Main Road in Ward No. 125.	100.00	2,00,000/-
9	Development drilling borewell pipeline and rain water harvesting at different places in Kaveripura Ward No. 103.	70.00	1,40,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. (2) Last date for receipt of Queries : **27.01.2020 up to 3:00 p.m.** (3) Date of pre bid meeting at the office of Executive Engineer (Govindarajanagara division) on **29.01.2020 at 3:30 p.m.** (4) Last Date for uploading the filled proposals is : **07.02.2020 up to 4:00 p.m.** (5) Date of opening of Technical proposals is : **10.02.2020 after 4:00 p.m.** (6) Date of opening of Financial proposals is : **After approval of Technical proposals through e-procurement.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP

“Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru”

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli
Tender No.: LPG-2019-20, Due on: 14.02.2020 Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/M&P, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli, for and on behalf of president of India, invites **ONLINE** open tender based on single packet system from reputed firms through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for Tender notice no. LPG-2019-20-20, Due on: 14.02.2020 on prescribed format for the under mentioned work:-

Description of Work	Approx. Value (In ₹)	Earnest Money rounded off to nearest multiple of 100. (In ₹)
Non-Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract including operational contract through open tender of 01 nos. of LPG manifold system, 02 nos. 20 MT rounded LPG storage bullet & pipe line for two (02) year.	Rs. 28,45,093.00 (Rs. Twenty Eight Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	Rs. 56,900.00 (Rs. Fifty Six Thousand Only)

Cost of Tender document : Rs. 3000.00
Completion period from the date of commencement of work: 24 Months (02 years)

• Date and time of closing of tender-14.02.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.
• Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility Criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal : www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (M&P)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

महाराष्ट्र रेल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
MAHARASHTRA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(महाराष्ट्र सरकारचा आणि रेल्वे मंत्रालयाचे संयुक्त उपकार)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways)

२ स कोकला, होव्हट हव्हका, नर्मन पॉइंट, मुंबई - व्हे नर्त
(2nd Floor, Hoehot House, Narmnan Point, Mumbai - 400 021)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Empanelment of Civil Contractors

MRIDC invites applications from Civil Contractors/ Agencies/ Firms for **Rebuilding of Old Road Over Bridges as well as Construction of new Road Over Bridges (Cable Stay Bridge / Other iconic structures) in Mumbai Suburban Area.**

MRIDC has been entrusted the responsibility of rebuilding of old Road Over Bridges / Construction of new ROB's in Mumbai with best possible architectural finish and with least disturbance to suburban road and rail traffic. MRIDC is aiming to complete the task in shortest possible time with best possible solution.

Interested eligible Contractors / Firms / Companies may visit our official website www.maharail.com for details and information. Applications / Documents shall be submitted to the Corporate Office located at Mumbai. Any corrigendum to this notice shall be hosted on our official website only.

Last date for receipt of Application / Document in the Corporate Office, Mumbai is **21/02/2020.**

MANAGING DIRECTOR MRIDC

Directorate of Mines Steel & Mines Department Government of Odisha
Date: January 22, 2020

Notice Inviting Tender

“Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Iron Ore and Chromite Minerals”

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10 (B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and on accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Odisha has identified 2 (two) Minerals Blocks as under for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease:

a) 1 (one) mineral block of Iron Ore
b) 1 (one) mineral block of Chromite

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders. Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/auction/home/mle/index.jsp>)

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited.

Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of a tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is Saturday, February, 15, 2020 and the last date for submission of the bid is Thursday, February 20, 2020 on or before 12:00 noon (Indian Standard Time)

The Price of Tender Document for each mineral block is Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs).

List of Mineral Blocks for Auction

S. No	Block Name	Mineral	Concession Types
1	Gual Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
2	Sukinda Chromite Block	Chromite	Mining Lease

30004/11/0012/1920 Sd/-
Director of Mines, Odisha

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 32 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing :** Blue colour lower and Brown & blue colour sweater found dead at Nangloi me Yadav Dharm Kanta k pas Hari Complex K Pas New Delhi. In this regard **D.D. No.: 30A Date : 16.01.2020** has been Lodged at PS: Nangloi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following. **SHO P.S., Nangloi, Delhi**
Ph. : 011-25949470, 25947225
DP/3076/OD/2020

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI
On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Fur-1, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open e-tender (No.M-20/MCF/RBL/FUR-ACTIVITYES/LWSCN-2020-21 Date: 20.01.2020) based on single packet system online through Indian Railway portal www.ireps.gov.in for the following work:-

Description of work	Approx. Value (₹)	EMD (₹)
Works contract for Interior Mechanical Furnishings & Fittings in LWSCN EOG LHB type non AC Coaches with FIAT Bogies as per scope of work for financial year 2020-21.	5,27,10,335.68	4,13,600.00

Cost of Tender document : ₹ 10,000.00
Quantity of work: 400 LWSCN Coaches.
Work completion period: 12 months or earlier.

E-Tender submitted through online up to 11:00 hrs. on 11.02.2020. Manual offer will not be considered. E-Tender shall be opened on 11.02.2020 at 11:30 through online on <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Detailed Tender E-Notice, and Terms & conditions are available at Indian Railway IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/FUR-1

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Department of Water Resources Odisha Community Tank Development Management Society
7th Floor Rajeev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar.
ODISHA INTEGRATED IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE (OIICPRA)
CORRIGENDUM TO (RFB) E-Procurement Notice NO OIICPRAW2-2/2019

Date: 21.01.2020 RFB No: OIICPRA-W2-2/2019

In accordance with modified decision taken by the Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation, Odisha, Bhubaneswar and Addl Project Director, OIICPRA-cum-Chief Engineer, M&E DoWR, Bhubaneswar in the review meeting of OIICPRA Projects on 06.01.2020, the bids will be opened at SPMU, 7th Floor Rajiv Bhawan at 2.00 P.M. on 7.02.2020 instead by the concerned Executive Engineers in their respective headquarters.

32188/11/0005/1920 Dr. Kamal Lochan Mishra
Project Director, OCTDMS-cum-Additional Secretary to Govt., DoWR, Odisha

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DIVISON, CUTTACK MAHANADIBIHAR; CUTTACK-753004
Telephone: 0671-2441619, e-mail: eerwss.ctc1@nic.in
Govt. of Odisha e-procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. rwsstc-11/2019-20

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

1. Nature of work : Rural Piped W/S Scheme.
2. No. of tenders : 2 Nos.
3. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000/-
4. Value of Work : Rs.94.68 Lath & Rs.172.57 Lakh
5. Class of Contractor : "B" & "A" Class
6. Date and time of availability of bid document in portal : 11 hour of 29.01.2020 to 07.02.2020 up to 17 hours
7. Date & time of seeking tender clarification : 05.02.2020 up to 17 hours
8. Date & time of opening of tender : 10.02.2020 at 11:30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack
9. Time of completion : 180 days & 270 days
10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersorisssa.gov.in>.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWSS DIVISION, CUTTACK.
25022/11/0028/1920

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



WAY WITH WORDS

TRINAMOL CONGRESS'S Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien coined a new monicker for himself as his podcasts made a comeback on Thursday. Calling himself a "pod-itician", O'Brien, in his podcast, spoke about why he chose to speak in Bangla in Parliament. The 6-minute episode is the first of a podcast series from the leader of West Bengal's ruling party, which is currently at loggerheads with the BJP-led NDA government over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the NRC.

QUIET ON OPPN FRONT

TEN DAYS ago, 20 opposition parties led by the Congress had decided to take forward their campaign against CAA and NRC by marking the birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose on January 23, organise readings of the Preamble of the Constitution on Republic Day, and observe the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30 by highlighting his campaigns in pursuit of communal harmony. On Thursday, however, the Opposition did not organise any big programme to mark Bose's birthday. Most of the leaders remembered Bose on Twitter, while a few, such as Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and Sitaram Yechury, paid tributes to Bose in Parliament.

NOISE IN NEWS

COURTROOMS AND corridors packed to full capacity and more is not a new thing in the Supreme Court, especially when high-profile cases are being heard. Judges reluctantly use the microphones on the request of lawyers on some busy mornings. However, the tables turned in the Chief Justice of India's court on Wednesday when the CJIS A Bobde-led bench could not hear submissions made by senior advocate Kapil Sibal. The CJ then said that the Supreme Court Bar Association will be roped in to address noisy, overcrowded courtrooms.

IN MEMORY

THE ELECTION Commission on Thursday organised the first Sukumar Sen Memorial Lecture, instituted as a tribute to the first Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). Apart from inviting former CECs to attend the inaugural lecture, the Commission had also called Sen's family members. Eight family members were present at the event. Among those in attendance were Sen's eldest son Debduddha and his youngest Sanjiv, and grandchildren Aditya Vikram and Arjun Veer.

Centre to SC: J&K's integration into Union independent of Art 370

Accession to India irreversible: Attorney General to 5-judge bench

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE CENTRE on Thursday told the Supreme Court that "accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India was irreversible" and its integration into the Indian Union was "independent of Article 370".

Appearing for the Centre, Attorney General K K Venugopal told a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Justice N V Ramana that the J&K Constitution specifically says it is an integral part of India and asked what then was the point in arguing that no plebiscite was held in the erstwhile state and hence it remains autonomous.

The bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul, R Subhash Reddy, B R Gavai and Surya Kant, was hearing arguments on whether or not to refer petitions challenging the August 5, 2019 proclamations amending Article 370 to a larger bench in view of the decisions in two other five-judge decisions — in Prem Nath Kaul vs The State of Jammu and Kashmir in 1959 and Sampat Prakash vs The State of Jammu and Kashmir in 1970.

The bench reserved its order on Thursday.

The A-G was apparently referring to submissions of Senior Advocate Zafar Shah who said on Wednesday that there was never complete accession of J&K and that the independent state never ceased to exist.

Later, during the arguments, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said "most of Zafar Shah's arguments were political" and that "no argument justifying secessionism in J&K should be permitted".

Venugopal took the court through a book, *The History of the Integration of The Indian States*, by former civil servant V P Menon, who played a key role in the accession process. The book, he said, explains how the tribesmen in

approximately 200-300 lorries led by Pakistani Army officers invaded Kashmir in 1947. They came till Baramulla and "raped and killed right through" forcing the then Maharaja to seek the help of the Indian Army, he said.

The A-G said Lord Mountbatten's letters from the archives "show that he was trying to coax the Kashmiris to join Pakistan", perhaps to protect British interests, adding that the King was against this.

Speaking of the accession, the A-G said that by the 1954 Constitutional Order, large parts of the Indian Constitution were made applicable to J&K.

On Zafar Shah's contention that J&K had not signed a standstill agreement with India, the A-G said it was not an argument at all. The Maharaja had signed a standstill agreement with Pakistan but the latter violated it, cut off supplies to Srinagar and sent 300 troops with the objective of taking over J&K, said the A-G.

The A-G said the integration of the erstwhile state into the India Union was independent of Article 370 and referred to Article 1 which speaks about the territory of India. On the day the Constitution of India was framed, J&K became part of India, subject to Article 370 being operative with regard to application of laws, he added.

Venugopal said the Prem Nath Kaul case judgment was not about Article 370 powers and hence it was not right to say it conflicted with the Sampat Prakash case judgment.

Opposing the demand for reference, Senior Counsel Rajeev Dhavan, representing one of the petitioners, said in the August 5 proclamation, "We have seen the disappearance of a Constitution, disappearance of a treaty and demotion of a state into a Union Territory." He wondered if security was the only reason for the changes.



Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at an eatery in Baramulla on Thursday. Shuaib Masoodi

Prasad continues govt outreach, Baramulla locals share troubles

NAVEED IQBAL
BARAMULLA, JANUARY 23

CARRYING A picture of officials inspecting the rubble of his house and an application torn at the folds in a plastic bag, Fayaz Ahmad, 60, reached the Dak Bungalow at Baramulla from Siliokote, the last village on the LoC that lies beyond the border fence.

"My home was destroyed in shelling two years ago. I have come all the way to get some compensation and build a house for my children," he said.

Ahmed said he and his five daughters are living in the village panchayat ghar for the last two years. The security did not let him enter the Dak Bungalow.

Inside, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad congratulated the newly elected chairpersons of various Block Development Councils in Baramulla district. "You fought the elections despite (calls for) boycott and threats, (PDP chief) Mehbooba Mufti and (NC chief)

Omar Abdullah kept opposing it, saying there will be violence.... I want to congratulate you for having shown the courage, fought the elections, and won," he said.

After taking stock of the district's development scenario, Prasad urged officials to "create opportunities" for creative people and the youth, as J&K is craving development.

During their meeting, sarpanches from the district underscored the need to empower their office. "There is a delay in getting work done, and even in funds arriving, due to lack of proper authority," Nazeer Ahmad Sofi, sarpanch of Shirpora panchayat, told *The Indian Express*.

On the second day of his visit, as part of the Centre's outreach programme in J&K, Prasad inaugurated an indoor sports stadium at Baramulla, where he interacted with students and laid foundation for a mini-pavilion block. He met with 19 delegations, including the Farmers' Welfare Committee, Students Association of Baramulla, Sports Development

Forum, and transporters.

A youth delegation under the banner of 'Save Youth, Save Future' met Prasad about creation of political space for the Valley's youth. "After abrogation of (special status under) Article 370, all politicians were detained and the Centre spoke of creating a new leadership. We want that chance," Wajahat Farooq from the organisation said.

A generation of Pahadi-speaking people from border villages of Baramulla urged the minister to grant ST status to the community. A group of women artisans also presented their demands.

Union MoS for AYUSH and Defence Shripad Nayak, who was in Srinagar, said at a function that Gulmarg, Patnitop, Pahalgam hill stations would be promoted as AYUSH tourism destinations.

Continuing his visit at Ganderbal, MoS for Home G Kishan Reddy said corruption will now be tackled and funds will reach on time.

Under attack from his own, Nitish hits back at Varma: He's free to go wherever he wants

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 23

WITH SENIOR JD (U) leaders Pavan K Varma and Prashant Kishor stepping up attacks on his alliance partner BJP, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar struck back Thursday, saying Varma was free to chart his future and "go wherever he wants". He did not, however, comment on Kishor who, a day earlier, had dared Union Home Minister Shah to "implement CAA and NRC in the chronological order" he had once said.

On Varma, the Chief Minister told reporters: "If anyone had any problem, he could have discussed it at a party meeting or personally. This is not the way to do it. The way he spoke on certain things is not proper. Should I be telling you what he told me? But I have respect for him. He can go wherever he wants. I wish him well."

Two days ago, Varma went



Varma questioned decision to fight Delhi polls with BJP

public with a letter he had written to Kumar. Questioning his party's decision to extend its alliance with the BJP "beyond Bihar" and fight the Delhi Assembly elections together, Varma, who is also the party's national spokesperson, sought "ideological clarity" from Kumar who he said had expressed "grave apprehensions" in private about the BJP leading the country into a "dangerous space".

In the letter, Varma said Kumar "on more than one occasion" had expressed "grave apprehensions about the BJP-RSS

combine" and that "you had spoken to me at length and with conviction on why Narendra Modi and his policies are inimical for the country. When you were leading Mahagathabandhan, you had openly made a call for 'RSS-mukt Bharat'."

On Thursday, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi said his party's ties with JD (U) was "unbreakable".

"There are some people who do not like Bihar to grow under NDA rule. BJP and JD (U) have been working together in government for over 12 years now. But there are some people who cannot digest it and are looking at ways to break the alliance," he said.

Without naming Varma and Kishor, Modi said: "There are some people who Nitish Kumar elevated to good positions from nowhere. But these are the ones who are turning out to be troublemakers for Nitish Kumar."

JD (U) sources said the party was also upset with Prashant

Kishor for "exceeding his brief". While JD (U) state president and Rajya Sabha MP Bashistha Narayan Singh said he would discuss the recent statements of Varma and Kishor with Nitish Kumar, a senior party leader said Kishor and Varma had been sent a message by "not being included among star campaigners" of JD (U) for the Delhi Assembly polls.

Responding to Kumar, Varma told *The Indian Express*, "Whatever questions I have raised are about seeking ideological clarity of the party post CAA-NRC-NPR. Details of my letter to the Bihar CM are not from a one-on-one conversation. Other leaders were also present. I am still waiting for the CM's answer before I can decide on my another course of action."

He also said that his not being included as a "star campaigner" for the Delhi polls was "inconsequential" as he was opposed to his party's alliance with BJP in Delhi.

Jagan mulls abolishing AP Legislative Council

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 23

UNHAPPY OVER the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council's referring the capital decentralisation Bill to a select committee to review it, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is considering abolishing the Council.

The opposition TDP is in majority in the Council, and on Wednesday blocked the tabling of the Bill, with Council chairman Shariff Mohammed Ahmed referring it for review by a select committee, despite fierce protest by the YSRCP.

Shariff will constitute the select committee on Friday. The abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in states is carried out through a law passed by Parliament at the request of a resolution passed by the respective state Assembly. Article 169 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to enact a legislation providing for the abolition of the Legislative Council of a state hav-

ing such a Council if the Legislative Assembly of the state passes a resolution to that effect.

The Legislative Council in the erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh was abolished in 1985 after Parliament enacted the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council (Abolition) Act, 1985. However, the way for a Legislative Council in the erstwhile state was again paved by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Act, 2005 passed by Parliament.

On Thursday, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Botcha Satyanarayana claimed the referring of the Bill to a select committee was in violation of House proceedings. "The behaviour of the Council chairman and the TDP members in the Council is forcing the government to think whether we need the Council or not. We are forced to think whether we should abolish the Council altogether," he said.

Jagan met with senior ministers, MLAs and party leaders to discuss the situation.

Marandi's JVM-P splits: Two MLAs meet Sonia, set to join Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

AMID INDICATIONS that Babul Marandi is set to merge his Jharkhand Vikas Morcha-Prajatantrik with the BJP, two of his party's MLAs on Thursday met Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Sources said the two will formally join the Congress soon.

The JVM-P has three MLAs, including Marandi. The meeting of Bandhu Tirkey and Pradeep Yadav signal a split in the JVM-P. Their meeting with Gandhi came a day ahead of Marandi's possible meeting with top BJP leadership in Delhi to take forward the merger talks.

The two MLAs also handed over a letter to Gandhi extending their support to the JMM-



JVM-P chief Babul Marandi

Congress alliance government. Tirkey was expelled from JVM-P on Tuesday for alleged anti-party activities. Sources said he was opposed the JVM-P's merger with the BJP.

With Tirkey and Yadav walking out of the JVM-P, sources said two-third of the JVM-P legislature party has split.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, AICC in charge of Jharkhand R P N Singh said, "The two MLAs met Sonia Gandhi and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and discussed the political situation in the state."

Mahatma portrait missing at Attari border complex even yr after inauguration

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
ATTARI (AMRITSAR), JAN 23

A PORTRAIT of Mahatma Gandhi, which for many years adorned the 'Swarn Jayanti Dwar' (Golden Jubilee Gate) at the Joint Check Post (JCP) on the India-Pakistan border at Attari, in Punjab, has not been put up at the revamped visitors' gallery even a year it was inaugurated by then Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in January 2019.

The BSF said a bigger portrait of the Mahatma will be put up in the visitors' gallery, and a photo will also be displayed in the upcoming museum along with other national heroes.

Earlier, Gandhi's portrait was prominently displayed on the Indian side of the border facing Pakistan, while the Pakistani side has the photograph of Mohammad Ali Jinnah on display.

In the new visitors' gallery, which has enhanced seating arrangements, the Swarn Jayanti Dwar no longer has the Father of the Nation's image. The Pakistani side continues to display Jinnah's photograph.

Shubhendu Bhardwaj, Public Relations Officer, BSF Headquarters, New Delhi, told *The Indian Express*, "A bigger photo in proportion will be put up (at visitors' gallery). A museum is planned where photographs of all national heroes will be placed, including (that of) Mahatma Gandhi."

There was no word on why the portrait had not been put up yet.

Construction of the gallery was completed in August 2018, and it was inaugurated in January 2019.

Under the new design, "India" is inscribed on top of the gallery facing Pakistan, and "First Line of



Mahatma Gandhi's portrait atop the 'Swarn Jayanti Dwar'; (right) The visitor's gallery after it was renovated sans the portrait. File

Defence" on the lower gallery. Earlier, the Mahatma's portrait used to be in the middle of Swarn Jayanti Dwar facing Pakistan, with the Tricolour on top.

The JCP at Attari, on the Indian side, and Wagah, on Pakistani side, is famous for the retreat ceremony that takes place every evening, when the

national flags are lowered following an elaborately choreographed parade and display of patriotic sentiment by personnel of the BSF and Pakistan Rangers. Over the years, the parade has become a major tourist attraction, with thousands watching it every evening through the year.

The project of the new gallery was undertaken by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD).

Asked about the missing Mahatma Gandhi portrait, Executive Engineer, CPWD, Amritsar, Pushpinder Singh, said he was not authorised to speak with the media. He said CPWD

was only concerned with the construction aspect of the new gallery, not the decorations.

BSF PRO at Punjab Frontier Headquarters at Jalandhar, an officer of DIG rank, also said he was not authorised to speak with the media on the issue.

Sources in BSF told *The Indian Express* that Gandhi's portrait



Bigger, better gallery built in 3 yrs

WORK ON the new visitors' complex started in 2015 and was completed by the middle of 2018 at a cost of Rs 37 crore. Then Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who is now the Defence Minister, inaugurated it on January 22, 2019. The seating capacity of more than 20,000 people is substantially more than the previous gallery.

In another addition, gates of the zero line have been changed by both India and Pakistan to afford a better view of visitors on both sides of the border.

will be put up in a museum, which will be built at Attari border in a year's time.

"I do not know why the portrait was taken down because the officers who were in charge then have been posted out," a BSF source said.

"May be the decision was taken because the museum will come up, where all national heroes will have their portraits displayed. It could also have been taken down to prevent any damage occurring to it due to storm, rain, etc."

GAGANYAAN

Russian expert: Indian space candidates in their 30s picked for multiple missions

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, JANUARY 23

THE HEALTH condition of the four IAF test pilots shortlisted to be an astronaut on ISRO's first ever human space flight by 2022 was evaluated for not just one but multiple missions spanning 5-10 years, according to a top cosmonaut who headed a Russian bio-medical team that helped pick them.

"We were selecting an Indian astronaut to be in the profession for a long time — not just one mission but many missions," Oleg Valeriyevich Kotov said on the sidelines of a conference on Human Spaceflight and Exploration Thursday.

"We try to evaluate the health status of individuals for space flights over a long period of time. We are looking at the health of a candidate and providing a prognosis for the next few years — five years or 10 years. We are not selecting candidates for just one short mission," said Kotov, whose team helped the IAF shortlist the Indian candidates for the Gaganyaan mission from 60 to four.

Kotov, 54, is a cosmonaut and aerospace medicine expert with 526 days of experience in space between 2007 and 2014, including six space walks. He was a



Oleg Valeriyevich Kotov

flight engineer on a mission to the International Space Station in 2007 and a commander for ISS missions in 2010 and 2013. He has been a leading doctor for 18 years at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre at Star City in Russia.

According to the Russian expert, the task of picking the final Indian candidates was no different from such selections in other countries.

"The Indian candidates were not very different from what we see in other parts of the world. They have to be very motivated, very strong, very healthy with very high psychological resistance. They have to be open, communicative, very friendly — and smiling is always good," said Kotov, who is now responsible for the bio-medical programme of the ISS.

Keeping in mind that the as-

tronauts should be available for multiple missions over time, the Indian candidates chosen to undergo generic training at the Yuri Gagarin centre from this month fall in the 32-35 years age group, he said.

"All candidates who I saw were high-quality because they were selected after a preliminary process by doctors on the Indian side using material that we provided. The candidates that came up for selection fit into a certain criteria already laid out," he said.

According to Kotov, the final selection was more "complicated" since it involved evaluation of bio-medical parameters on an individual basis.

"It is not a simple system with a checklist where you pick a candidate if they match the checklist. We follow an individual approach for every candidate. It is about understanding the health system of the individual. We do not have people who are 100 per cent healthy. It is impossible to find a 100 per cent healthy person around the world because everyone has small deviations — not illness but deviations in anatomy," Kotov said.

After their training at the Yuri Gagarin centre, the candidates will return for mission-specific training to India.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

International collaboration key in manned mission

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JANUARY 23

THE FIRST-EVER Indian mission to send a man into space on board the GSLV Mk III rocket, scheduled to be launched around the year 2022, will not be a purely Indian endeavour but will involve collaboration with international space agencies, keeping in nature with modern space exploration efforts.

ISRO will provide a bulwark of technologies and systems for the Gaganyaan mission, but there will be key contributions from Russia and France—Russia will help with the selection of astronauts, while France will help with its expertise in space medicine.

Under a space cooperation agreement signed in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Russian space agency Roscosmos will shortly begin the training of four Indian IAF test pilots - chosen by Russian and Indian experts to be the first Indian astronauts - at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre at Star City, Russia.

The Yuri Gagarin centre,

which has trained astronauts from over 30 countries, will provide generic training for Indian astronauts in areas like the basics of a manned flight, control systems, space navigation, design principles and space engineering before they return for mission-specific training.

ISRO and the French space agency CNES will be collaborating on medical systems for the Gaganyaan mission, including emergency medical systems on board the spacecraft.

In 2018, CNES president Jean-Yves Le Gall and ISRO chairman K Sivan had announced the creation of a French-Indian working group on human spaceflight in continuation with a commitment made by President Emmanuel Macron during a visit to India.

"CNES and ISRO will combine expertise in the fields of space medicine, astronaut health monitoring, life support, radiation protection, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems", which will all play a key role in the Gaganyaan mission, say ISRO and CNES officials.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Special court remands Davinder, 4 others in NIA custody for 15 days

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JANUARY 23

A SPECIAL court on Thursday remanded suspended police officer Davinder Singh and four others in NIA custody for 15 days. The other four included Hizbul Mujahideen commander Syed Naveed Mushtaq Shah alias Naveed Baba, his brother Syed Irfan Ahmed, who has been accused of harbouring militants, Hizbul militant Rafi Ahmed Rather and advocate Irfan Shafi Mir.

The NIA had sought custodial interrogation of the accused for 15 days to unearth the wider conspiracy in the matter. Granting them the custody, Special judge Subash C Gupta observed that "facts and circumstances of the case, gravity and heinousness of the crime as involved in the present case, submissions made by the Chief Investigating Officer and the state of investigation of the case,



Suspended police officer Davinder Singh and four others being taken to the NIA court. Express

the court is of the considered view that custodial interrogation of the accused is imperative to facilitate the ongoing investigation".

The judge also directed the investigating officer to arrange medical examination of the accused after every 48 hours during the remand period.

According to documents presented before the court by the NIA, Naveed Baba's brother Irfan has

been arrested for his role in the larger conspiracy and for being a harbourer of terrorists. The agency alleged that Irfan was acting as a go-between the Hizbul commander and Singh for facilitating their travel for a specific mission.

The NIA also said that Singh and Irfan Shafi Mir were ferrying Naveed and Rafi Ahmed Rather towards Jammu on January 11 as part of a criminal conspiracy.

Assam: Over 600 militants lay down arms

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 23

OVER 600 cadres of eight militant groups in Assam, who had surrendered over the last few years, ceremonially laid down their arms in Guwahati on Thursday—a development the government has projected as a major step towards long-lasting peace in the region.

"Today 644 cadres of eight militant organisations who surrendered and came to unilateral ceasefire in 2019 and prior to that have formally laid down arms in a ceremony in the presence of the Chief Minister of Assam, Chief Secretary of Assam, DGP Assam, GOC 4 Corp and other senior officers in Guwahati," an Assam Police spokesperson said in a statement.

"Those youths who strayed into terrorism and extremist ac-

tivities must be given an opportunity to come back to the mainstream society and rebuild their lives. I welcome all members of extremist groups who have laid down their arms today to lead a normal life again and contribute meaningfully to the nation building process through hard work and dedication. It will inspire other such militant organisation members to come back to mainstream society," Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said.

The eight militant outfits whose cadre surrendered are the United Liberation Front of Assam-Independent (ULFA-I), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), Kamatapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), Rabha National Liberation Front (RNLf), Communist Party of India (Maoist), National Santhal Liberation Army (NSLA), Adivasi Dragon Fighter (ADF) and the

National Liberation Front of Bengal (NLFB).

According to police data, there were 50 cadres of ULFA-I, eight of NDFB, six of KLO, 13 of RNLf, one of CPI-Maoist, 87 of NSLA, 178 of ADF and 301 of NLFB.

Sonowal said building a terrorism-free Assam was one of the main commitments of his government and urged the surrendered militants to "dedicate themselves to the nation building process and utilise their potential to bring positive transformation in the society". A senior police officer of the Special Branch told *The Indian Express*, "Militants surrender in a phase-wise manner and not en masse. It takes time for the full process to complete and formally give up arms. Over 600 people with over 170 arms coming back to the mainstream is a big development."

After Trump offers help, India says no third party mediation in Kashmir

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

REACTING TO US President Donald Trump's statement in Davos that the US is willing to help with ties between India and Pakistan, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Thursday reiterated that there is "no role" for any third party to mediate in Indo-Pak bilateral ties.

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar also said Pakistan makes "alarmist" statements on the Kashmir situation but it has "failed", as the global community has understood its "double standards".

Kumar told the media, "We have reacted to similar statements in the past, (and) our position on the Kashmir issue and third-party mediation has been very clear and consistent. Let me reiterate that there is no role for any third party in this matter."

He said if any bilateral issue needs to be discussed, it should be done between the two countries under provisions of the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. But, he added, "the onus is on Pakistan to create such conducive conditions, free from terror, hostility, and violence".

During his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in Davos earlier this week, Trump had said, "...We are talking about Kashmir and the relation to what is going on with Pakistan and India. If we can help, we certainly will be helping..."

CRPF man posted at Ambani house accidentally fires at self

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

A 30-YEAR-OLD CRPF man died after he "accidentally" shot himself in Mumbai. Devdan Bakotra was posted outside RIL Chairman & Managing Director Mukesh Ambani's residence when he allegedly misfired his service weapon twice. One bullet hit him on his chest, killing him.

A senior officer said, "...The jawan had a mobile phone in one hand. He simultaneously tried to remove the strap of the rifle. He accidentally pressed the rifle's trigger firing two rounds."

Bakotra was rushed to hospital, where he was declared dead during treatment.

‘States not utilising disaster funds denied more aid’

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

AT A time when states such as Assam and Kerala have been complaining that the Centre is not giving them adequate funds in flood relief, sources in Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday said these states have actually failed to utilise their funds. Assam, in fact, diverted disaster funds given to it in 2019 to its general account to meet other expenses, the sources said.

Home Ministry officials said there was a procedure for release of funds to states to meet disaster needs, but many states were

not following them fully and complaining. They said funds are given to states every year in advance, but if the states are unable to utilise them, they are denied fresh funds or provided less funds.

"Kerala was given Rs 3,000 crore as disaster relief fund. Till March 2019, it had not utilised Rs 2,100 crore of this. Since then, they have submitted some utilisation certificates but we do not know whether the spending was on 2018 floods or 2019 floods. They have sought Rs 2,000 crore more. Similarly, Assam diverted the disaster fund to its general account. They have now transferred it back. They have been given

some funds after deduction this year. They will not get any more funds," a senior official said.

Sources said release of funds to West Bengal has been delayed as the memorandum received from the state about damages due to natural calamity was "not proper". They said once the correct memorandum is received, funds would be released.

A high-level committee headed by Home Minister Amit Shah had on January 6 approved additional central assistance of Rs 5,908.56 crore to seven states from National Disaster Response

Fund—Rs. 616.63 crore to Assam, Rs. 284.93 crore to Himachal Pradesh, Rs 1869.85 crore to Karnataka, Rs 1749.73 crore to Madhya Pradesh, Rs 956.93 crore to Maharashtra, Rs 63.32 to Tripura and Rs 367.17 crore to Uttar Pradesh for floods/landslides/cloudburst during the south-west monsoon last year.

"If you fail to utilise funds, then depending on the scale of utilisation and the need of the situation, states are either denied or given less fund. Generally, funds are reduced by 50%," an official said.

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APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Capital First Limited now IDFC FIRST Bank Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 14.02.2020, for recovery of INR 2,66,97,422.43/- as on 09-04-2019 due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited) from Saurabh Bansal Ashok Bansal, Saurabh India Pvt Ltd, Sunita Bansal (Borrower-Co-borrower(s)). The Reserve Price will be INR Rs.1,95,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Five Thousands only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be INR Rs.19,50,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lacs fifty Thousands only)

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY ADDRESS CONSISTING OF PROPERTY NO E-345, GROUND FLOOR 'SAID FLOOR' OF SITUATED AT GREATER KAILASH-II VILLAGE BAHAPUR NEW DELHI-110048. East:Plot No E-343 West:Plot No E-347. North:Service Lane. South: Road.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.
Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
Date: 21.01.2020 (Formerly known as Capital First Home Finance Limited)

HARYANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
C-11, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA
Ph.: 0172-2577870-73, Fax. No. 2381201, E-mail: hspcbeehq3@gmail.com

Notice for Public Hearing
It is for the information of all concerned that M/s Maa Santoshi Khanij Udyog-reg. Public Hearing (Cat-B1), at Village - Musnota, Tehsil: Narnaul, Distt. Mohindergarh, for capacity of expansion of Calcite Mine Addition of Associated Minor Mineral (Stone) total production enhancement from 9000 TPA to 12,59,000 TPA ROM (9,000 TPA for Calcite and 12,50,000 TPA for Associated Minor Mineral (Stone)) and 1,40,000 TPA Overburden/Side Burden/ inter-Burden at Village: Musnota, Tehsil: Narnaul, Distt. Mohindergarh. Accordingly the Public Hearing for the above said Project has been fixed on 25.02.2020 at 11:30 A.M. at Village: Musnota, Tehsil: Narnaul, Distt. Mohindergarh.
Copies of Executive Summary of the Project and EIA Study Report, submitted by the Project Proponent, are available in the Head Office of the Board as well as in the following offices, which can be perused during office hours, on any working day:-
1. The Deputy Commissioner, Rewari.
2. Regional Officer, Dharuhera, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Lala Nemi Chand Singhal Enc. Sohna Rd., Near Hanuman Mandir, Dharuhera.
3. Chairman Zila Parishad, Rewari.
4. Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Rewari.
5. Joint Director, District Industries Centre, Rewari.
Notice is hereby given to all concerned to file suggestions, views, comments and objections, if any, on the Proposed Project, to the Chairman, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, C-11, Sector-6, Panchkula as well as Regional Officer, Dharuhera, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Lala Nemi Chand Singhal Enc. Sohna Rd., Near Hanuman Mandir, Dharuhera within 30 days of the publication of this Notice. Besides, a Public Hearing will also be held on the Date, Time & Venue mentioned above at the Proposed Site of the Project, which can be attended by any person including Environmental Groups, bonafide residents and others, located at the Project Site/Sites of Displacement/Sites likely to be affected. Oral Written Suggestions, if any can also be made during the Public Hearing. No TA/DA will be admissible for attending the Public Hearing.
S. Narayanan, IFS
Member Secretary

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS POLYCLINIC HEMPUR)						
APPLICATIONS INVITED FROM INDIAN CITIZEN ONLY FOR UNDER MENTIONED POSTS ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS						
Sl No.	Category	No of Vac	Max age limit for contractual service	Basic Qualifications	Work Experience	Desirable Attributes
(a)	Medical Officer	01	68	MBBS	Minimum 03 year after internship Preferable addl qualification in medicine / surgery	Merit in MBBS PG /Other additional qualification Exp. of more than 05 years.
(b)	Dental Officer	01	65	BDS	Minimum 03 year work experience	Merit in BDS PG/Other additional qualification Exp. more than 05 years.
(c)	Nursing Assistant	01	58	GNM Diploma/Class I Nursing Assistants Course (Armed Forces)	Minimum 5 years experience	Any diploma/course in Specialty Nursing Exp of more than 10 years.
(d)	Safaiwala	01	55	Literate	Minimum 5 years service	Experience of more than 10 years.
(e)	Female Attendant	01	55	Literate	Minimum 5 years service in Civil/Army Health institutions	Experience of more than 10 years First Aid Course
(f)	Pharmacist	01	58	B Pharmacy from a recognized institute or 10+2 with science stream (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) from a recognized Board And Approved Diploma in Pharmacy from an institute recognized by the Pharmacy Council of India and registered as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948.	Minimum 03 years work experience	Any Diploma/Course in Specialty Pharmacy
(g)	Laboratory Technician	01	58	(i) B.Sc. (Medical Lab Technology) or (ii) Matriculation/Higher Secondary/Senior Secondary (10+2) with Science from Recognized Institution/Board (ii) Diploma in Medical Lab Technology from a Recognized institution	Minimum 03 years experience As a Lab Assistant in Medical Lab.	70%
(h)	Dental Assistant/ Technician	01	58	Diploma Holder in Dental Hyg/Class-I DH/DORA Course (Armed Forces) / Dental Mechanic Course Registered with Central /State Govt or Dental Council of India.	Minimum 03 years experience in Dental Laboratory.	Experience of more than 10 years.
Last date of receiving application 17 Feb 2020. Date of interview 12 March 2020. For further details contact Station Headquarters Hempur. Mob. No. 8392915164. Please bring Original degree and experience certificate along with Xerox copies and 02 x photographs on the day of interview. Applications having knowledge of computer will be given preference.						

EIH Associated Hotels Limited
A MEMBER OF THE OBEROI GROUP
CIN : L92490TN1983PLC009903
Registered Office: 1/24, G.S.T. Road, Meenambakkam, Chennai - 600 027
Ph: +91-44-2234 4747 Fax: +91-44-2234 6699
Website: www.eihassociatedhotels.in

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 2019			
(₹ in Lakhs)			
	3 months ended 31.12.2019 UNAUDITED	9 months ended 31.12.2019 UNAUDITED	3 months ended 31.12.2018 UNAUDITED
1 Total Income from operations	8,825.70	18,520.87	8,701.84
2 Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items #)	2,867.25	2,764.49	2,689.54
3 Net Profit after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items #)	2,037.04	2,722.14	1,732.82
4 Total Comprehensive Income for the period	1,996.20	2,599.72	1,733.11
5 Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81
6 Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve) in the audited Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2019	29,309.61		
7 Earnings per Equity Share on net profit after tax (fully paid up equity share of ₹ 10):			
(a) Basic	6.69	8.93	5.69
(b) Diluted	6.69	8.93	5.69
Notes :			
1	The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Statements of Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Unaudited Financial Results and this extract were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 23rd January, 2020. The full format of the Statements of Unaudited Financial Results are available on the Company's website (www.eihassociatedhotels.in) and on the websites of the National Stock Exchanges of India Limited (www.nseindia.com), BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).		
2	The Company has adopted Ind AS 116 'Leases' effective April 1, 2019 and applied the standard to lease contracts existing on that date by using modified retrospective approach by giving effect of the cumulative impact in the opening balance of retained earnings. Accordingly, previous period information has not been restated.		
#	The Company does not have any Exceptional/Extraordinary Items to report in the above periods.		
Mumbai 23rd January, 2020		VIKRAM OBEROI Managing Director DIN : 00052014	

Classifieds

PERSONAL

We, Priya Shankar and Raju Sonkar Resident of 4032/34, First Floor, Reghar Pura, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005 have changed the name of our Son from Sahil Shankar to Virat Sonkar. 0040528686-1

I, MD PARVEZ S/O Jaheer Khan residing at H.No. 138A, R-Extension, Mohan Garden,Uttam Nagar,Delhi-110059, have changed my name to PARVEZ KHAN vide affidavit dated 21.01.2020 at Delhi 0050161290-1

I,Suman Yadav,W/o-Anil Kumar Yadav,R/o-5/14,Basathra Line,Sadar Bazar,Delhi Cantt.-10,inform that in my some documents my D.O.B. has wrongly mentioned as 07.11.1974 instead of 21.11.1974. 0040528702-6

I,Shalini Prasad S/o Narottam Prasad R/o-43, J-Block,Mangol Puri,Delhi-110083,have changed my name to Shelender Prasad. 0040528686-4

I,No.14678555F Sep Lalit Kumar,S/o-SatyaPal Singh,R/o-VPO-Dinkarpur,Teh-Khatauli,Distt.-Muzaffarnagar, U.P.-251318, hereby declare that,I want to change my son's name from Amol Kumar Tyagi to Karnik Tyagi for all future purposes. 0040528702-1

I,No.14645363K NK Netke Vishvas Dattu,S/o -Netke Dattu Sitaram,R/o-VPO+Teh-Karjat,Distt.-Ahmadnagar,MH-414402,hereby declare that,I want to change my daughter's name from Vaishnavi to Vaishnavi Vishvas Netke for all future purposes. 0040528702-2

I,No.14645363K NK Netke Vishvas Dattu,S/o -Netke Dattu Sitaram,R/o-VPO+Teh-Karjat,Distt.-Ahmadnagar,MH-414402,hereby declare that,I want to change my daughter's name from Gauri to Gauri Vishvas Netke for all future purposes. 0040528702-3

I,No.14623156X Hav Kamila Kant Yadava,S/o-Hardev Yadav,R/o-Village-Khajura,Teh-Mehnarag,Distt-azamgarh,U.P.-276126,is hereby declared that my wife name was wrongly written as Bindoo Devi.Her correct name is Bindu Devi for all future purposes. 0040528702-4

I,Jitender Pal Singh, S/o- Inderjeet Singh R/o-I-12,I-Block,Lajpat Nagar-I,New-Delhi-110024,inform that Jitinder Pal Singh and Jitender Pal Singh both name are same person. 0040528722-1

I,Auti Sitaram Sahebaro,R/o- Near-380,ka,autimlaa, ralegan,shindhi,ahmadnagar, maharashtra-414302,inform that my,wife name,changed from fathgadge sunita to auita sunita sitaram,for all,future purposes.Both,name belongs to,Same,Person 0040528737-1

I,geetanjali D/o sh. Harbans Lal arora , R/o H.No. 499, sector 7, urban estate, arya vidya mandir school, gurugram. Have changed my name from geetanjali to geetanjali for all future purposes. 0040528697-1

I, Vipin Goel,R/o-M-1 Satyawati- Colony Ashok-Vihar. Phase-3 Delhi-110052. changed my minor son's name Harshit Goel to Harshit Goel. 0040528687-1

I, Ved Parkash,S/O Sh.Shiv Charan Steel,R/o-B-602,Block-A,Weavers-Colony,Ashok-Vihar,Phase-4,Delhi-110052,have changed my name Ved Parkash to Ved Prakash,for all purposes. 0040528750-1

I, Sushil Kumar Pahwa,S/o Sant Lal Pahwa R/o-A-71, 3rd-Floor Lok-Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034,changed my name to Sushil Pahwa. 0040528736-1

I, Sheeba W/o Allauddin R/o H.No. 67-B, 8-Block, Nizamuddin, Delhi-110013 have changed my name to Sheeba Allauddin. 0040528704-3

I, Shahabuddin Siddiqui S/O Aminuddin R/O V-19 Gali-27, Vijaypark, Majupur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Shahabuddin vide affidavit dated 20-01-2020 sworn before notary Archana Sharma, Delhi 0050161250-1

I, Satish Kumar s/o Ram Khelavan r/o C-224, Chirag Delhi, Malviya Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to SATEESH KUMAR. 0040528674-1

I, Rukhsana Khatoon,W/o Yasin Ansari R/o-E-201 Block-H,Gautam-Nagar, Andrews-Ganj, Defence-Colony, Delhi,have changed my name to Ruksana Begum,for future 0040528736-8

I, Robin Singh S/O, Rajpal R/o H.No. 5210, Ward No.7, Block D, Rajendra Park, Gurgaon HR-122001 have changed my name to Robin Singh Dahiya for all purposes. 0040528750-3

I, Rameshwari W/o Satish Kumar R/o-J-157, Jhuggi, RPF-Line, Dayabasti, NewDelhi, that Radha and Rameshwari are same and one person. 0040528704-4

I, Nitin Kumar Singhal S/O Dinesh Kumar Singhal R/o KC-138, Kavi-Nagar, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Nitin Singhal. 0040528704-6

I, Nishant Paul S/O Yudhisithar R/O-263/9, Old-Housing Board-Colony, Sonipat-131001. Have Changed My Name To Nishant Pal. 0040528704-9

I, Mumta Singh W/o Anil Dass R/o Flat No.3-D-502, AWHO, Gurminder Vihar, Sector-Chi-1, Pocket-P-5, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar(U.P.) have changed my name to Mamta Dass for all future purposes. 0040528661-1

I, Mohd.Shamsuzzama,S/o- Mohd.Zahir Ahmad R/o-4/80,-E-1, Kabeer-Colony, Jamalpur,Koil,Aligarh,Uttar-Pradesh-202001,that in my high school-certificate issued by Bihar Vidyalaya Pariksha Samiti my name has been wrongly-written as Mhd. Shamsuzamma instead of Mohd Shamsuzamma. 0040528736-5

I, Milan,S/o Lal Bahadur R/o-C-278, Gali.No.6,Nikhil-Vihar,Issmailpur,Sector-91,Faridabad,Haryana,have changed my name Milan to Milan Karki,for all future purposes. 0040528736-4

I, Manpreet Singh S/o Jasbir Singh R/o-L-2/62, S.F., New Mahavir-Nagar, New-Delhi-18, changed my name to Manpreet Singh Chadha. 0040528722-3

I, Kumari Supriya W/o Pradeep Kumar Karn residing at New Colony, Ward No.9, Nagar Parishad, Saharsa, Bihar-852201, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Supriya Karn in my minor son Avi Karn aged 6 years in his Birth Record. The actual name of mine is Kumari Supriya 0040528736-2

I, Vikas Bashore S/O- Ram Kishore R/O-Qtr.No-729 Type-2 New Central Jail-Tihar Maya Puri Delhi-110064. Changed My Name To Vikas. 0040528687-9

I, Km Rimpi Singh,W/O Sunil Kumar H.No-591/7, Block-E, Gali.No-13, A.P.School, Dabua-Colony,Faridabad,Haryana-121001.Have Changed My Name To Rimpi Singh. 0040528736-3

I, Kashmir Singh Tomer S/O Fateh Singh R/O-C-83 Shiv-Vihar Niloti New Delhi-110041. chahege my name to Kashmir Niloti. 0040528704-2

I, Ishdeep Kaur D/O-Charanjeet Singh R/O-108, Raji-Nagar, Pitampura, Delhi Changed Name to Ishdeep Kaur Mediratta. 0040528722-5

I, Iffat Parveen,D/o-Naseem Ahmed R/O-S-7, Nafees-Road, Joga-Bai-Extn., Jamia-Nagar Okhla, ND-110025,have changed my name Iffat Parveen Naseem. 0040528722-10

I, Honey Katyal S/O Ramesh Katyal R/O Villa No.3, A.TS Village, Sector-93A, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar UP do hereby solemnly inform that have changed my minor son's name,changed from fathgadge sunita to auita sunita sitaram,for all,future purposes.Both,name belongs to,Same,Person 0040528711-1

I, Gurmeet Singh Sohal S/O, Late S.Lachhman Singh, R/O-S-1/116, 2 nd Floor, Old Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110 018, have changed my name from GurmeetSingh Sohal to Gurmeet Singh Sohal for all future purpose and will be called as GurmeetSingh. 0040528623-1

I, Gurusharan Singh S/O Trilok Singh R/O-17/68, Subhash Nagar, Delhi-110027.Have Changed My Name To Gursharan Singh. 0040528687-7

I, Gourav Phawa S/o Jamana Dass Khurana R/o-B4/262B, Keshav Puram,Delhi-35,have changed my name to Gourav Khurana. 0040528668-2

I, Gourav Phawa R/o-B4/262B, Keshav Puram,Delhi-35,declares that correct name of my father is Jamana Dass Khurana instead of Nrande Pal. 0040528668-3

I, Fahad Kazi S/O J.M. Kazi R/O-Z-430B, Sector-12, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar Up, have changed my Fahad Kazi to Fahad Jaill Kazi. 0040528688-1

I, Chander Pal S/o-Brahma Nand R/o-C-1/61, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my minor daughter's name, from Leeza to Radhika, for all purposes. 0040528722-4

I, Ashvanti Kumar S/o Bakhat Mai R/o-4/77, Second-Floor, Ramesh-Nagar, N.Delhi-110015. have changed my name to Ashwanti Kumar. 0040528704-5

I, Asgar Alam S/o Mohd Ali R/o-F-45, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-2, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, name of my father has been wrongly written as Md. Ali Milan in my Passport, as Md Allimian in Matriculation Certificate and as Md. Ali in Domicile Certificate, Graduation Degree and Engineering Certificate. Actual name of my father is Mohd Ali 0070694234-1

I, Arshad Husain S/O-Liaqat Hussain R/O S-5206, Sadar Thana-Road, Sadar-Bazar, Delhi-110006, Have Changed My Name To Arshad Hussain,For All Future Purposes. 0040528722-2

I Sabahat D/o Mohammad Din W/o Khalid Rehman R/O 2225, Naya Mohalla, Gali Qasim Jaan, Near Rabia Girls School, Ballimaran, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Sabahat Khalid for all purposes. 0040528626-2

I, Apul Agarwal S/o-Ganga Sharan Agarwal R/o-326-B, Gulmohar Greens, Mohan-Nagar, Sahiabad, Ghaziabad. have changed my name to Apul Kumar Agarwal. 0040528704-7

I, Anupma Dhillion w/o Jasvinder Singh Dhillon r/o L-34, SF, West Patel Nagar,Delhi-110008 have changed my name to ANUPMA DHILLON. 0040528628-1

I, Abhishek Mishra S/o Raj Kumar Mishra R/o-WZ-22, Golden Park,Rampura,New Delhi-110035,have changed my minor son name VIDYAN to VIDYAN MISHRA for all future purposes. 0040528668-1

I, AMANDEEP S/o Parshan Singh R/O C-105, 25yards Raghubir Nagar, Neargarden, Delhi-27 have changed my name to Amandeep Singh for all purposes 0040528750-2

Ihitherto known as Dileep Krishnan S/O Shri Gopal Krishnan, M/R O AQ 01-06 IInd floor BPTP Parkland Park-81 Sector-81 Faridabad Haryana-121002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Dilip Krishnan. 0040528715-2

I,Zameer Ahmed S/o Zaki Ahmed R/o 1110, Neeem Wali Gali, Shish Mahal, Kishan Ganj Chowk, Near Masjid Imli Wali, Tali Wara, Azad Market, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Zameer Ahmed Jumana for all purposes. 0040528626-3

IYasmeen,W/o Shri.Jamshed Ali R/O-H.No.-20, Masjid-Wali Gali.No-1, Babarpur,Shahdara, Delhi-110032,have changed my name,from Km.Yasmeen Saleem to Yasmeen after-my-marriage,for all purposes. 0040528736-2

IVikas Bashore S/O-Ram Kishore R/O-Qtr.No-729 Type-2 New Central Jail-Tihar Maya Puri Delhi-110064. Changed My Name To Vikas. 0040528687-9

IVaibhava Rameshwar KaWale S/O, Ramesh Narayanrao Kawale R/o H.No.B360 A, Road No-6, Block-B, I Vasant Kunj Enclave. Pincode-110070 have changed my name to Vaibhav Rameshrao Kawale 0040528647-1

I Sunil Kumar S/o Sh. Ramesh Singh R/o Plot No.100, First Floor, Niti Khand-I, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P. have changed the name of my minor son from Bhuvanshu Phore to Sameer Phore for all purposes. 0040528626-1

I Sumit Asthana, R/O-D-2075a, First-Floor,Palam-Vihar, Gurgaon,Haryana-122017.Changed My Minor Child Name Arav Asthana To Aarav Asthana. 0040528736-6

I Sukhwinder Singh R/O-F-17, Budh Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Sukhwinder Singh. 0070694227-1

I Shikha Bawa W/o Ajay Bawa R/o House No-A, 21/B, Hardev Nagar, Jharoda Mazra, Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Meghna Bawa 0070694230-1

I Shahida Begum W/o Ali Ausat R/O 281, Gram Chandpatti, Chand Patti, Azamgarh, UP-276126, have changed my name to Shamsun Nisha 0070694239-1

I Seema Dalal W/O Sanjay Kumar Add:W4c, Western-Avenue, Sainik Farm, New-Delhi-110066, Changed My Name To Seema Rani. 0040528687-7

I Satish Kumar Garg S/o Shri chaturbhuj Garg R/O G-11, Gali No.5, Arjun Nagar, Delhi 110051 have changed my name from Satish Kumar Garg to Satish Garg for all future purpose. 0040528627-1

I Sarvesh Gupta, S/O Shri Madhav Prasad Gupta R/O J-4,Dakshinpur New Delhi-62.Declare that I have changed my name from Sarvesh Kumar to Sarvesh Kumar Gupta in all respects 0040528650-1

I Sameena Bano, W/O Mohd. Riyaz R/O J-222, Near PVR Saket, New Delhi-17. Declare that I have changed my name from Sameena Banu to Sameena Bano for all purposes. 0040528657-1

I Ramesh Chand Chopra, S/O Late.Om Parkesh R/O-DG-3/337 VikasPuri New-Delhi-110018. have changed my name to Ramesh Chopra. 0040528736-7

I Ram Singh S/O, K S Singh R/O D-8a/202 Street No.25 Madhu Vihar Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Ram Pratap Singh for all purposes. 0040528642-1

I Rajesh Aggarwal S/O-Mool Chand Aggarwal R/O-C-155, Mansarovar-Garden Delhi-15 have changed my name to Rajesh Gupta. 0040528704-1

I Rajbahadur S/O-Gangadin Yadav R/O-184, Baribaja-Lalganj Ajhara Rampur U.P.229410. Have Changed my Name to Raj Bahadur. 0040528722-6

I Rajani Kalra W/O-Anil Kalra R/O-Wz-12, A-35 Third-Floor Tihar-Village-New-Delhi-11018 Have Change My Name Rajni Kalra. 0040528687-10

I Priya Rani D/o Late Sh. Pawan Kumar W/o Sh. Mukesh Bansal R/O Flat No. 704, Maitri Apartments, Sector-9, Rohini, New Delhi have changed my name after marriage to Priya Bansal for all purposes. 0040528626-4

I Pooja Tuli W/O.Ashok Tuli, R/O/6,11.WestPatel-Nagar New-Delhi.110008.Have Changed My Name To Jaswinder Kaur,For All Purposes. 0040528749-3

I Pintu Pandit S/O-Suresh Pandit,R/O-D-28, Parveshnager-Mubarakpur dabas Delhi-110081.Mistekly Written Pintu Kumar In My Documents.But My Correct-Name Is Pintu Pandit. 0040528749-6

I Pawandeep S/O Chamam Lal R/O WZ/N-19 Vishnu-Garden New Delhi have changed my name to Pawandeep Suman. 0040528722-9

I Pawan Kumar Sahu S/O Shri Ram.R/O.D.102.UNESCO-Apartment Plot No.55.I Extension Patpur-Ganj Delhi-110092.Have Changed My Name To .RAM Bihari Sahu,FOR All Purposes. 0040528749-4

I Pardeep Singh S/o-Satbeer Singh R/o-Village-Wazirpur, Tehsil & District-Gurgaon. Have Changed My Name To Pardeep Kumar. 0040528687-2

I Om Parkash S/O-Kanhiya Lal H.No-5552 Gali. No-74 Raigar-Pura KarolBagh Delhi-110005. Changed My Name To Om Prakash. 0040528687-8

I Mukul S/O Suraj Khatter, D-26 Lod Krishna-Road Adarshnagar Delhi-33. Have Changed My Name To Mukul Khatter. Permanently. 0040528687-6

I Mansi Sharma W/o Bal Kishan Sharma R/o RZ E-669/26, Gali No-18C, Sadh Nagar-2, Palam Colony, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Pramila Devi 0070694233-1

I Khamosh Chawla D/O Kaillash Chand Chawla R/O Jogjiyo Ka Mohalla, Pragpura, Jaipur, Pragpura, Rajasthan-303107, have changed my name to Khushi Chawla 0070694231-1

I Kamaljeet Kaur w/O Nareesh Singh, r/O WZ-51, Plot No.5, GF, Shyam Nagar Extension, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to KAMLESH KAUR. 0040528678-1

I Harish@HARISH Arora,S/O-Prakash Chand Arora R/O-C-502 Third-Floor VikasPuri Delhi-110018.Have Changed Name To Harish Kumar Arora. 0040528687-3

I Gurinder Kaur W/o Dalbir Singh R/o Dakghar Mari Tanda Teh, Batala, Khokhowal, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143515, have changed my name to Gurinderjit Kaur 0070694240-1

I Dinkar Singh Ranu S/o Rajeshwar Singh R/O-G-1/14 First-Floor, Sector-11, Rohini Delhi-85, changed my name to Dinkar Singh, Permanently 0040528722-7

I,Jesmeen R/O D 28 ansal villa farm Sattbari New Delhi-110074 have changed my name spelling to Jasmine 0070694229-1

I Beena W/O-Rajesh Kumar Malhotra, A-96, Gali-Number-8 Indranagar-Adarshnagar, Delhi-33. Have Changed My Name To Suman. Permanently 0040528687-5

I Asma W/O-Mohd Sajid R/O-8894 1st-Floor Gali-Haji Wali-Naya-Mohalla AzadMarket Delhi-110006,Have Changed Name To Asma Naaz. 0040528687-4

Iabhinab Bidhuri, S/O.Anand Veer.R/O.H.No.312.Churiya-Mohalla Village Tekhhand Okhla Phase-1.New Delhi.110020.Have Changed My Name To Abhinav Bidhuri,For All Purposes. 0040528749-5

I Aarti Alias Arti W/o Pawandeep Suman R/o-WZ/N-19 Vishnu-Garden New-Delhi have changed my name to Aarti Suman. 0040528722-8

I Lakhmipriya Senapati,W/o-Rajendra Kumar Sahoo,R/o-H.No.P-69/8,CVD line,Delhi Cantt.-110010,have changed my name Lakhmipriya Senapati to Laxmi Priya Sahoo (DOB-01.02.1985)for all future purposes. 0040528702-5

I, Raghav Ram Father Of Abhishek Kumar R/O Flat No.1129, 2nd Floor, Jay Ambey Apartment, 1350 DDA LIG Flats, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110096 HAVE Changed My Name Ragho Ram Ojha To Raghav Ram for All Future Purposes. 0040528630-1

I Ashvini Kumar S/o Ram Khelavan r/o C-224, Chirag Delhi, Malviya Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to SATEESH KUMAR. 0040528674-1

I, Asgar Alam S/o Mohd Ali R/o-F-45, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-2, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, name of my father has been wrongly written as Md. Ali Milan in my Passport, as Md Allimian in Matriculation Certificate and as Md. Ali in Domicile Certificate, Graduation Degree and Engineering Certificate. Actual name of my father is Mohd Ali 0070694234-1

I, Fahad Kazi S/O J.M. Kazi R/O-Z-430B, Sector-12, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar Up, have changed my Fahad Kazi to Fahad Jaill Kazi. 0040528688-1

I, Chander Pal S/o-Brahma Nand R/o-C-1/61, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi-110086, have changed my minor daughter's name, from Leeza to Radhika, for all purposes. 0040528722-4

I, Ashvanti Kumar S/o Bakhat Mai R/o-4/77, Second-Floor, Ramesh-Nagar, N.Delhi-110015. have changed my name to Ashwanti Kumar. 0040528704-5

I, Asgar Alam S/o Mohd Ali R/o-F-45, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-2, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, name of my father has been wrongly written as Md. Ali Milan in my Passport, as Md Allimian in Matriculation Certificate and as Md. Ali in Domicile Certificate, Graduation Degree and Engineering Certificate. Actual name of my father is Mohd Ali 0070694234-1

I, Arshad Husain S/O-Liaqat Hussain R/O S-5206, Sadar Thana-Road, Sadar-Bazar, Delhi-110006, Have Changed My Name To Arshad Hussain,For All Future Purposes. 0040528722-2

I Sabahat D/o Mohammad Din W/o Khalid Rehman R/O 2225, Naya Mohalla, Gali Qasim Jaan, Near Rabia Girls School, Ballimaran, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Sabahat Khalid for all purposes. 0040528626-2

I Rajani Kalra W/O-Anil Kalra R/O-Wz-12, A-35 Third-Floor Tihar-Village-New-Delhi-11018 Have Change My Name Rajni Kalra. 0040528687-10

I Priya Rani D/o Late Sh. Pawan Kumar W/o Sh. Mukesh Bansal R/O Flat No. 704, Maitri Apartments, Sector-9, Rohini, New Delhi have changed my name after marriage to Priya Bansal for all purposes. 0040528626-4

I Pooja Tuli W/O.Ashok Tuli, R/O/6,11.WestPatel-Nagar New-Delhi.110008.Have Changed My Name To Jaswinder Kaur,For All Purposes. 0040528749-3

I Pintu Pandit S/O-Suresh Pandit,R/O-D-28, Parveshnager-Mubarakpur dabas Delhi-110081.Mistekly Written Pintu Kumar In My Documents.But My Correct-Name Is Pintu Pandit. 0040528749-6

I Pawandeep S/O Chamam Lal R/O WZ/N-19 Vishnu-Garden New Delhi have changed my name to Pawandeep Suman. 0040528722-9

I Pawan Kumar Sahu S/O Shri Ram.R/O.D.102.UNESCO-Apartment Plot No.55.I Extension Patpur-Ganj Delhi-110092.Have Changed My Name To .RAM Bihari Sahu,FOR All Purposes. 0040528749-4

I Pardeep Singh S/o-Satbeer Singh R/o-Village-Wazirpur, Tehsil & District-Gurgaon. Have Changed My Name To Pardeep Kumar. 0040528687-2

I Om Parkash S/O-Kanhiya Lal H.No-5552 Gali. No-74 Raigar-Pura KarolBagh Delhi-110005. Changed My Name To Om Prakash. 0040528687-8

I Mukul S/O Suraj Khatter, D-26 Lod Krishna-Road Adarshnagar Delhi-33. Have Changed My Name To Mukul Khatter. Permanently. 0040528687-6

I Mansi Sharma W/o Bal Kishan Sharma R/o RZ E-669/26, Gali No-18C, Sadh Nagar-2, Palam Colony, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Pramila Devi 0070694233-1

I Khamosh Chawla D/O Kaillash Chand Chawla R/O Jogjiyo Ka Mohalla, Pragpura, Jaipur, Pragpura, Rajasthan-303107, have changed my name to Khushi Chawla 0070694231-1

I Kamaljeet Kaur w/O Nareesh Singh, r/O WZ-51, Plot No.5, GF, Shyam Nagar Extension, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to KAMLESH KAUR. 0040528678-1

I Harish@HARISH Arora,S/O-Prakash Chand Arora R/O-C-502 Third-Floor VikasPuri Delhi-110018.Have Changed Name To Harish Kumar Arora. 0040528687-3

I Gurinder Kaur W/o Dalbir Singh R/o Dakghar Mari Tanda Teh, Batala, Khokhowal, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143515, have changed my name to Gurinderjit Kaur 0070694240-1

I Dinkar Singh Ranu S/o Rajeshwar Singh R/O-G-1/14 First-Floor, Sector-11, Rohini Delhi-85, changed my name to Dinkar Singh, Permanently 0040528722-7

TELLING NUMBERS

Of Rs 6,000 cr electoral bonds, over half sold during 2019 polls

PHASE BY PHASE

Period of electoral bond sale	Bonds sold	Amount (Rs cr)	Bonds redeemed	Amount (Rs cr)
Phase-1 (March 1-10, 2018)	520	222.00	511	221.00
Phase-2 (April 1-10, 2018)	256	114.90	250	114.90
Phase-3 (May 1-10, 2018)	204	101.40	194	91.40
Phase-4 (July 2-11, 2018)	82	32.50	82	32.50
Phase-5 (Oct 1-10, 2018)	733	401.73	731	401.53
Phase-6 (Nov 1-10, 2018)	339	184.20	339	184.20
Phase-7 (Jan 1-10, 2019)	937	350.36	936	350.36
Phase-8 (March 1-15, 2019)	2,742	1,365.69	2,738	1,364.69
Phase-9 (April 1-20, 2019)	4,681	2,256.37	4,607	2,251.32
Phase-10 (May 1-10, 20-19)	1,187	822.26	1,153	819.26
Phase-11 (July 1-10, 2019)	101	45.38	101	45.38
Phase-12 (Oct 1-10, 2019)	531	231.93	531	231.93
ALL PHASES TOTAL	12,313	6,128.72	12,173	6,108.47

Source: Association for Democratic Reforms

EARLIER THIS week, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released a report on the sale of electoral bonds since the scheme was launched in 2018 (*The Indian Express*, January 22). The report, based on a response to a query under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, said 12,313 electoral bonds worth Rs 6,128.72 crore were sold in 12 phases from March 2018 to October 2019, and political parties redeemed 12,173 of these for Rs 6,108.47 crore. This accounts for 99.67% of the total bond value.

Under the scheme, bonds not encashed within the validity period of 15 days are to be deposited by the authorised bank with the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. "It is, therefore, likely that the remaining 140 bonds amounting to a total of Rs 20.25 crore were deposited in the PMRF," the report observed.

MARCH-APRIL 2019 PEAK: Out of the total sale of Rs 6,128.72 crore, bonds worth Rs 3,622.06 crore were sold in just two phases — March and April 2019, during the general elec-

BONDS SOLD, CITY BY CITY (MARCH 2018-OCT 2019)

City	Bonds sold	Amount (Rs cr)
Mumbai	2,899	1,879.96
Kolkata	3,478	1,440.34
New Delhi	1,630	918.58
Hyderabad	1,603	846.37
Bhubaneswar	748	329.76
Others	1,955	713.71

Source: Association for Democratic Reforms

tions. This accounted for 59.1% of the sales. Of these bonds, 2,742 worth Rs 1365.69 cr (22.3%) were purchased in March 2019, and 4,681 worth Rs 2256.37 cr (36.8%) in April.

MUMBAI MAXIMUM: Across phases, Mumbai witnessed the maximum sale (by value) of 2,899 bonds worth Rs 1879.96 crore (30.7%), followed by Kolkata with 3,478 bonds worth Rs 1440.34 crore, and New Delhi with 1,630 bonds worth Rs 918.58 crore.

THIS WORD MEANS

GIANT STRAIGHT-TUSKED ELEPHANT

Many extinct species in Asia and Europe, some confusion. Now, a few possible answers on evolution.

ABOUT 800,000 years ago, a giant straight-tusked elephant migrated out of Africa and spread across Europe and Asia. Marked by a huge head (4.5 feet from the top of the skull roof to the base of the tusk sheaths), the elephant divided into many species, such as *Palaeoloxodon antiquus* (in Europe), *Palaeoloxodon namadicus* (India) and *Palaeoloxodon namani* (Japan). All these species are now extinct. Now, an international study in *Quaternary Science Reviews* has sought to bring some order into our understanding of these species.

One key point of confusion was the different sizes of skull crests in fossils found in Europe. For a long time, it was thought that the European species had a rather slenderly built skull roof crest, whereas



Reconstructed life appearance of European straight-tusked elephant. Hsu Shu-yu, University of Bristol

the Indian species was characterised by an extremely robust skull crest that extended near to the base of the trunk from the top of the skull. But some skulls, found in Italy and Germany, with almost the same exaggerated skull crest as the Indian form, raised confusion whether these were the same as the Indian species.

The new study has concluded that there was a single European species. Measurements showed that even in European skulls with pronounced crests, the skull roof never becomes as thickened as in the Indian specimens. On the other hand, fossils found in Asia and East Africa represent distinct species that evolved.

SIMPLY PUT

The Kashmir Pandit tragedy

Thirty years ago, the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley began. A look at the events leading to and during the flight, the administration's role, their plight since, and the dreams of return amid uncertainty

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

IT IS 30 years since the "exodus" from the Valley of its minority Hindu Kashmiri Pandit community. The hotly contested circumstances of their departure between January and March 1990, the numbers, and the issue of their return are an important side to the Kashmir story that has fed into the Hindu-Muslim polarisation in India over the years, in turn fuelling the Hindu-Muslim chasm in the Valley. The exodus took place at the same time that the BJP was upping the ante across northern India, and over the years, the plight of Kashmiri Pandits has become a potent Hindutva issue.

The run-up: 1980s to 1990

In the lead-up to the events of 1990, Kashmir was in ferment. Sheikh Abdullah had died in 1982, and the leadership of the National Conference passed on to his son Farooq Abdullah, who won the 1983 election. But within two years, the Centre broke up the NC, and installed dissident Ghulam Mohammed Shah as Chief Minister. This led to huge disaffection and political instability. The Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) stepped up its activities, and the hanging of the militant leader Maqbool Bhat in 1984 added to the sense of foreboding. In 1986, after the Rajiv Gandhi government opened the Babri Masjid locks to enable Hindus to offer prayers there, ripples were felt in Kashmir too.

In Anantnag, the constituency of then Congress leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, there was a series of attacks on Hindu temples, and shops and properties of Kashmiri Pandits, blamed on separatist and secessionists. In 1986, as opposition to the Shah government grew, Rajiv Gandhi resurrected Farooq Abdullah, who became CM once again. The rigged election of 1987 after which Abdullah formed the government was a turning point at which militants took the upper hand. The 1989 capitulation to the JKLF in the kidnapping of Mufti Sayeed's daughter set the stage for the next decade.

By then, the Pandits had begun to be targeted. The Valley's BJP leader Tika Lal Taploo was shot dead on September 13. Neel Kanth Ganjoo, a retired judge who had sentenced Maqbool Bhat to death, was shot dead outside the J&K High Court in Srinagar on November 4. Journalist-lawyer Prem Nath Bhat was shot dead in Anantnag on December 27. Hit lists of Pandits were in circulation. Waves of panic hit the community, especially after a local newspaper published an anonymous message, allegedly from the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, asking Pandits to leave.

The night of January 19, 1990

Matters came to a head on January 19. By then, the Farooq Abdullah government had been dismissed and Governor's Rule imposed. According to accounts published by many eminent Kashmiri Pandits, there were threatening slogans over loudspeakers from mosques, and on the streets. Speeches were



In January 2013, when this picture was taken, retired government employee Omkarnath Bhat, then 75 years old, was the only Kashmiri Pandit remaining in Haal village of Shopian in South Kashmir. Haal was once home to over 100 Kashmiri Pandit families, the empty shells of whose homes stood in the village when *The Indian Express* visited Bhat. Shuaib Masoodi/Express Archive

made extolling Pakistan and the supremacy of Islam, and against Hinduism.

The Kashmiri Pandit community decided to leave. On January 20, the first stream began leaving the Valley with hastily packed belongings in whatever transport they could find. A second, larger wave left in March and April, after more Pandits were killed.

On January 21, the CRPF gunned down 160 Kashmiri Muslim protesters at the Gawakadal Bridge, which has come to be known as the worst massacre in the long history of the conflict in Kashmir. The two events — the flight of the Pandits and the Gawakadal massacre — took place within 48 hours, but for years, neither community could accept the pain of the other, and in some ways, still cannot, as each continues to talk past the other.

According to some estimates, notably by the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS), of 75,343 Kashmiri Pandit families in January 1990, more than 70,000 fled between 1990 and 1992. The flight continued until 2000. The KPSS has placed the number of Kashmiri Pandits killed by militants from 1990 to 2011 at 399, the majority during 1989-90. Some 800 families have remained in the Valley through these three decades.

Role of the administration

The other contentious question about the exodus is the role played by the administration, and more specifically that of the J&K Governor, Jagmohan.

Newly appointed, he had arrived in Srinagar on January 19. The Kashmiri Muslim view of the exodus is that he encouraged the Pandits to leave the Valley and thus gave a communal colour to what was until then a non-religious Kashmiri cause. The Kashmiri Hindu view is that this is a disingenuous interpretation. They believe that Kashmiri Muslims, with whom they had lived amicably for centuries, drove them out with a vengeance in a frenzy of Islamism that they

could not have imagined even months earlier. The truth, many commentators have concluded, may have been somewhere in the middle.

Wajahat Habibullah, then a senior official in the J&K government and posted in Anantnag in 1990 as Special Commissioner, has written (Citizen, April 2015) that in March 1990, several hundred people gathered in front of his office demanding to know why the Pandits were leaving and accused the administration of encouraging them to go, "so that the Army would be free to unleash its heavy artillery on all habitations". Habibullah denied this and told them that the Pandits could hardly be expected to stay when every mosque was blaring threats and members of their community had been murdered. He asked Kashmiri Muslims to make Pandits feel more secure.

Habibullah wrote he also appealed to Jagmohan "that he telecast an appeal to Pandits that they stay in Kashmir, assuring their safety on the basis of the assurance of the Anantnag residents. Unfortunately, no such appeal came, only an announcement that to ensure the security of Pandits, 'refugee' camps were being set up in every district of the Valley, and Pandits who felt threatened could move to these camps rather than leave the Valley. Those Pandits in service who felt threatened were free to leave their stations; they would continue to be paid salary..."

Other commentary has pointed to how the government organised transport for fleeing Pandits so that they could get to Jammu.

The question of return

The fleeing Pandits did not think they would never return to the Valley. But as the situation in Kashmir spiralled into a full-blown militancy, return began to look remote if not impossible. As the numbers arriving in Jammu increased from thousands to tens of thousands over the first few months of 1990,

a mostly middle-class community found itself living in tents in squalid, filthy camps far removed from the homes they had left behind. Those who had means rebuilt their lives elsewhere in the country — Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad have Pandit populations, also Jaipur and Lucknow — or went abroad. A township of two-room tenements called Jagti was built in Jammu in the last decade to house 4,000-5,000 Pandit families who remained there. In addition, there are hundreds of families living in government tenements in Purkhoo on the outskirts of Jammu, in Nagrota and in Muthi. Some built new homes and or moved into rented places.

The longing to return to the Valley did not diminish over the years, though it may have become more an idea than a real ambition. Successive governments have promised that they will help this process, but the situation on the ground in Kashmir has meant this remains only an intention. The efforts to resettle Pandits in the Valley in the last two decades have seen ghetto-like structures come up in various parts of Kashmir, ringed by concertina wire with heavy security, underlining that normal life is impossible. There is an acute realisation in the community that the Valley is no longer the same that they left behind in 1990. In many cases, their properties were either immediately vandalised or sold quickly by the owners to Kashmiri Muslims. Many fell into disrepair.

As the BJP continues to promise that Kashmiri Pandits will return, and #HumWapasJayenge trends on social media, Kashmiri Muslims also see the return of Pandits as essential, but reject the idea of their settlement in secured camps as a replication of Israeli-like Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

On August 5, 2019, when the government did away with special status to J&K, among the loudest to cheer were Kashmiri Pandits, who saw it as a long pending "revenge" for what had happened to them three decades ago. Yet their return looks as difficult as it ever did.

What new govt order changes in AGR crisis

PRANAV MUKUL

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE LICENSING Finance Policy Wing of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Thursday directed all departments not to take any action against telecom operators if they failed to clear adjusted gross revenue (AGR)-related dues as per the Supreme Court's recent order.

What it means for operators

The order comes as a huge relief for operators — mainly Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea — that would have otherwise faced possible contempt action for not paying dues by

the deadline that ran out on Thursday. There is no change in the amount they have to pay — however, it buys them time as they hope for relief from the Supreme Court, which will next week hear their plea seeking permission to negotiate the timeline for payment of dues with the DoT.

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea together owe the telecom department Rs 88,624 crore. Prior to the DoT order restraining coercive action, the companies had told the government that they would wait for the outcome of the Supreme Court hearing. Reliance Jio paid up its dues of Rs 195 crore on Thursday.

What it means for consumers

A lot depends on what the Supreme Court

rules. The promoters of Vodafone Idea have shown reluctance to invest more following the October verdict that asked that AGR-related dues be deposited by January 23. Thursday's DoT order is an interim measure; a setback in the Supreme Court could potentially lead to Vodafone Idea's exit, and the creation of a Airtel-Jio duopoly. This could lead to bigger bills, considering it was the cutthroat competition in the sector that made mobile telephony and Internet almost universally affordable.

What it means for banks, MFs

The AGR issue has triggered panic in the banking industry, given that the telecom sector is highly leveraged. Vodafone Idea alone has a debt of Rs 2.2 lakh crore that it has used

to expand infrastructure and fund spectrum payments over the years. The mutual fund industry has an exposure of around Rs 4,000 crore to Vodafone Idea.

Supreme Court stance so far

On October 24, the court agreed with DoT's definition of AGR, and said the companies must pay all dues along with interest and penalty. Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea tried to persuade DoT to relax the deadline and, after failing, moved the court seeking a review of its judgment. The court dismissed the review petition last week, and also did not extend the deadline for paying AGR dues. It did, however, agree on Tuesday to hear the companies' modification plea.

How Rohingya issue reached ICJ, what its ruling means for Myanmar

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

ON WEDNESDAY, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Myanmar must take effective measures to protect its Rohingya Muslims, including protecting evidence relating to allegations of genocide. It is important to note that these directions are "provisional measures" until the ICJ can finally decide if Myanmar has been committing an ongoing genocide against the Rohingya. The final verdict could take several years.

What is the case against Myanmar?

In November last year, the Republic of the Gambia moved the ICJ against Myanmar over alleged violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The

Gambia urged the ICJ to direct Myanmar to stop the genocide, ensure that persons committing genocide are punished, and allow the "safe and dignified return of forcibly displaced Rohingya".

The Gambia and Myanmar are parties to the Genocide Convention that allows a party to move the ICJ for violations. According to Article 9 of the Genocide Convention, "Disputes between the Contracting Parties relating to the interpretation, application or fulfillment of the present Convention, including those relating to the responsibility of a State for genocide or for any of the other acts enumerated in article III, shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the parties to the dispute".

The Gambia also sought six provisional measures against Myanmar including its cooperation with United Nations bodies in-

vestigating the Rohingya issue.

How did Myanmar respond?

Myanmar asked the ICJ to remove the case from its list, citing lack of jurisdiction of the court. Myanmar alleged that the proceedings before the court were instituted by the Gambia, not on its own behalf, but rather as a "proxy" and "on behalf of" the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Gambia is a member of the OIC, which includes 53 Muslim-majority nations. Myanmar cited the Gambia's reliance on OIC documents to allege genocide and said the Gambia did not point to specific violations of the Genocide Convention.

The court refused to accept Myanmar's argument and said the fact that the Gambia "may have sought and obtained the support of other States or international organizations in its endeavour" does not take away from

its right to bring a case against Myanmar.

Does the ICJ ruling indict Myanmar?

Although a ruling against Myanmar dents its image internationally, the order of provisional measures does not translate into a finding against Myanmar. While granting provisional measures, the court is not required to ascertain whether Myanmar violated the Genocide Convention. The court found that it is sufficient at this stage "to establish *prima facie* the existence of a dispute between the Parties relating to the interpretation, application or fulfillment of the Genocide Convention".

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's personal appearance before the ICJ to lead the defence of the military, however, shows the great stakes her country had in the case. In her 30-minute speech, she said the military's action against certain local armed groups

was an 'internal conflict'; she did not use the term Rohingya to define the ethnic minority.

What happens if Myanmar does not comply with the provisional measures?

For its part, Myanmar has denied that its military or paramilitary has participated in a genocide of Rohingya and it is unlikely to alter its position.

Provisional measures are essentially a restraining order against a state when a case is pending and can be seen as, at most, a censure. Provisional orders cannot be challenged and are binding upon the state. However, limitations in enforcing decisions of the ICJ are widely acknowledged by law experts.

What are these limitations?

As per Article 94 of the Charter of the United Nations, all member states are required to comply with decisions of the ICJ.

However, any action by a state can be secured only through consent of the state in international law.

When a state fails to comply, the Security Council has the power to impose sanctions against it and ensure compliance when international security and peace are at stake. So far, the Security Council has never taken a coercive measure against any country to get an ICJ ruling implemented.

Even with the stepping in of the Security Council, there are several hurdles in enforcement of ICJ decisions. Any one of the five permanent members of the Security Council with veto powers can block the enforcement of an ICJ decision against itself or its ally. For example, in *Nicaragua v United States* (1989) where the ICJ ruled against the US holding it responsible for illegal military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua, the US refused to abide by the ruling.



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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

RUMBLINGS IN RANCHI

The West Singhbhum murders are a test for the Soren government. The guilty must be punished

THE FIRST CABINET decision of the Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand, elected to office in December, was to withdraw the cases related to the Pathalgadi movement. This made eminent sense since these cases, many involving charges of sedition, had no basis and were clearly meant to crush a movement that argued for self-rule by Adivasis, promised under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, a 1996 law. However, the murder of seven persons in West Singhbhum, allegedly by members of the Pathalgadi movement, has forced the government on the defensive. Chief Minister Hemant Soren has promised that the law will take its own course and the guilty will be punished. He will be held to his word.

The JMM, in alliance with the Congress and the RJD, won the assembly elections in December by identifying itself primarily as a custodian of adivasi interests. It advocated a soft approach towards the Pathalgadi movement and promised to withdraw cases against people associated with it. This was in contrast to the BJP government’s hardline stance which held the tribal identity assertion as antithetical to the development goals of the state. That the JMM agenda resonated with the adivasi population is evident from it sweeping the tribal belt in the assembly poll. Land alienation and a resurgent pride in the adivasi cultural identity, issues flagged by the Pathalgadi movement, were instrumental in tribals consolidating in favour of the JMM. The resolve of the Soren government in upholding the law will be tested now since the murders are suspected to be the handiwork of supporters of the Pathalgadi movement: The murdered men, reportedly, were opposed to the movement. While people have a right to organise peacefully around Adivasi rights and even insist on self-rule, as imagined under PESA, no one can take the law into their hands. This message needs to go down to the people lest they should think that a friendly government is a passport to eliminate rivals and force its agenda.

At its core, the Pathalgadi movement is a continuation of an important strand in adivasi politics that has espoused a progressive social and economic agenda for decades. It argued for Adivasi control over land, water and other natural resources and advocated a transformative development agenda for the community. The movement, led mainly by JMM, was successful in carving out the Jharkhand state from Bihar. However, the radical spirit of the movement was lost as its leaders pursued political power. Corruption became pervasive and governance took a back seat. The Pathalgadi movement can be a corrective force in Jharkhand politics and reshape the state’s development priorities. But for that, it needs to guard against becoming a prisoner of a militant agenda; it must reimagine its politics and enable social transformation by engaging with the state.

LADY GAGANAUT

India’s human spaceflight programme will be trailblazed by an anthropomorphic robot powered by artificial intelligence

THE FIRST GAGANAUT to head for space in an Indian craft will not be human, but humanoid. The anthropomorphic robot named Vyomamitra, which has been unveiled by Isro, will fly two missions to test the technological environment which human gaganauts will inhabit on India’s first demonstration of human spaceflight in 2022, as well as the systems and instruments that they would use. Vyomamitra cannot test the cabin ecosystem, of course — she would not be able to breathe the air — but she is perfectly capable of issuing commands, activating switches and, obviously, communicating with earth. Driven by speech synthesis software and artificial intelligence, her prototype has already chatted with people at the Isro event where she was introduced to the public, and future iterations will be able to give company to human travellers at the loneliest frontier.

Vyomamitra will be executing the pioneering role which has traditionally been given to animals — testing systems for survivability. Fruit flies and monkeys were the first beings to lift off, riding V2 rockets with devices monitoring their vital signs. Cats and rats went to space, though all the publicity went to Laika, the first dog to get out there. However, using a humanoid robot is obviously more useful, because it can be used to replicate the behavioural and operational responses of a human. Indeed, robots need not remain pioneers testing survivability, or assistants to human crew, but are expected to crew missions that are too prolonged or too dangerous for a human pilot.

As India prepared for human flight, in August 2019, the Russian space agency Roscosmos sent up the anthropomorphic robot Skybot F-850 to dock with the International Space Station. The mission has halted because of technical issues. But if the nation which pioneered human spaceflight with Yuri Gagarin’s mission in 1961 is sending humanoid robots into space, survivability testing is not the only legitimate goal of missions powered by artificial intelligence and robotics. They also provide opportunities to test and develop these technologies under circumstances that do not prevail on earth. The inputs, goals and skills learned are different and while AI on earth specifically focuses on creating systems which do not think like humans, the space industry would value systems that are human-like, to stand in for crew. Vyomamitra represents the very first iteration of AI in space, and later generations could prove to be as essential for spaceflight as cryogenic engines.

JUST A NAUGHTY BOY

Terry Jones helmed Monty Python into a cult following. But he was never audacious

YOU DON’T NEED to follow me. You don’t need to follow anybody. You have got to think for yourselves. You are all different,” pleads the eponymous protagonist of *Life of Brian*. A large crowd in Roman-occupied Judaea responds in agreement: “Yes, we are different”. But then someone mumbles, “No, I am not”. These lines lampooned a range of group loyalties — from religio-spiritualist to socialist-communist. Brian would go on to skewer humanity’s quest for a messiah while caricaturing political militants, tyrants, Latin, even those who throw stones. It was heresy at its best. Christians, Protestants and Jewish groups protested. *Life of Brian* was banned in Ireland, Norway and several British municipalities. But its writer-director Terry Jones, who passed away on Wednesday, was unfazed. *Life of Brian* was followed by the even more heretical, *Meaning of Life*.

The creative force of the cult British Comedy sextet, Monty Python, Jones was perhaps the least flamboyant of the group. He met fellow Python, Michael Palin, in Oxford University in the late 1960s. In 1999, the two were joined by the Cambridge graduates, John Cleese and Graham Chapman, and later, the song-writer and musician, Eric Idle, and animator Terry Gilliam. The ensemble came together on the BBC comedy show, *Monty Python Flying Circus*. Jones co-directed the Python film, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* with Gilliam. The two also came together for *Meaning of Life*.

A medievalist of distinction, Jones evoked the legendary British monarch, King Arthur to poke fun at larger than life personalities. He parodied Catholic attitudes towards contraception in a song-and-dance number in *Meaning of Life*. The humour was never larger than life. Perhaps that had something to with Jones’ personality, typified by the line spoken by Brian’s mother — a role, he himself assayed — “He is no messiah. Just a naughty boy”.



PRATIKSHA BAXI

THE SUPREME COURT’S decision to uphold the death sentence of the four men found guilty of the gangrape and torture of a 23-year-old physiotherapist in a moving bus in Delhi — which led to an excruciatingly painful death in December 2012 — is making headlines yet again. This time it is the date of the execution that is making news.

The debate on whether or not death penalty is a deterrent for rape has been overshadowed by a ghoulish fascination with the technology to execute the punishment. In anticipation of the execution of the four men, the media has lamented the lack of executioners and bemoaned the fact that the Tihar jail has had to borrow an executioner. The architecture of the scaffold has been described in forensic detail — the idea of the simultaneous hanging of four men on a scaffold, especially constructed for them, produces nervous excitement. And, the delay is seen as irritating, as if the hangings would satiate the public thirst for vengeance. Justice is conflated with vengeance and the public gaze is fixated on the gallows.

The judiciary, abashed by the accusations of delay, has turned the blame on the Tihar bureaucracy. And the Tihar bureaucracy inches towards the gallows by moving the death row convicts to Jail Number Three, where the hanging will reportedly take place. Legal procedures, especially those related to the rights of the death row convicts, are seen as tactics to prolong the inevitable. Media columns are not concerned with the question of how state violence is staged to obfuscate difficult questions of law and life. State killing is, in fact, made cinematic.

The anticipated hangings have also attracted the energies of NGOs and reformers. The court turned down the plea of an NGO, RACO, which wished to induce remorse in the convicts. A jail reformer wants to recite the *Garuda Purana* to the convicts to remove their fears of being put to death. The NGO is directing its energy at scavenging the bodies of the irredeemably condemned to black-mail them into remorseful consent to harvest their organs. The jail reformer takes

A mercy petition allows for rectifying miscarriage of justice, mitigates errors in the legal system

upon himself to read the Hindu text to prepare the condemned, as if he knows that the residual legal remedy of a “mercy petition” is an empty formality.

The President has turned down the mercy petitions. The President’s statement, “Rape convicts under the POCSO Act should not have the right to file mercy petition. Parliament should review mercy petitions” is troubling. The right to file a mercy petition is a constitutional right of a death row convict. While child sexual abuse deserves condemnation and strict liability laws should be implemented, the suspension of mercy in such cases cannot be justified on the grounds that such abuse is exceptional violence.

Death penalty is not a feminist demand. Feminists have consistently argued for feminising procedure and fair trial. They have contended that more victims will be killed by rapists if death penalty was written into the rape law. This was also the view of the Verma Committee in 2013.

The problems with the implementation of POCSO are overshadowed by such populist and constitutionally-puzzling statements. The provision for mercy allows for rectifying miscarriage of justice or doubtful conviction or errors of the legal system as a result of which the law can become a killing machine. It allows for rectifying errors in the face of a lawyers’ boycott and poor legal representation. It also allows for recognition of remorse and reformation, acknowledges the sanctity of life and recognises that when the law kills, it sacrifices its own humanity.

It is important for law to remind itself of humanity because it has the monopoly over lawful killing. Law’s violence is distributed at different institutional sites, mostly wielded by the police and the prison officials in the field of criminal law. Such violence also lends validity to other forms of violence, encounter killings for example.



AJAY VIR JAKHAR

THOSE IN POWER may not yet be accepting blame for the barrage of negative news on the state of the economy, but cracks are appearing in the façade. In such tumultuous times, the finance minister began the pre-budget ritual of consultations. Having inherited a mess, she faces the challenge of very limited latitude for budgetary allocations. Her task is compounded by a bureaucratic decision-making process that is incapable of factoring the imponderabilia of actual livelihoods — one that does not even properly enumerate those committing suicide.

The financialisation of policy-making has set us on an unforgiving trajectory where the corporate sector has wrung out a commitment from the government of spending Rs 102 lakh crore on infrastructure projects. It would have been wiser to prioritise investments in human capital. With around one per cent of this spend, the government could have filled all the vacancies and upgraded the ability of agriculture researchers, farm extension workers, teachers, doctors and similar professionals across India. There’s a lot that those in power don’t know, and they don’t know that they don’t know. This has culminated in a supply-side response to a demand slump, predicated on cutting corporate taxes instead of stimulating consumer demand by raising spending under MGNREGA or a one-time higher PM-Kisan dole out.

Since, it’s equally important to augment government revenues, a beginning can be made by scrapping schemes such as the

FOCUS ON FARMERS

Government must engage in a collaborative effort with farmer groups



Since, it’s equally important to augment government revenues, a beginning can be made by scrapping schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna and saving over Rs 20,000 crore annually. The government would be better advised to go back to the drawing board in consultation with farmers.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna and saving over Rs 20,000 crore annually. The government would be better advised to go back to the drawing board in consultation with farmers. Similarly, alcohol must also be brought under the ambit of GST at the highest tax slab. After states are compensated for forgoing their alcohol revenues, the central pool will benefit by an additional Rs 30,000 crore. It’s also time to impose a tax on digital services and e-commerce companies rather than reduce PDS allocations to rein in the ballooning deficit as proposed by some economists.

Changed circumstances and new understanding requires innovative approaches to policy-making. The government must finance a long-term study for developing a metrics for valuing farm eco-system services whereby farmers are paid for services to conserve the environment in a way that ensures economic sustainability of the farmer and also India’s food security. For instance, farmers can be paid for rainwater harvesting and upkeep of trees. The tricky part though is to devise a differentiating metric for varying agro-ecology — a particular tree, for example, is valued differently in a rainforest and a desert. A systems approach is radically different from the present structure. Past experience indicates that it would be foolhardy to expect the Indian Council of Agriculture Research to develop one. Having perpetuated a kind of agricultural practice, it can’t be expected to purge itself. Rather than lose another two decades, it is advisable now to engage in a collaborative effort with a consortium of farmer organisations.

There is an ambiguous provision to levy income tax on “dairying”. Either the provision should be removed or it should be clarified that it does not include dairy farmers. Dairying is a part of agriculture and as per the Constitution, it is a state subject. The Centre cannot levy income tax on dairy farmers. Removing such quirks will improve ease of doing business. A simple notification to mandate a minimum purchase price of Rs 32 per litre for milk by institutional buyers will help regain some of the lost trust.

A suggestion that was met with considerable interest at the finance ministry’s meeting was on providing eggs sourced from backyard poultry for the mid-day meal scheme. Backyard poultry is about farmer families keeping chicken at home. The benefits will be multi-dimensional; protein for school children, no-leeway for adulteration, less food miles, families regaining self-esteem, developing community spirit and jobs in all six lakh villages across the country. The enabling factor is not eggs, but the process of sourcing eggs from marginal, small and landless farmers. A competitive bidding process or allowing participation of commercial poultries will kill that very objective.

The finance minister had suggested extending the discussion to local sourcing of other products for mid-day meals. However, the current nutrition policy of India, increasingly influenced by commercial interests, is unlikely to enable it.

The writer is chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj

JANUARY 24, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

TENSE SUBCONTINENT PRESIDENT NEELAM SANJIVA Reddy expressed “grave concern” at the intervention of outside forces and induction of armaments into India’s neighbourhood as this had created a “dangerous situation” for India and the region. The developments in Afghanistan had highlighted the re-emergence of the Cold War. Turning countries in India’s neighbourhood into a theatre of big power rivalries was “totally unacceptable”, he said at joint session of Parliament.

RESERVATION MOVES HOME MINISTER ZAIL Singh introduced in the Lok Sabha a Constitution amendment Bill

to extend the period of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the representation for the Anglo-Indian community by nomination in the Lok Sabha and the State assemblies, for another 10 years.

ARMS TO PAK INDIA HAS TOLD the US that the nature and range of arms being supplied to Pakistan does not tally with the professed purpose behind the arms aid. External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao told the Lok Sabha that the matter would also be taken up during the visit to India of President Carter’s emissary, Clark Clifford. He hoped the dialogue would bear fruit and “some improvement” will be made.

PROBE AGAINST SHAH AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION to probe the alleged violation of human rights under the regime of the former Shah of Iran is part of the “package agreement” that the UN secretary general, Kurt Waldheim, has worked out with the government of Iran for the release of the American hostages. Speaking to newsmen at Delhi airport before his departure for Pakistan, Waldheim said he was still holding negotiations with the Iranian authorities for the hostages’ release and expressed hope that with the setting up of the inquiry commission “it will be possible to iron out the remaining problems”.



When students are restive

While protecting the right of students to dissent, we also need to reeducate ourselves about keywords such as freedom, democracy and equality. A dialogic civic engagement is essential for hope to triumph over hatred



RUKMINI BHAYA NAIR

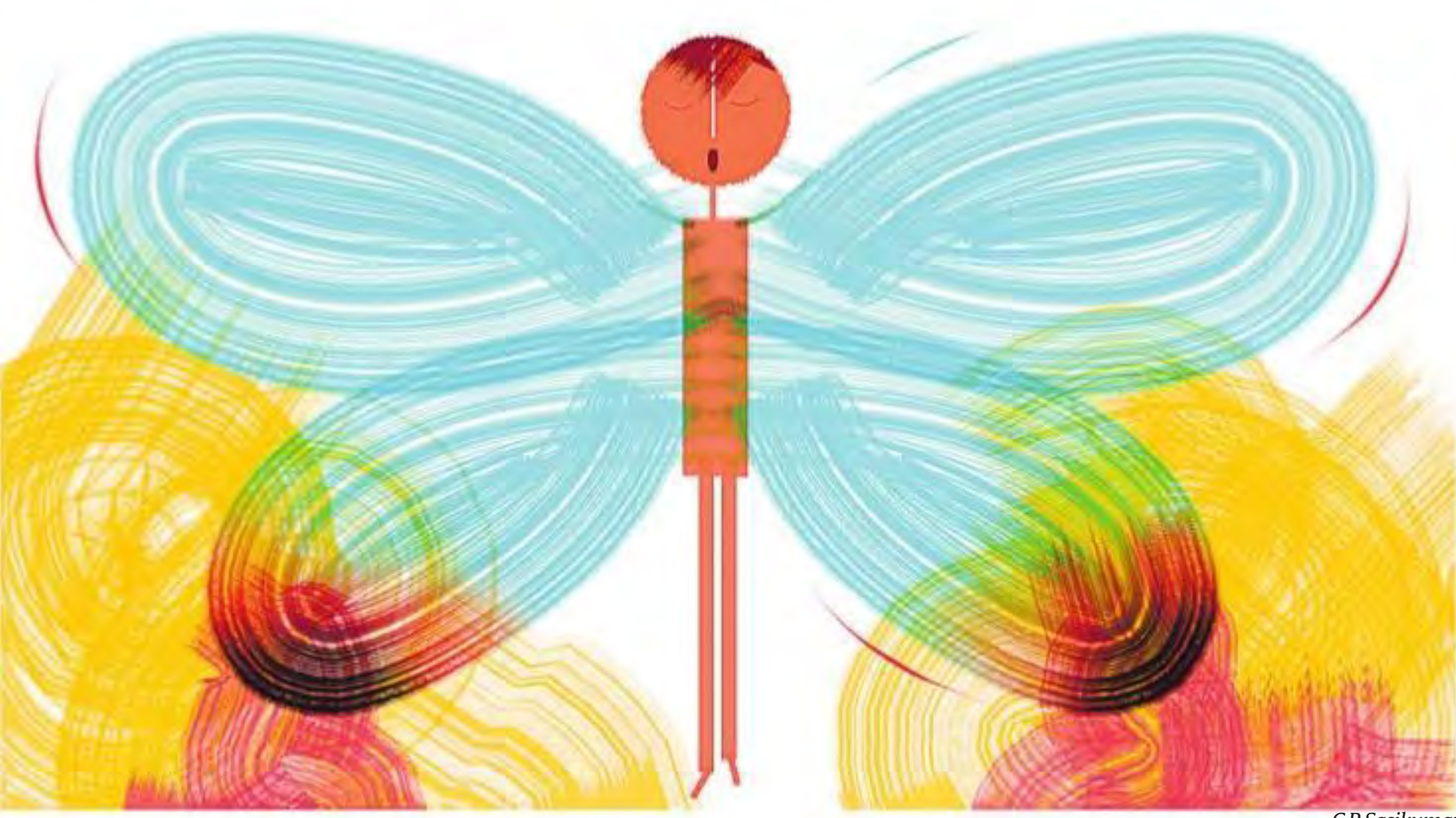
A POLITICIAN NOT hungry for power is almost as hard to imagine as a tiger that abjures meat. His natural diet is power, particularly over the grand narrative of history. An academic, on the other hand, is a herbivore, whose predilection is for interpretative ambiguity, an abiding tendency to ferret out the flaws in received historical texts. The metaphoric division among these groups is demonstrable. There's a Marx for every Marat, and a Gandhi for each Gibbon. History arranges, too, for occasional disturbing confrontations, in a broadly Weberian sense, between these putative "types" of social agent.

In the student protests that have occurred across the country over the past month, we have witnessed clashes that could partially be described in terms of Weber's notion of "disenchantment". True, political parties have quickly jumped on the bandwagon and aligned themselves with or against the movement. Yet, among university students, the slow burn of a smouldering resentment has been apparent for some years. This was bound to flare up sooner or later. From focused anger against caste and religious discrimination and severe fee-hikes to a generalised discontent about mediocre teaching and a lack of prospects after graduation, students have felt disenfranchised. In certain situations, they have committed suicide, surely the ultimate act of protest. Only last semester, one of my best students in the engineering sciences told me that he did not want a job, nor did he want to do research; he just wanted to "do nothing". Small, everyday anecdotes like this raise big troubling questions about a story that has captivated us of late. This is the joyous narrative of the "demographic dividend" wherein an overwhelmingly young, aspirational India on the move will beat all odds. The irony is that it is exactly this population that is now showing signs of acute distress, manifest in their widespread opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Several analysts have, however, raised the question: Why these particular inflexion points? What is it about the CAA and NRC that has so mobilised our youth? It is here the idea of "disenchantment" could help us — and we will certainly need such framework of analysis as these "leaderless" movements develop.

The argument, following Weber, would go a bit like this: As individuals born into modernity, we are not disenchanted just because something awful happens to us personally, such as a series of tragedies in the family. In a society like India, we might rely on the traditional consolations of karma or kismet to explain these terrible happenings. The personal is decidedly not the political here.

Disenchantment, on the other hand, takes hold when large, shared ideals such as those fostered by contemporary nation-states appear to fail citizens or when there are severe clashes of ideology about how to arrive at a cooperative goal such as universal employment or healthcare. Political ideals immensely bigger than personal dilemmas tend, in short, to trigger affective "disenchantment". Both the CAA and NRC turn on the central concept



C R Sasikumar

of "the citizen", which is precisely the sort of capacious domain that can inspire ideas of national unity, as well as widespread disenchantment. This is because they raise for the youth of this country (and for all of us) a difficult question that may have gone unasked in their lifetimes, namely: What makes someone a citizen and can some citizens be less equal than others in the eyes of the state? So fundamental is this query about the constitution of our society that we cannot shy away from a vigorous debate on the subject. And we must remain stubbornly committed to protecting the rights of our students to gather peacefully and speak out forcefully. We have also to reeducate ourselves, almost 75 years after Independence, about the meaning of words we have since often carelessly taken for granted — keywords such as freedom, democracy and equality. This dialogic "citizens route" is our only, fairly narrow, path towards "re-enchantment" or the magical triumph of hope over hatred.

Weber maintained that people can be so charmed by the ideals that "charismatic" leaders place before them that they are ready to put their material well-being and even their lives at risk for these idealist causes. India, of course, has had no dearth of such charismatic personalities both in its "religious" past and its "secular" present. However, it is when such leaders are seen as non-performing or manipulative that the processes of disenchantment set in. Weber (a thinker whose lifespan ran roughly parallel to Gandhi's) was himself pretty disenchanted by the post World War I scenario. He regarded the bureaucracy of his time as an "iron cage", discerned "dirt, muck, dung and horseplay" everywhere, castigated politicians as "windbags" and opined that leftists like Rosa Luxemburg belonged in "the zoological gardens". Do we not hear echoes in these choice phrases about our own current discontents?

To return here to the theme of student unrest with which I began, we know the word "student" is paired with the word "teacher" in an inextricable semantic conjunction. Like "parent-child" or "husband-wife", not to mention the Hegelian "master-slave" duality, an understanding of one part of these expressions implies knowledge of the meaning of its "other". It is this long-standing relationship that has been destabilised today. As a teacher over the past 30 years, the naïve

The awesome power of robot-avatars and social media to guide our emotions and of tech-companies and governments to covertly watch, not to say control our actions, now requires us to radically update Weber fs crucial insights concerning enchantment and social action. A revised partnership agreement between teachers and students is therefore urgently called for as we enter this unknown nth space of citizenship. There fs no doubt in my mind that it is in this cyber-world of augmented reality that vital battles over possible disenchantments will be fought in the future.

thought that I want to end with concerns the reversal of the basic "teacher-student" pairing in an environment where mesmerising new enchantments that Weber never anticipated have entered our world.

If Thomas Carlyle wrote in the 19th century, at a time when the diversification of knowledge via the technological invention of the printing press was well underway, that the "true university" of his day was "a collection of books", perhaps the true university of our times is the Internet. An immediate reconsideration of the teacher-student, guru-shishya, compact is prompted by this simple comparison. Today, our cell-phones are not only our most intimate companions but de facto the most go-to sources of knowledge. They are our most creative teachers — or are they? Certainly, we have to concede that our students are much more at home in, and ready to engage with, this beguiling virtual world than we are. Online witnesses to methods of dissent ranging from Me-Too marches in the US to student uprisings in Egypt and Hong Kong, they have observed the exhilarating power of tiny hand-held devices to bring down entire regimes.

Concurrently, the awesome power of robot-avatars and social media to guide our emotions and of tech-companies and governments to covertly watch, not to say control our actions, now requires us to radically update Weber's crucial insights concerning enchantment and social action. A revised partnership agreement between teachers and students is therefore urgently called for as we enter this unknown nth space of citizenship. There's no doubt in my mind that it is in this cyber-world of augmented reality that vital battles over possible disenchantments will be fought in the future. In the present, though, we are left with Weber's implicit suggestion that the best political action cannot but extensively involve our universities since "it is the intellectual who transforms the concept of the world into the problem of meaning".

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Far too often, the state cedes to the demands of undemocratic mobs. A refusal to look at reality with all its nuances or have honest conversations about sensitive issues has resulted in a distinctive hypocrisy that permeates Pakistani society." — **DAWN**

The shadow of Emergency

The SC order on communications lockdown in Kashmir rejected the government's attempt to gain judicial sanction of Emergency-style powers



GAUTAM BHATIA

THE SUPREME COURT judgment on the communications lockdown in Kashmir will be remembered for many things. It will be remembered for being delivered during the longest internet shutdown in any democratic country. It will be remembered for the first apex judicial verdict on the constitutionality of internet shutdowns in a country that occupies the top global spot on the issue, and has more internet shutdowns than the next nine countries combined. It will be remembered, with some disappointment, for laying down a set of detailed constitutional principles, but refraining from applying them to the case before it, and thus, effectively, enabling the shutdown to continue, at least for the foreseeable future.

But more than any of that, the case deserves to be remembered for the kinds of arguments the government, and its lawyers, made before the Supreme Court. From August 5, the day of the communications lockdown and the imposition of Section 144 of the CrPC in Jammu and Kashmir to the present day, the government has not even made public the orders that constitute the legal bases of the lockdown. In other words, the government took away the fundamental rights of seven million people without even the courtesy of informing them why it was doing so or enabling them to challenge its decision in court. And before the Court, the government then argued that it did not need to do so because the very fact of publishing the orders would jeopardise "national security". In short, the government argued for a regime of secret laws and secret orders, answerable to only the imperative of national security.

The government's second argument was even more insidious and dangerous. Citing cross-border terrorism in Kashmir, it effectively argued that it was accountable to no one as long as it invoked the two magic words — "national security". Why had the internet shutdown been imposed upon an entire people? Do internet shutdowns actually help in containing rumour mongering and stopping violence? Research shows they do not. If the issue was the use of the internet to "radicalise" people, could there not have been more targeted and narrower ways to accomplish the goal, such as a selective blocking of websites? Could the government not achieve through its surveillance and intelligence network what it was trying to achieve by cutting off the rights of seven million people? Were the damages of the internet shutdown — damages marked by extraordinary financial loss, loss of effective expression, and granting a shield for state impunity — justified? According to the state none of these questions could be even asked, let alone answered, because all this was in the domain of "national security".

"National security" thus became a shibboleth that the government, and its lawyers, used for denying to show the legal basis of its actions, and then to deny justifying them

at all. Perhaps not since Attorney General Niren De stood up in 1976 and argued that the Emergency allowed the police to shoot anyone on sight, had such a claim for naked, untrammelled executive supremacy been advanced before the Supreme Court. And in 1976, at least, there existed the formal declaration of an Emergency, and the formal suspension of fundamental rights. Here, the state wanted to universalise the state of Emergency: Any invocation of the words "national security" would be treated as conclusive proof of the existence of an Emergency, and a justification for granting the state near-total impunity.

The acceptance of these arguments would have taken us down a dark path indeed. And it was therefore fortunate that in the judgment, both the arguments made by the state's lawyers were roundly rejected. On the first count, the Court held that the basic principles of legality and the rule of law required that the shutdown orders be published and made available to the people so that they could know the reason why their rights were being restricted, and to challenge them if they so desired. If the government wanted to withhold or redact the orders, or any part of them, it would have to show in each individual case why that was necessary.

The Court's second holding was even more important. It noted that at all times when the state sought to restrict individual rights, the principle of proportionality would apply. Proportionality is crucial, because it does not content itself merely by asking whether the state is pursuing a valid goal in its crackdown upon rights. Proportionality also queries the means by which the state has done so. And if the means are excessive, disproportionate, irrational, or otherwise unconstitutional, state action is struck down. For example, one of the important limbs of the proportionality test is whether the state has selected the "least restrictive" or "least intrusive" method in order to achieve its goal. This limb is based upon the idea that even when it wants to go after terrorists or maintain law and order, a democratic state must at all times respect individual rights to the maximum possible degree because the means matter as much as the goal, and the rights of the individual are not so fragile that they are simply effaced in the larger "national interest".

The proportionality test, thus, would necessarily require the state to come to the Court and explain itself. The state would have to justify why it had taken the steps it had, whether it had considered taking less restrictive steps, and, why less restrictive steps wouldn't work. And this is exactly how it should be.

The Supreme Court's judgment, thus, is an important one, even though it failed to grant relief to the people whose rights were before it — the Kashmiris — who have now been deprived of the internet for more than five months. It is important because the strong invocation of the principle of proportionality can be used as a platform for challenging internet bans across the country; but also because the government's attempt to gain judicial sanction of Emergency-style powers was roundly rejected, for now.

Bhatia is one of the lawyers appearing in the communications lockdown case



SUSHANT SINGH

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING urban youth usually ring in the new year in Delhi with their socio-economic equals in stratified environs of clubs, pubs, restaurants and homes. But this new year's eve, it was at radically different places — on the road outside the Jamia Millia Islamia University or at Shaheen Bagh — two of the most iconic places linked with the recent civic protests against the CAA and NRC. Here they mingled freely with people they would rarely interact with as equals, and that too, in a public space.

If that was not radical enough, what happened at the midnight hour was a moment that portends something significant for India in the coming decade. As the clock struck 12, those gathered there broke into the national anthem. Never has any public gathering in post-Independent India witnessed such a passionate singing of the national anthem, not even after a major sports victory when patriotism and nationalism are usually at their apogee.

The singing of the national anthem by the people at Shaheen Bagh or outside Jamia took no one by surprise. From the day they started, these civic protests were marked by lusty wavings of the national tricolour, public readings of the Preamble to the Constitution, and now, the singing of the national anthem. Cynics can allege that this was part of a tactical ploy by the protestors to

With a flag, song and book

Reclaiming national symbols is an act of political genius and imagination

shield themselves from being labelled "anti-national". But that argument is rebutted by the fact that these protests, all over the country, are neither centrally directed nor centrally organised. In fact, it is not unusual to witness multiple protests by various groups at the same site, merging and demerging at the same time, ruling out any possibility of a devious diktat by a central authority for everyone to flaunt the national symbols.

The presence of national symbols and icons is simultaneously marked by an absence of religious and sectarian symbols, even though the issue directly affects the Muslim community. This is not coincidental, but points to a critical shift in the form and manner of civic protests and democratic engagement in India's public spaces.

How does a group of citizens perceive, articulate and negotiate their citizenship claim? The young Muslim, who has been the ideological and organisational fountainhead of these protests in her community, has not chosen religion or community as a means of intermediation with India's democracy. She has instead chosen the Constitution as the instrument to engage with the democratic setup and assert her citizenship as an Indian, without sacrificing her Muslim identity.

It is this wilful choice which makes the tricolour and the national anthem such a natural fit in these protests, unlike a forced effort

to place a tricolour among a sea of party or religious flags. Moreover, the Constitution, as the intermediary, has provided the metaphor for members of all classes, castes, communities and demographics to join these protests — these larger solidarities are at the heart of the optimism, creativity and enthusiasm witnessed on the streets. It reinforces the political argument that citizenship and democracy belong together — naturally compatible and mutually complementary.

Every single dimension of the concept of citizenship is being challenged by the CAA-NRC regime of the Narendra Modi government: Citizenship as a legal status, citizenship as a bundle of rights and entitlements, and citizenship as a sense of identity and belonging. While the government officials want to restrict the contestation to one of a legal status, the ruling party politicians are keen to limit it to that of the Muslim identity. A negotiation of the idea of citizenship is inherently full of tensions and contradictions. But by placing the Constitution at the centre of the public space and the national debate, the young have involved all the aspects and expanded it to a larger question about the kind of India that they want, defeating all attempts to limit it either only to the victimisation of Muslims or to a legal contest over a new law.

There is a sharp distinction between citizenship obtained through struggle and cit-

izenship as a gift of the state. In India, the idea of citizenship evolved at the end of a prolonged struggle for the country's freedom, forging it with the idea of India. The idea of a civic struggle for citizenship has thus been intricately linked with the idea of India, which also fits in with the modern liberal discourse of civil and political rights. National symbols — the tricolour, the preamble and the national anthem — are situated at the confluence of these ideas, and the young have started their march towards reclaiming the idea of India by reclaiming the national symbols of India.

This is a generation accused of being consumed by a sense of self, often damned for not venturing beyond their own headphones. But, by clearly identifying the burden that the CAA-NRC regime would place on each individual, they have made people realise and understand what the Constitution means to each and every person.

Reclaiming national symbols, while bringing life to an abstract idea like the Constitution, is an act of political genius and imagination. Any idea becomes a force when it connects to the self. This idea has brought the young Indian to the street. Its power cannot be estimated as yet. It would be a difficult beast to tame.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAPITAL MISTAKE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Three capital policy' (IE, January 23). The Shiv Sena-led coalition government in Maharashtra has reviewed the bullet train project. Andhra Pradesh's YSR Congress has joined the list by modifying the Telugu Desam's Amaravati scheme and mooting a three-capital system. It would be a logistical nightmare to operate from separate executive and legislative capitals.

Vaibhav, Chandigarh

MISSING THE TARGET

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Three as one' (IE, January 22). According to the government, the CAA gives citizenship to the persecuted Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians and Parsis of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. But the clauses of CAA do not even mention the word "persecuted". Does that mean a Muslim majority country cannot persecute Muslims? Pakistan doesn't consider Ahmadis as Muslims. Similarly many in India claim there are no persecuted Hindus. But what about the Dalits, OBCs or even the poor?

Ranjit Nimbalkar, Pune

WHY RELIGION?

THIS REFERS TO the report, "No one can dare touch an Indian Muslim, come to

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.

us if any complaint: Rajnath Singh UP" (IE, January 23). This is a common refrain from Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and other BJP leaders. If the CAA's sole purpose was to give citizenship to those persecuted outside India, including on account of their religion, that could have been done under existing laws. Granting citizenship have been easily fast-tracked for targeted groups by setting up citizenship counters, offices, or camps. Why amend the Constitution and sneak in religion in the citizenship law of a secular Constitution?

I R Murmu, Delhi



TOPOF THE WORLD



Isabel dos Santos, Africa's richest woman, is a suspect in a fraud case. Reuters

ANGOLA

Warrant likely for dos Santos

Lisbon: Angola could issue an international arrest warrant for billionaire Isabel dos Santos if she fails to cooperate with a fraud investigation in which she has been named as a suspect, its chief prosecutor was quoted as saying. Angola has named dos Santos, the daughter of former President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and reputedly Africa's richest woman, as a suspect over alleged mismanagement and misappropriation of funds while she was chairwoman of state oil firm Sonangol in 2016-2017.

LIBYA

Sole functioning airport targeted

Tripoli: Rocket fire targeted the Libyan capital's sole functioning airport on Wednesday, dealing another setback to peace efforts a day before regional foreign ministers meet in Algeria to discuss the crisis. Tripoli's Mitiga airport was forced to suspend all flights for several hours after it was targeted by six Grad rockets, just nine days after it reopened following a truce. The airport has been hit multiple times since the start of an offensive by forces led by eastern-based commander Khalifa Haftar to seize the capital from the UN-recognised Government of National Accord.

VENEZUELA

Guaido plea: We need your help

Davos: Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido on Thursday issued an emotional plea to political and business leaders at Davos, saying he needed their international help as he could not achieve change alone. Guaido is recognised as Venezuela's interim president by the United States and 50 other countries but has so far failed to shift President Nicolas Maduro from power despite months of struggle and ongoing economic crisis. "We are facing an international criminal conglomerate and we need your help," he told the World Economic Forum (WEF), adding that Venezuela was experiencing an "unprecedented tragedy".

US

Greta told to study economics

Davos: Just when the Swiss mountain spat between U.S. President Donald Trump and Greta Thunberg seemed to have blown over, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin took a new dig at the young climate activist on Thursday. Asked during a news conference about Thunberg's call to divest from fossil fuels, Mnuchin said: "Is she the chief economist? ... After she goes and studies economics in college, she can come back and explain that to us."

AGENCIES

STEPHANIE VAN DEN BERG & RUMA PAUL
THE HAGUE, COX'S BAZAAR, BANGLADESH, JANUARY 23

THE INTERNATIONAL Court of Justice on Thursday ordered Myanmar to take urgent measures to protect its Rohingya population from genocide, a ruling cheered by refugees as their first major legal victory since being forced from their homes.

A lawsuit launched by Gambia in November at the United Nations' highest body for disputes between states accuses Myanmar of genocide against Rohingya in violation of a 1948 convention.

The court's final decision could take years, and Thursday's ruling dealt only with Gambia's request for preliminary measures. But in a unanimous ruling by the 17 judge panel, the court said the Rohingya face an ongoing threat and Myanmar must act to protect them.

Myanmar must "take all measures within its power to prevent all acts" prohibited under the 1948 Genocide Convention, and report back within four months, presiding Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf said, reading out a summary of the judgment.

Myanmar must use its influence over its military and other armed groups to prevent vio-



Gambia's Justice Minister Abubacarr Tambadou waves at Rohingya representatives at The Hague. Reuters/Eva Plevier

lence against the Rohingya "intended to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part".

Rohingya activists, who had come from all over the world to the Hague, reacted with joy to the unanimous ruling which also explicitly recognised their ethnic minority as a protected group under the Genocide Convention.

"That is something we have been fighting for a long time: to be recognised as humans the same as everyone else," Yasmin Ullah, a Canada-based Rohingya activist said. Majority Buddhist Myanmar generally refuses to describe the Muslim Rohingya

as an ethnic group and refers to them as Bangladeshi migrants.

More than 730,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar after a military-led crackdown in 2017, and were forced into squalid camps across the border in Bangladesh. U.N. investigators concluded that the military campaign had been executed with "genocidal intent".

In camps in Bangladesh where they have fled, Rohingya refugees hovered over mobile phones to watch the judgment.

"For the first time, we have got some justice," said Mohammed Nur, 34. "This is a big achievement for the entire Rohingya community."

EXPLAINED Final ruling may take years

THE INTERNATIONAL Court of Justice has delivered a binding ruling with no chance of appeal and no means of enforcement. It has exercised its power to ordain provisional measures while it takes its time to consider the broader case in which Gambia claims that Myanmar's military committed genocide against the Rohingya. That ruling could take years. While the ICJ may have no way to enforce the ruling, a verdict against Myanmar may hurt the country's reputation and set legal precedent, considering a slew of legal challenges faced by the nation.

A Myanmar government spokesman and two military spokesmen did not answer calls from Reuters seeking comment.

Gambia's justice minister, Abubacarr Tambadou, hailed the ruling as "a triumph for international justice". **REUTERS**



THREE AMERICANS KILLED

FIREFIGHTING PLANE CRASHES IN AUSTRALIA

Three American crew members were killed Thursday when a C-130 Hercules aerial water tanker crashed while battling wildfires in southeastern Australia, officials said. The tragedy brings the death toll from the blazes to at least 31 since September.

Virus toll rises to 18, China puts millions on lockdown

YAWEN CHEN & SE YOUNG LEE
BEIJING, JANUARY 23

CHINA PUT millions of people on lockdown on Thursday in two cities at the epicentre of a coronavirus outbreak that has killed 18 people and infected more than 630, as authorities around the world worked to prevent a global pandemic.

Health officials fear the transmission rate could accelerate as hundreds of millions of Chinese travel at home and abroad during week-long holidays for the Lunar New Year, which begins on Saturday.

Giving details on infections in China, state television said 634 cases had been confirmed. By the end of Wednesday, China's National Health Commission confirmed 17 dead in the central province of Hubei.

Health authorities in Hebei, just south of Beijing, said on Thursday an 80-year-old man infected with the coronavirus had died there, marking the first confirmed death outside Hubei. He died on Wednesday but was not confirmed to have been infected with the virus until Thursday.

The previously unknown virus strain is believed to have emerged late last year from illegally traded wildlife at an animal market in the capital of Hubei province, Wuhan.

Most transport in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people, was sus-



Officials check body temperatures of passengers arriving at Hangzhou from Wuhan, at Hangzhou railway station in Zhejiang province. China Daily via Reuters

pending on Thursday and people were told not to leave. Hours later, neighbouring Huanggang, a city of about 7 million people, announced a similar lockdown.

Chinese state media, citing the Wuhan government's virus task force, said the city would suspend all online car-hailing services on Friday to "cut off the transmission of the virus" on a larger scale.

"The lockdown of 11 million people is unprecedented in public health history," Gauden Galea, the World Health Organization's (WHO) representative in Beijing, said.

The newly identified coronavirus has created alarm because there are a number of unknowns surrounding it. It is too early to know just how dangerous it is and how easily it spreads be-

tween people.

There is no vaccine for the virus, which can spread through respiratory transmission. Symptoms include fever, difficulty breathing and coughing, similar to many other respiratory illnesses.

Three research teams are to start work on developing a vaccine, a global coalition set up to fight diseases said. China's Finance Ministry said it was allocating 1 billion yuan (\$145 million) to the provincial government of Hubei to help contain the outbreak.

Chinese-ruled Hong Kong, which has two confirmed cases, is turning two holiday camps into quarantine stations as a precaution. Taiwan has banned anyone from Wuhan from going to the island. **REUTERS**

Queen gives assent as Brexit Bill clears Parliament hurdle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, JANUARY 23

QUEEN ELIZABETH II gave her formal assent on Thursday for Britain to end its decades-long involvement in the European Union and seek a more independent but uncertain future at the end of the month.

The head of state's ceremonial approval of the withdrawal legislation allows Britain to leave its closest neighbours and trading partners after years of bickering and three delays.

Two top EU officials in Brussels are expected to sign the separation treaty on Friday and Prime Minister Boris Johnson — the pro-Brexit figurehead of Britain's seismic 2016 referendum — will put his name on it in the coming days.

"At times it felt like we would never cross the Brexit finish line, but we've done it," Johnson said after both houses of the British parliament ratified the withdrawal bill on Wednesday.

"Now we can put the rancour



Anti-Brexit protesters outside Parliament in London. Hollie Adams via AP

and division of the past three years behind us and focus on delivering a bright, exciting future." The January 31 split caps a remarkable political comeback for Johnson at one of the most difficult points in Britain's post-war history. Johnson will celebrate his victory by issuing commemorative coins and chairing a special cabinet meeting in England's pro-Brexit north on January 31. He will now be responsible for defining the terms on which Britain trades and shares everything from data to fishing waters with the remaining 27 EU member states.



Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard sues Hillary over 'Russian asset' remark

Washington: Democratic presidential hopeful Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress, has filed a defamation lawsuit against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton seeking USD 50 million in damages, alleging that she tarnished her reputation by suggesting her to be a "Russian asset" and "favourite of the Russians" in the 2020 White House race.

The lawsuit, filed in New York, has claimed that Gabbard suffered an economic loss to be proven at trial. "Hillary calling me a Russian asset is not only intended to smear my reputation and derail my campaign... it's also intended to silence any voice that dares to speak out against the establishment status quo," Gabbard said. **PTI**



During the trial in Washington. Senate Television via AP

Schiff accuses Trump of bid to cheat in election

MICHAEL DSHEAR
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 23

THE HOUSE Democratic impeachment managers began formal arguments in the Senate trial on Wednesday, presenting a meticulous and scathing case for convicting President Donald Trump and removing him from office on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the lead House prosecutor, took the lectern in the chamber as sen-

ators sat silently preparing to weigh Trump's fate. He accused the president of a corrupt scheme to pressure Ukraine for help "to cheat" in the 2020 presidential election.

Trump later tweeted, "The Democrats & Shifty Schiff, whose presentation to the Senate was loaded with lies and misrepresentations, are refusing to state that the Obama Administration withheld aid from many countries including Ukraine, Pakistan, Philippines, Egypt, Honduras, & Mexico. Witch Hunt!" **NYT**

'Go outside': Macron berates Israeli security during visit to Jerusalem church

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, JANUARY 23

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday lost his temper with Israeli security agents during a visit to a French church in Jerusalem and angrily ordered one of them to leave the premises.

The incident occurred during a spat between Israeli forces and Macron's own security detail as he entered the Church of St. Anne. The church, located in Jerusalem's Old City, is French



Macron at the Western wall, in the Old City of Jerusalem. AP

state property and Macron did not want the Israeli guards leading him inside.

"Everybody knows the rules," Macron said in English as he raised his voice toward an Israeli security

Like Earth doesn't revolve around Sun: Ghani on Imran's Haqqani denial

BARUN JHA
DAVOS, JANUARY 23

AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Thursday took a jibe at Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan for denying the existence of the Haqqani network in Pakistan, saying it was like claiming the Earth does not revolve around the Sun.

Ghani said he is yet to see a breakthrough in his talks with Pakistan on this issue, and has only seen some "good statements" coming out from Islamabad so far.



Ashraf Ghani, Imran Khan

During an International Media Council (IMC) interaction here at WEF 2020 on Wednesday, Khan had said the Haqqani network militant group was not operating in his country anymore.

Asked to comment on this claim during his own IMC interaction on Thursday, Ghani said, "One can also very well say that Earth doesn't revolve around Sun."

He added that it was good to see Khan presenting a very good reform agenda here in Davos, but such denials were not good.

"I have not seen a breakthrough. I have seen good statements but the jury is out on the outcome. If Haqqani didn't exist there, then why did Prime Minister Khan take credit for release of hostages," Ghani asked. **PTI**

Annabella Sciorra testifies in Weinstein trial: 'He raped me'

JAN RANSOM & ALAN FEUER
NEW YORK, JANUARY 23

THEY MET at a party in Los Angeles. She was an up-and-coming actress at the time. He was a young producer. As they got to know each other over the next four years, there were, she said, some "inappropriate" gestures: a care package of popcorn and Valium, a box of chocolate penises. Then, Annabella Sciorra said

on the witness stand, Harvey Weinstein raped her. Fighting back tears, Sciorra testified in excruciating detail on Thursday to a rapt courtroom about the night she says she was attacked. After shoving his way into her Gramercy Park apartment, she said, Weinstein took her to a bedroom, forced her onto a bed and, as she sought to fight him off, sexually assaulted her.

"I was trying to get him off me," a tearful Sciorra told the jury. "I was punching him, kick-



Harvey Weinstein leaves court in New York. AP

ing him." But Weinstein held her down, she said, adding: "He got on top of me and he raped me."

The searing testimony in State Supreme Court in Manhattan marked the first time that one of Weinstein's numerous accusers took the stand against him at a long-awaited criminal trial that has come to symbolise the #MeToo movement.

Five more accusers are also expected to testify that Weinstein attacked them. One of them, an aspiring actress from Washington

state, has told prosecutors that Weinstein raped her in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013. The second, a production assistant on one of Weinstein's television shows, contends he forced oral sex on her in his apartment in 2006.

Sciorra's complaint is too old to be prosecuted as a rape under New York law, but prosecutors from the Manhattan district attorney's office, plan to use her allegation will help support a charge of predatory sexual assault, which carries a possible life

sentence. To prove that charge, prosecutors must show he committed a serious sexual offense against at least two people.

Weinstein is also charged with two counts of rape and one count of criminal sexual act.

Damon Cheronis, one of Weinstein's lawyers, said during his opening statement that Sciorra had been unable to provide investigators with the exact date of the alleged rape, indicating only a period during the winter months between 1993 and 1994. **NYT**

POLICY WATCH
FISCAL DEFICIT

Govt Budget math to get boost from AGR mop-up, RBI dividend, tax dispute resolution

SUNNY VERMA & ANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

EVEN WITH the Centre expecting to face significant shortfall in mop-up from taxes and disinvestment in the current fiscal, it will partly make up via unexpected revenues from a tax dispute resolution scheme, Supreme Court mandated payments related to adjusted gross revenue (AGR) from telecom companies and higher-than-Budgeted dividend payout from the RBI.

Reduction in expenditure by ministries in the last quarter of the current fiscal, as suggested by the Union Finance Ministry, would further help in cushioning the fiscal situation. Analysts note the revenue loss from corporate tax rate cut announced last September will not be more than Rs 70,000-80,000 crore, as against Rs 1.45 lakh crore estimated earlier by the government.

Though a breach in fiscal deficit is being anticipated, these steps combined would help contain its quantum. Rough calculations suggest the government may get Rs 2.36 lakh crore from these unexpected revenue sources, while the shortfall from taxes and disinvestment is Rs 3.10 lakh crore, resulting in a fiscal deficit of around 3.7 per cent of GDP, which could even slip further, given a lower 7.5 per cent nominal GDP growth rate projected in the government's first advance estimates. The Budget had pegged fiscal deficit at 3.3 per cent of GDP for 2019-20. In a report on economy on Wednesday, India Ratings & Research said it expects shortfall in tax and non-tax revenue to result in the fiscal deficit slipping to 3.6 per cent of GDP.

The highest collection among the unexpected sources would likely come from payments by telcos, even though they have sought a review of the payment deadlines from the SC. The payout by all telcos combined could be as high as Rs 1.43 lakh crore after the dues for spectrum usage charges (SUC) linked to AGR is taken into account.

In a reprieve to Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea among others, the Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to hear their plea seeking permission to ne-

Rough calculations suggest the Centre may get Rs 2.36 lakh crore from these unexpected revenue sources, while the shortfall from taxes and disinvestment is Rs 3.10 lakh crore, resulting in a fiscal deficit of about 3.7 per cent of GDP

gotiate the timeline for payment of AGR with the DoT next week. As of July last year, Airtel had to pay nearly Rs 21,682 crore in AGR dues, while the combined entity of Vodafone Idea has to shell out as much as Rs 28,308 crore. Reliance Communications, which is

currently undergoing insolvency proceedings, owed the government about Rs 16,456 crore as of July 2019. The court's judgment on AGR had impacted non-tele-

com public sector enterprises, such as GAIL, Power Grid, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and RailTel, which are contesting the levy.

The government will also get an additional Rs 58,000 crore, compared to Rs 90,000 crore accounted for as surplus transfer from the RBI in the Union Budget 2019-20 for spending in the current financial year. The government is also expecting Rs 35,000 crore under the Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, last week, said "about Rs 35,000 crore has been settled" for cases related to excise and service tax regime.

Citing fiscal situation, the Finance Ministry last month cut the amount various ministries and departments can spend in the last quarter to a maximum of 25 per cent of their Budget estimate for the entire financial year, as against the earlier limit of 33 per cent. The Centre is also expected to miss on its target from disinvestment collections. In this year's Budget, the government has set a disinvestment target of Rs 1,05,000 crore, compared to Rs 80,000 crore in 2018-19. However, the Centre has raised only Rs 18,094.59 crore so far.

RELIANCE JIO ONLY TELCO TO CLEAR AGR DUES BY PAYING ₹195 CR AS DEADLINE ENDS

No coercive action against telcos not paying dues: DoT

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

ON A day when none of the telcos or non-telecom companies, barring Reliance Jio, turned up to pay clear their adjusted gross revenues (AGR) dues, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) Thursday evening issued a letter stating that there would be no coercive action against all licensees, both telecom and non-telecom, until further orders. The deadline for telcos and non-telecom companies to pay the AGR dues was to end on Thursday.

A detailed status report of compliance, or otherwise may be sent to the CGCA (Controller General of Communication Accounts) TSP (telecom service provider) wise on 24.01.2020 by 5 PM," the DoT letter, sent out by the Licensing Finance Policy Wing of the DoT, said.

The stance taken by DoT was also confirmed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who while speaking to *The Indian Express* ruled out the possibility of immediate and automatic triggering of contempt of court case against the companies if they failed to pay by January 23 deadline.

₹3L cr sought from non-telco PSUs a 'communication gap': Pradhan

New Delhi: Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the Rs 3 lakh crore sought by the DoT from non-telecom PSUs, such as GAIL, Oil India Ltd and PowerGrid, was a result of "communication gap" as these firms are not liable to pay any dues following the Supreme Court's October 24 ruling that non-telecom revenues of telecom firms should be included for considering payments of government dues.

OIL and GAIL, which were not a party to the litigation that led to the

October 24 order, filed clarificatory applications in the Supreme Court.

Following the October 24 order, the DoT had sought Rs 1.47 lakh crore from Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and 13 other telecom companies. Parallely, it raised a demand of Rs 1.72 lakh crore from gas utility GAIL India Ltd, Rs 48,000 crore from Oil India Ltd, Rs 40,000 crore from PowerGrid, Rs 15,019 crore from Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and a few more demands on firms such as RailTel. **PTI**

Court (SC) had heard their modification pleas.

Officials of the DoT had on Wednesday told *The Indian Express* that they would have to move a separate civil suit seeking the apex court's directions on what it should do going ahead, if it seeks to recover the AGR dues from all the companies.

According to the October 24, 2019 judgment of the SC, both

telcos and non-telecom companies were required to clear their AGR dues within three months, the deadline for which expired on Thursday.

Both Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel had approached the apex court on Monday seeking its permission to "work out feasible terms mutually with DoT (Department of Telecommunications)" to ensure that they remain a "going concern".

Vodafone Idea had, in its plea, said that it was "facing a huge financial stress and is not in a position to make either up front payment of the amounts due or provide any financial bank guarantees to securitise the amounts due".

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, in its plea, stressed upon the larger ramifications, the financial viability of the companies impacted by the AGR judgment, and large scale job losses which could happen if no relief was given.

The apex court had on October 24 last agreed with the DoT's definition of AGR, and said that the companies, both telecom and non-telecom, must pay all dues they owe to the government along with interest and penalty. Following the judg-

ment, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea had unsuccessfully tried to persuade the DoT to relax the deadline for payment of dues.

Having failed there, the companies then moved the apex court with a review of the October 24 judgment.

The review petition, which was junked by the court last week, did not give any extension on the deadline for paying AGR dues either.

The total payout by all telecom companies combined could be as high as Rs 1.43 lakh crore after the dues for spectrum usage charges (SUC) linked to AGR is also taken into account.

According to industry sources, while Vodafone Idea may have to shell out as much as Rs 53,000 crore, Bharti Airtel will have to pay nearly Rs 35,590 crore.

Tata Teleservices, which sold its business to Bharti Airtel, will have to pay as much as Rs 14,000 crore in AGR dues, sources said.

Reliance Jio Infocomm, which had the least AGR burden at Rs 195 crore, cleared all its dues till January 31, 2020, according to sources aware of the development.

Airtel's chief regulatory officer quits

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

BHARTI AIRTEL'S chief regulatory officer Ravi Gandhi has resigned. The development comes to light at a time when the company is embroiled in the AGR issue and is running from pillar to pole, with the DoT on one side and the Supreme Court on the other, to prevent a Rs 35,500-crore payout.

An Airtel executive confirmed the development but did not disclose the reason behind Gandhi's departure. People close to Gandhi said he resigned a month ago and was currently serving his notice period. He will leave the company on March 31. He will be joining another firm outside the telecom sector, they said. A text message sent to Gandhi did not elicit a response.

Airtel is due to pay Rs 35,500 crore to the DoT after the SC recently rejected a review plea into its October 24 verdict asking telcos to deposit their licence fee and spectrum usage charge dues of over 14 years within three months.

Mondelez India settles tax dispute under Sabka Vishwas Scheme; pays ₹439 crore

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

MONDELEZ INDIA Foods Pvt Ltd (earlier Cadbury India) has settled one of its most controversial tax disputes, pertaining to its alleged plant in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, with the government under the Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019, which was introduced by the Finance Ministry in September 2019.

The firm, which was accused of evading taxes of about Rs 580 crore, excluding taxes and penalties, paid Rs 439 crore on January 20, under the amnesty scheme, said sources. The total tax dues of the company with interest and penalties stood at over Rs 820 crore. The company had made an application under the amnesty scheme in December 2019.

Mondelez is also being probed by the CBI after the Central Vigilance Commission referred the tax evasion case to the agency, as it found allegations that certain state and central government officials were allegedly bribed by the company to facilitate the tax evasion. In 2017, the CBI registered a case against Mondelez under the Prevention of Corruption Act, but it is not clear if the agency has filed a charge sheet in the case.

"We continue to believe that the decision to claim an excise tax benefit in respect of our plant in Baddi was valid. However, the matter relates back to 2010, and it could take several more years to

The firm, which was accused of evading taxes of about Rs 580 cr, excluding taxes and penalties, paid Rs 439 cr on January 20

be resolved through the legal process. The Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019, introduced by the government in 2019, was an opportunity to settle a potentially protracted litigation. Like other tax payers, Mondelez India chose to take advantage of the amnesty, and we settled several legacy disputes including the Baddi matter," the official spokesperson of the company told *The Indian Express*.

"The decision to take advantage of the tax amnesty was made in the interest of putting an end to this issue so that we can focus on what we do best, our purpose of empowering people to snack right. India is a key market for Mondelez International and we will continue to prioritize growing our business her," the spokesperson added.

The tax evasion case pertains to an investigation done by the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (now DG GSTI) in 2011 for allegedly misusing 'area-based exemption' for its new unit in Baddi, even before it came into existence, to avail excise duty benefits. A tax demand of about

Rs 580 crore was raised in 2015 against Mondelez, for allegedly evading excise duty by fraudulently taking exemption for one of its 'ghost' production units in Himachal Pradesh's Baddi area.

Under the norms, the area-based exemption for new industrial units of firms in Himachal Pradesh provided full exemption from excise duties for production of specified goods for a period of 10 years. However, for availing such exemption the unit should have been established before March 2010. During the investigation, the DCGST officials allegedly found that Mondelez claimed excise duty exemption for its new unit in Sandoli village in Baddi relating to a period even before it came into existence.

In 2017, Mondelez International agreed to pay \$13 million to settle US Securities and Exchange Commission charges that its Cadbury unit violated the provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act through efforts to expand the chocolate plant in Baddi. The SEC said that Cadbury India paid a local businessman \$90,666 in 2010 to work with government officials in Himachal Pradesh and obtain licenses and approvals for the expansion of the Baddi unit.

The Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, was a one-time measure for liquidation of past disputes of Central Excise and Service Tax as well as to ensure disclosure of unpaid taxes by a person eligible to make a declaration.

'69% of routine work done by managers will be automated by 2024'

By 2024, artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies such as virtual personal assistants and chatbots will replace almost 69 per cent of the manager's workload, as per Gartner

OUTLOOK

Currently, managers often need to spend time filling in forms, updating information and approving workflows. By using AI to automate these tasks, they can spend less time managing transactions and can invest more time on learning, performance management and goal setting

SHORTAGE

Enterprises have been experiencing critical talent shortage for several years

UNTAPPED POOL

Organisations need to consider people with disabilities, an untapped pool of critically skilled talent

ORGANISATIONS EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Gartner estimates that organisations actively employing people with disabilities have 89 per cent higher retention rates, a 72 per cent increase in employee productivity and a 29 per cent increase in profitability

AI AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

will undeniably change the role of the manager and will allow employees to extend their degree of responsibility and influence, without taking on management tasks

APPLICATION LEADERS focused on innovation and AI are now accountable for improving worker experience, developing worker skills and building organisational competency in responsible use of AI

BY 2023,

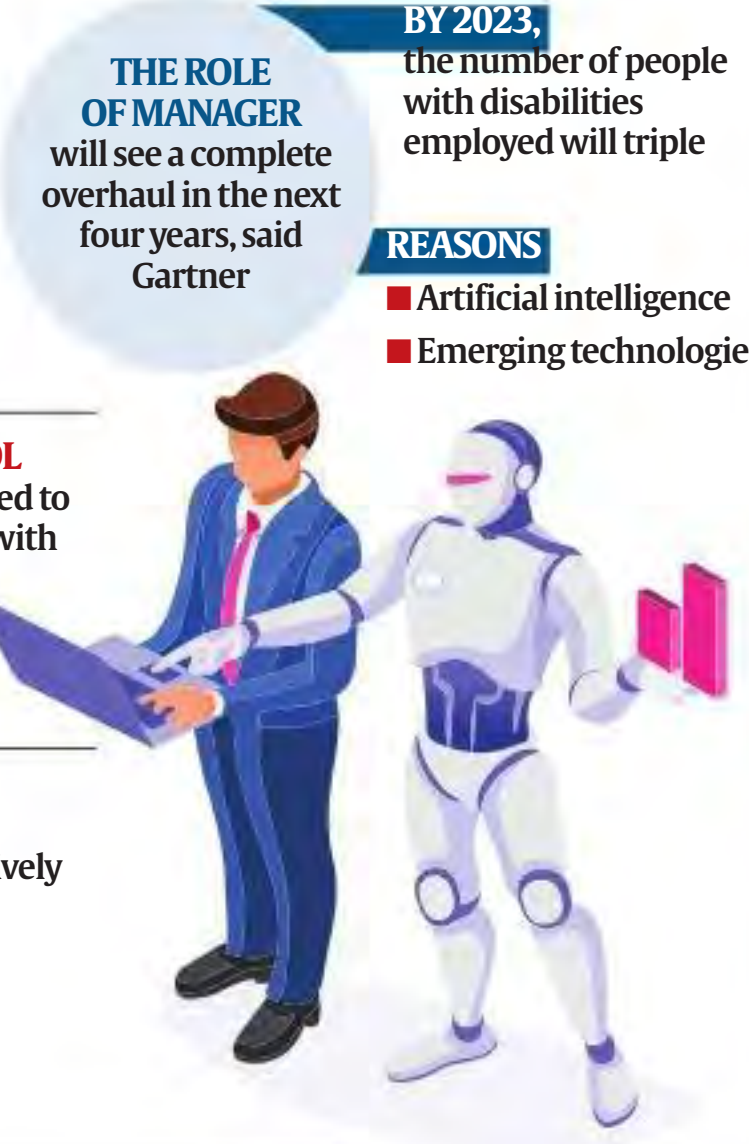
the number of people with disabilities employed will triple

REASONS

- Artificial intelligence
- Emerging technologies

NEARLY 75% of heads of recruiting reported that talent shortages will have a major effect on their organisations, according to Gartner

Source: Gartner/PTI



50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

If I were not a minister today, I would be bidding for Air India, says Goyal

BARUN JHA
DAVOS, JANUARY 23

AS THE government works on divesting debt-laden Air India, Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said if he was not a minister, he would be bidding for the airline. Air India has been in the red for long and the government is now in the process of finalising the contours for its disinvestment.

Responding to a query about proposed disinvestment of Air India, BPCL and other companies, Goyal said in the first term, the government had inherited an economy which was in pretty terrible shape. Steps were taken to put the economy back in shape and if the government had looked at divesting these jewels, it would not have got a great value.

He was talking at a session on 'Strategic Outlook: India' at the WEF 2020 here. "If I weren't a minister today, I would be bidding for Air India. It has some of the best bilaterals the world over... a well managed and efficient Air India



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal with Apple CEO Tim Cook at the 50th World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos Thursday. Photo: @PiyushGoyal twitter handle

with lot more good aircraft put in using these bilaterals is nothing short of a gold mine to my mind," Goyal said. Bilaterals refers to a pact between two countries that

allows each other's airlines to operate services with a specific number of seats. Goyal holds the portfolios of Railways as well as Commerce and Industry. **PTI**

'Talks with EU, UK soon'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

COMMERCE AND Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said India would hold talks with the EU and the UK to forge free trade agreements. He, however, insisted that the China-dominated Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact, in its current form, is an "unbalanced trade agreement which is really not fulfilling the guiding principles on which it started".

India could also clinch a trade deal with Australia — an RCEP member — in the next 6-8 months, having revived talks that were stuck, he said. Speaking at a session of the WEF Summit, Goyal also exuded confidence that the Indian economy is well-poised to take off and there is growing enthusiasm among foreign firms to invest in the country. **FE**

US officials see EU, UK trade deals in 2020, not with India

REUTERS
DAVOS, JANUARY 23

THE TRUMP administration expects to secure trade deals with the European Union and Britain this year, but not India, top U.S. officials said on Thursday.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in several television interviews that they expected to finalise agreements with those allies in 2020.

On Wednesday, US President

Donald Trump said he hoped to finalise a pact with Europe before he faces reelection in November.

"The president is very focused on trade and he's very focused on Europe," Mnuchin, speaking from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, told *CNBC*, adding that a meeting between US and European officials this week was "good." "We're very focused on a UK free trade agreement, which we hope to get done this year as well," Mnuchin added.

Ross, speaking on *Fox Business Network*, echoed that sentiment

on the timeline but said it was more complicated working with the EU, given the number of countries involved.

"Our working assumption is that it will not fail and that we will make a deal with them," Ross said, referring to the EU.

On India, Ross said that while the United States was eager to cooperate with the country and was in discussions, with more talks likely, a pact was unlikely in 2020.

"I very much doubt that would occur this year," he told *Fox Business Network*.

Data privacy must be seen as a human right: Nadella

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAVOS, JANUARY 23

MICROSOFT CEO Satya Nadella on Thursday said data privacy must be seen as a human right that needs to be protected and have full transparency.

Speaking here at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Summit 2020, Nadella said it also

needs to be ensured that the huge data being used with consent is for the good of the society.

During a conversation with WEF Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab, Nadella also favoured a debate on CEO pay and all kinds of remuneration, including return on capital.

Asked what was his recipe for doing good and at the same time doing well as the most valuable

company in the world, Nadella said, "It comes down to having that core business design: when you do well, the world around you does well."

"People and institutions are all part of our society, so if you don't think about the broader systems, it's not stable," he added.

"The question ultimately goes back to what is the market saying and what is society saying?"

MEANWHILE

CEOs welcome pay alignment with ESG criteria

Davos: A lot of global CEOs have indicated their support for a proposed alignment of top executive salaries with the firm's performance on environmental, social and governance criteria. **PTI**

New internet security principles

Davos: The World Economic Forum on Thursday announced new internet security principles, developed by a group of leading ISPs and multilateral organisations, to help protect up to 1 billion users. Unveiling the new initiative here at its 50th annual meeting, the WEF said BT, Deutsche Telekom, Du Telecom, Europol, Global Cyber Alliance, Internet Society among others endorse these principles. **PTI**

RBI deals in ₹10,000 cr of bids in 4th special OMO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

IN THE fourth special open market operation (OMO) auctions, the Reserve Bank of India on Thursday bought Rs 10,000 crore worth of long-term securities and sold Rs 2,950 crore worth of short-term government bonds.

Last week, the RBI had said it will simultaneously purchase and sell government securities under open market operations (OMOs) of Rs 10,000 crore each.

ECB’s Lagarde launches policy overhaul

REUTERS
FRANKFURT, JANUARY 23

THE EUROPEAN Central Bank launched a broad review of its policy Thursday that is likely to see President Christine Lagarde redefine the ECB’s main goal.

The euro zone’s central bank has fallen short of its inflation target of just under 2 per cent for years. ECB rate-setters did not make any policy change on Thursday, which would leave it adding 20 billion euros worth of bonds to its 2.6 trillion euro portfolio every month and charging banks 0.5 per cent on their idle cash for most of the year.

DHFL administrator orders legal audit of wholesale loan book

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

THE ADMINISTRATOR of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL), R Subramanikumar, has commissioned a legal audit to ascertain the enforceability of loan documents and security associated with the company’s wholesale book.

DHFL has been undergoing ins-

GoAir suspends some flights on delay in aircraft and engine deliveries

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

LOW-COST CARRIER GoAir said Thursday that it was temporarily suspending some of its flights on account of airframe manufacturer Airbus and engine-maker Pratt & Whitney deferring delivery of planes and engines, respectively.

“In the last four weeks, we have gone through unplanned grounding of aircraft, which were supporting our current operation of fleet. And now, we have been informed by our business partners Airbus and Pratt & Whitney of their inability to deliver previously promised aircraft and engines through March 9, 2020 that are required to support our current growth. As a result, we have been forced to temporarily suspend certain flights that are part of our network, schedule and open for sale,” GoAir said in a statement.

In December, the DGCA asked all P&W engines that have been used for over 3,000 hours of GoAir’s A320neo aircraft to be inspected.

The airline also said that it was undertaking these flight suspensions as far ahead of time as possible in order to minimise the inconvenience to its customers. However, it did not disclose any details of the timeline. GoAir operates Airbus A320neo fleet powered by the Pratt & Whitney engines that

MINIMISING FLYERS’ TROUBLE

■ The airline said it was undertaking these flight suspensions as far ahead of time as possible in order to minimise the inconvenience to its customers

■ In December, the DGCA asked all P&W engines that have been used for over 3,000 hours of GoAir’s A320neo aircraft be inspected

have faced continuous glitches over the last two years due to a variety of issues.

A senior DGCA official refused comment on the issue citing it to be an “internal matter” between the companies.

In November and December, the airline had cancelled dozens of flights due to delay in aircraft deliveries and non-availability of engines. Further, in the last four weeks, the carrier said, it has gone through unplanned grounding of aircraft, which were supporting its current operation of fleet. Earlier this month, the DGCA had extended the deadline it set for IndiGo to replace all 135 unmodified Pratt & Whitney engines from January 31 to May 31.

HDFC Bank to retain Egon Zehnder to identify Aditya Puri’s successor

REUTERS
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

HDFC BANK will retain global executive search firm Egon Zehnder to identify a successor to managing director Aditya Puri, the country’s top private lender said on Thursday.

“Egon Zehnder has been recommended by the search committee and unanimously appointed by the bank’s board,” Neeraj Jha, a spokesman for HDFC Bank, said in an email, confirming a Reuters report on the matter from earlier on Thursday.

Reuters had earlier reported that the HDFC Bank board had tapped the global head-hunting firm in a bid to end a boardroom impasse over Puri’s successor and zero in on a candidate.

Four sources familiar with the

INVESTMENT IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

RBI raises short-term FPI debt investment limit to 30% from 20% to boost inflows

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

IN A move that could lead to higher foreign inflows, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has hiked the short-term investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from 20 per cent to 30 per cent of the total FPI investment in Central government securities (including Treasury Bills) or state development loans.

In another measure aimed at giving a leg-up to bankruptcy proceedings, the central bank has exempted FPI debt investments in corporates undergoing insolvency resolution plan.

The central bank has also increased the FPI in corporate bonds from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. While the RBI move is aimed at arresting the outflow of FPI money from the debt market, analysts said short-term is hot money which can exit at a faster rate.

FPI investments in Security Receipts are currently exempted from the short-term investment limit and the issue limit. The RBI has extended the exemptions to debt instruments issued by Asset Reconstruction Companies and debt instruments issued by an entity under the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process as per the resolution plan approved by the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. “The RBI move

FPI IN CORPORATE BONDS HIKE TO 30%

■ The central bank has also increased the FPI in corporate bonds from 20 per cent to 30 per cent

■ FPI investments in Security Receipts (SRs) are currently exempted from the short-term investment limit and the issue limit

■ The RBI has extended the

to bring insolvency process under exemption will boost the investor interest,” said an analyst.

According to the current norms, short-term investments by a FPI should not exceed 20 per cent of the total investment of that FPI in either central government securities (including treasury bills) or state development loans.

The hike in short-term debt investment limit has come at a time when the debt market witnessed an outflow of Rs 11,917 crore in January this year. The month of December 2019 also saw outflows of Rs 4,616 crore and November outflows were Rs 2,358 crore.

While the total equity investment in calendar year 2019 was Rs 101,122 crore, debt market could attract only Rs 25,882 crore.

India’s corporate bond market has remained shallow despite a host of measures by the govern-

ment and the regulator. There is little or no incentive for market making. A majority of the bonds issued by companies are privately placed with a select set of investors in India rather than through a public issue; this is done to both save time and avoid greater disclosures. Besides, defaults by IL&FS and delayed payments by some NBFCs have led to liquidity crunch in the financial sector.

Analysts are expecting more measures to deepen the debt market in the forthcoming budget on February 1. In her Budget speech last year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that an action plan to deepen the market for long term bonds including for deepening markets for corporate bond repos, credit default swaps etc, with a specific focus on the infrastructure sector, would be put in place.

Doing biz in India for Japanese companies difficult compared to China: Maruti official

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 23

DOING BUSINESS in India is very difficult compared to China and Southeast Asian countries, said Kenichihiro Toyofuku, director at Maruti Suzuki India, on Thursday.

Addressing 32 businessmen representing Japanese companies from Kobe at a Kobe-Ahmedabad & Hyogo-Gujarat Economic Cooperation Seminar, organised at Ahmedabad Management Association, Toyofuku said: “In most cases, from the point of view of Japanese companies, doing business in India is very difficult compared to China and Southeast Asia.”

Giving tips to the Japanese businesses about investing in India, Toyofuku said, “Last 15 years, most of the economic development in India has happened in metropolitan cities. This is my personal observation... Last 2-3

“Last 15 years, most of the economic development in India has happened in metropolitan cities. This is my personal observation... Last 2-3 years, economic development of India is slowing down.” He added business activities in bigger cities in India were “decreasing.”

The comments from the Japanese car manufacturer on difficulties faced in doing business comes despite India improving its score in the World Bank’s global Ease of Doing Business rankings where it rose 14 notches to be placed 63rd among 190 countries in October 2019. At present, there are over 4,800 Japanese business

establishments in India, of which 321 are in Gujarat.

“From my experience, small and medium sized companies have more chances to start a business in India,” the MSIL official said, comparing the SMEs to bigger Japanese companies. He however did not expand on his statement. The official said the kind of “services and goods” the Japanese firms plan to bring into the Indian market is “an important factor for business.” Toyofuku said Ahmedabad was one of the potential cities where Japanese companies can find “good partners.”

Toshihiro Horuchi, director, managing executive officer at Kamigumi Co was the leader of the Japanese business mission. Katsunori Hosokawa, general manager, Kawasaki Heavy Industries and deputy leader of the business mission, was present at the event, which was held as part of the Kobe-Ahmedabad sister pact.

Top Indian firms’ CSR arms join forces to combat climate change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

PHILANTHROPY ARMS of top corporates, including the Tatas, Mahindras, Godrejs and Premjis, on Wednesday announced a partnership to minimise the climate change impact.

The India Climate Collaborative (ICC) will be working to strengthen the climate community locally, build a climate narrative and drive solutions that will ensure both the natural world and people thrive.

The announcement comes amid an increased conversation

on climate change, with the 50th session of the World Economic Forum in Davos generating the maximum flutter, which has also seen US President Donald Trump calling the greens “prophets of doom.”

“Our collective leadership through the ICC will indicate to the world that Indian philanthropy is ready to be a leader in climate action,” Tata Trusts Chairman Ratan Tata said in a statement.

The ICC seeks to build a collaborative platform for diverse voices, innovative solutions, and collective investments, the statement said, without quantifying the money which the corporates are

pooling together for the platform.

Vidya Shah of financial services firm Edelweiss’ corporate social arm, Rohini Nilekani of Infosys’ CSR arm and banker Harmendra Kothari are among the other names in the 40-member collective.

“It is clear that the world cannot continue to pursue a business-as-usual approach and nobody can solve the problem on their own. Business, government, and philanthropy must collaborate within and among themselves to drive results quickly and at scale,” Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra was quoted as saying.

Sebi to tap AI, big data analytics to curb market manipulations

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is planning to set up a data lake project for improving surveillance to monitor and analyse social media posts to keep a tab on possible market manipulations. The regulator is in the process of acquiring the technology and has already floated tenders for the same.

Speaking at an event, Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi said a lot of improvement and efficiency can be brought by using advanced technology and data analytics in surveillance of capital markets.

“Sebi has already planned (a) data lake project to augment analytical capability with advanced analytical tools, namely artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), deep learning, big



Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi in Mumbai on Thursday.
Narendra Vaskar

data analytics, pattern recognition, processing of structured and unstructured data, text mining and natural language processing, etc,” said Tyagi.

A data lake is a centralised

BRIEFLY

ITI to raise ₹1,400 cr through FPO

Bengaluru: Ahead of the Further Public Offering (FPO), public sector unit ITI Thursday said it intends to raise about Rs 1,400 crore of which Rs 607 crore shall be utilised for re-paying loans.

OBC Q3 profit jumps 39.11% to ₹201.66 cr

Mumbai: Oriental Bank of Commerce on Thursday reported a 39.11 per cent jump in net profit at Rs 201.66 crore for the quarter ended December 2019, mainly due to reduction in bad loans.

ONGC gets 28 bids for 50 oil, gas fields

New Delhi: ONGC has received bids for 50 of the 64 small and marginal oil and gas fields it has offered in a first-of-its-kind bid round for raising production by involving private firms. As many as 12 firms made 28 bids for 50 fields at the close of bidding on January 17, sources said.

NITI to develop National Data Platform

New Delhi: NITI Aayog will develop a national data and analytics platform to make all government data accessible to stakeholders. NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar released the Vision Document for the National Data and Analytics Platform. **PTI**

VW in Canada to pay Canadian \$196.5 mn fine

Toronto: A court Wednesday ordered Volkswagen to pay a fine of Canadian dollars 196.5 million (US \$150 million) after the automaker pleaded guilty to violating environmental laws in the emissions cheating scandal. **AFP**

‘Panel to review Roxor’s ‘trade dress’ breach’

Mumbai: Mahindra and Mahindra Thursday said the US International Trade Commission has decided to review the initial findings related to Mahindra Roxor’s ‘trade dress’ violations of Fiat Chrysler’s ‘Jeep’ model. **FE**

I.C.A.R. - INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Bengaluru Campus, Hebbal Post Office,
Bengaluru (Karnataka) - 560 024, Phone No - 080-23417895 /
23412835, Fax: No - 080-23412509 ; E-Mail : aaivrbng@gmail.com
F.No.5-253/HighSpeedRefrigeratedCentrifuge/CRP/19-20 Dated: 22.01.2020

CORRIGENDUM
E-PROCUREMENT RE-TENDER NOTICE
The E-Tender with ID: 2020_DARE_538326_1 for the Supply & Commission of High Speed Refrigerated Centrifuge is hereby Re-Tendered on e-procurement website of CPP Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/> app and Institute's website www.ivri.nic.in. The closing date of Re-tender is **04.02.2020 upto 3.00 PM**
Note: Any further corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd-
Asstt. Adm. Officer

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.
CIN U74999TN19715GC005967

Tender Notice NIT.No. 40/CW/DO/T.No. 58/2019-20 Dt.21.01.2020

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under **"Two Cover System"** for the following work from Civil Class-I State level Civil Contractors registered in State/Central or Quasi Government Organisations having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 PM on **27.02.2020** and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM.

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Formation of Roads and Culverts at SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre, Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli District.	Rs.2280.00 lakhs	Rs.11,50,000/- in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai.

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website: www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.sipcot.in

MANAGING DIRECTOR, SIPCOT, CHENNAI-8

NMDC Limited
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
DOMMALAI COMPLEX, DOMMALAI TOWNSHIP PO- SANGUR TALUK, BALLARI DISTRICT, KARNATAKA. PIN CODE - 583118. CIN: L13100TG196SGO001674

1st CORRIGENDUM Date: 10/01/2020
Tender Enquiry No. CE/W/10(138)/2019 dated 10/12/2019

Last date & Time of download/sale and submission of tender document Up to 15.00 Hrs and for opening of Part-I by 15.30 Hrs.	As per Original Tender	Amended as
"Construction of 2 nos Toilet Block (Ladies and Gents) Including Electrical Works at Bommaghatta Village"	10/01/2020	10/02/2020

Other terms / Conditions / clauses etc. of tender document will remain unchanged. The details of tender document can be viewed / downloaded from our website www.nmdc.co.in

For and on behalf of NMDC Limited,
Dy. General Manager (Civil)

Date: 24/01/2020

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Dommalai Township-583118, Dist - Bellary (Karnataka) CIN: L13100TG196SGO001674

OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sealed tenders in two bid system are inviting from the competent and experienced bidders for the following works:
1.Tender No. CE/W/5(239)/2020 vide Date of notification 24.01.2020 and Name of Work: "Assistance works in attending day to day complaints like carpentry, plumbing, mason and other various miscellaneous works as per the complaints received at Civil Maintenance Office for one year (Job Contract Basis)" with estimated cost of ₹ 30.23 Lakhs and period of completion for work 08 months (Including Rainy Season from July to October) with EMD is ₹ 20,232.00 and sale/download period from 24.01.2020 to 24.02.2020.
2.Tender No. CE/W/1(834)/2018 vide Date of notification 24.01.2020 and Name of Work: "Construction of Supporting structure and installation of Lift at Screening Plant, DIOM" with estimated cost of ₹ 48.40 Lakhs and period of completion for work 08 months (Excluding Rainy Season from July to October) with EMD is ₹ 48,500.00 and sale/download period from 27.01.2020 to 28.02.2020.
For accessing the tender document or download from NMDC Limited website <https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdcenter/default.aspx>. For any clarification bidders may contact DGM (Civil), by mailing to diomcivil@nmdc.co.in or by fax message to 08395-274644.

For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd.
DGM (Civil)

Date: 24.01.2020

AROUND TOWN



In a Spot

REVISIT THE famous Agatha Christie novel, *Towards Zero*, in a play format, directed by Renu S Chopra and presented by Dramatech. A whodunnit, is set in the '90s and built on a double deception turning on itself, promises edge-of-the-seat thrills. The play unravels a crime that has been long in the making and planned to the minutest detail, all in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. At Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, on January 25, 7pm. Tickets available at IHC.



Eat Away

CELEBRATE THE Chinese Year of the Rat with a special food festival at The Hong Kong Club, Andaz. Explore a four-course set menu specially crafted by Chef Yu Fuhai, with vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. Prices Rs 1,999 onwards. On till January 31, at Andaz, Aerocity.



Hunger Pangs

MUMBAI-BASED photographer and Padma Shri awardee Sudharak Olwe (*pictured*) is displaying his photographs on malnourished children from his travels to Chhattisgarh, Assam, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, where he chronicles the devastating effects of malnutrition. At Alliance Francaise, DLF Phase III, on display till February 8.



We the People

LISTEN TO academician Nivedita Menon as part of the bi-weekly Shaheen Bagh lecture series. Her lecture, titled 'Nagrikta pe Charcha', will take place on January 26, and aims to study what it means for a people to adopt, enact and give to oneself the Constitution. At 3 am, on January 26, Shaheen Bagh, Okhla.



New Flavours

GEEK OUT on your love for Manga comics and tuck in scrumptious Asian cuisine with the newly revamped menu at Youmee. The new menu includes japas, sushi, dimsums, ramen, bowls, meals and desserts. These delicacies can be best accompanied with an implausible range of mocktails, frappes, shakes, and flavoured teas. At Youmee, GK2. Cost for two: Rs 2,000.



Music of the Maquette

Dayanita Singh's latest book is as much about her as it is about tabla virtuoso, Zakir Hussain

BENITA FERNANDO

"IT WAS like looking in a mirror," says Zakir Hussain. To an engrossed gathering, the prodigious tabla player recalls the experience of being photographed by Dayanita Singh 40 years ago. Singh, then studying at the National Institute of Design (NID), shot Hussain across six winters in the '80s as part of her book design coursework. Hussain saw something of himself in the 18-year-old student, a common desire to chart a course even if the destination was unknown.

The photographs would culminate in a photobook, titled *Zakir Hussain*. Hussain, Singh and their friends assembled recently at ARTISANS' gallery in Mumbai's Kala Ghoda, for a private launch, not of this book, but of the book's maquette, made in 1985. Copies of the maquette are turned into pages on the walls of the gallery, through which we meet several Hussains — a son and sibling, a husband and father, a disciple and guru, and a tabla player.

German publisher Steidl has reproduced Singh's maquette as a facsimile so perfect that readers will be tempted to wipe out the smudge marks and feel the tape on the pages. The reproduction also manages to accurately capture the yellowing pages, Singh's handwritten text, and numerous dimensions that

were penciled in for each photo. The Zakir Hussain Maquette is presented as three parts in a grey slip case — the facsimile, a poster (or as Singh calls it, a poster-book), and a reader, which contains excerpts from Singh's notes for the *Zakir Hussain* book.

Singh, 58, pays as much attention to photography as to the photograph. Continuously challenging modes of dissemination, she has come out with mobile "museums", which allow their owners to customise the display, such as the Museum Bhavan book-object (published by Steidl in 2017). She has also made Suitcase Museum, Pocket Museum and Kochi Box and prefers to be called an "offset artist".

She says, "I don't have the desire to make massive prints. In the art world, however, it has become more about the image. That way, we are trying to compete with painting. Here, the book is my work. It's a way of addressing the book as an art form on par with painting and photography

In the art world, it has become more about the image. We are trying to compete with painting. Here, the book is my work. It's a way of addressing the book as an art form on par with painting and photography

DAYANITA SINGH

art form on par with painting and photography." Even the choice of the word "museum" is a political act for a woman photographer attempting to rethink the often masculine space of photography. After these unorthodox predecessors, Singh imagined that her latest work would be her most 'bookish' book yet. However, the maquette's strength lies precisely in this — it continuously calls attention to itself, offering a peek into Singh's art as



Zakir Hussain with Dayanita Singh in a 1980s photograph; pages of the maquette at ARTISANS' Photos courtesy: Dayanita Singh

much as Hussain's. The word 'maquette' comes from sculpture, a small-scale model that sculptors make, a 3D object. In publishing, the term offers new ways of approaching a book, of touching rather than reading, of constructing rather than printing.

For Singh, Hussain wasn't just a muse, but also a guru. The poster, with multiple shots of Hussain performing with his late father Ustad Alla Rakha, is titled 'My Guru'. Singh says she could have used that title for the maquette, too. She has experimented with layout, playing with scale and placement to break out of the necessities of a grid. "We were taught the grid so much at NID that all the photobooks I saw were about the grid." From Hussain, she learned the value of improvisation. "Zakir is who he is because of how he improvises the

taal. What Zakir could do with the taal, I did with the grid." If one were to read the maquette as music, it opens with an alaaap, then eases into the opening of the raag. Towards the end, in the concerted effort of strips of contact sheets, is a crescendo, a jhala. The influence Hussain had on Singh was pervasive. "He was my role model. He showed me — this is how you engage with life, this is what it means to be an artist, that anything you do has to be done with single-minded focus," says Singh.

In 1986, *Zakir Hussain*, Singh's book from the maquette, was published by Himalayan Books and launched in Delhi. It didn't sell and is out of print today. "Someone once came up to me and said I couldn't become a photographer by just shooting one man," says Singh, adding, "In 1986, to make a book about one

person was unheard of. You'd shoot a president or prime minister, but not a musician."

The book was different from this maquette, for Singh excluded photos that she felt were too personal to be shared publicly. There is no such filter on the Zakir Hussain Maquette, and we see some of his most intimate and iconic moments. We are looking simultaneously at Singh's first work and her latest. She says, "I am exposing my beginnings. Not exposing (what I do) now — it would be different as everything is so defined now. I have made myself quite vulnerable with the maquette, especially with the reader."

The Zakir Hussain Maquette is available online for Rs 2,620, and a special edition at ARTISANS' for Rs 3,500

Not on Air

Anubhav Singh Bassi on his preference for live shows, and where his jokes come from

EKTAA MALIK

THE CHANCES of you having heard of Anubhav Singh Bassi are rare, unless you are one of the regulars at the live stand-up circuit, and don't get their laughs through viral videos, like most of us. Bassi, in all probability, is the bestselling stand-up comic you haven't heard of. He has toured about 35 cities — as far as Gorakhpur and Surat — in a span of six months, with sold-out shows. We searched for Bassi on YouTube, and there are only two videos available — one where he talks about cheating, which has 27 million views, and the other on waxing which has 15 million views.

We wondered about the lack of his presence in the digital space. "That's because I am not a YouTuber," chuckles the comic, as we meet with him on a chilly winter morning in Delhi. "I am a live performer. For me, to develop content, I need a live audience. Without that, we would never know if the line or the joke is actually funny or not. Open mics are like laboratories, that's where we test out new jokes. And there is no guarantee that if a joke works in one place, it will be consistently funny across the country. A joke is always a work in progress," says Bassi, 30.

Born and brought up Meerut — the city is a constant refrain in his act — Bassi was on track to be a lawyer. He graduated from National Law University, Lucknow, arrived in Delhi, and started preparing for the civil services. But it dawned upon him that the run of the mill life was not meant for him. Next up was a restaurant, a fast food one at that. "But that failed as well. I even worked with a startup, but to no avail. In my spare time, I started going to open mics", adds the Delhi-based comic. He says, "I used to watch a lot of stuff by Sumit Anand, Pratyush Choubey and Zakir Khan. One day, I googled about an open mic and landed there. They asked if I had a script, and I just muttered, "apni bezzati toh kar hi lenge".

Bassi's show, Bas Kar Bassi, is a two-hour gig, with most of humour coming from his own experiences. In the past, he



Anubhav Singh Bassi

has made fun of the black attire of lawyers, "Why? In this 45-degree Delhi heat". Toxic masculinity features prominently in the video where he talks about getting waxed. "Humein kehte hain ki tum strong ho, koi yeh nahin kehta ki tameez se rehna," exclaims Bassi in the video, adding, "In the West, we have improv, where the template of 'Yes.And?', is in use. Here, we have a 'No. But?' concept," says Bassi.

With many women also coming to the fore, he feels the laughs will only increase. "We have moved beyond the 'women are not funny' idea; at the end of the day, it's about the writing. But at times I think women comics also need to move beyond jokes around their gender. Dahab Chishti from Delhi is someone to look out for," he adds. "Shreeja Chaturvedi, who came on *Comickstaan* this year, is phenomenal; she jokes about dustbins yaar," he points out.

But we still have a long way to go. "Our society is star-struck as a default setting. Most people who come to my show, come for my name, rather than for content. We love labelling and boxing people, we will watch a certain kind of comedy from a certain comic, and if someone else tries it, it may not work," he adds.

Bas Kar Bassi will be performed today in Gurgaon, and on January 26 in Noida. Tickets on Bookmyshow



Visitors at the JLF Rohit Jain Paras

SUANSHU KHURANA

The Hukkas Bukkas telyi wan tsch kus (Who are you and who am I, then tell us who is he the creator that permeates through both you and I)

BENGALURU-BASED Aabha Hanjura, 32, was a young girl when her grandmother would sing this Koshur rhyme to her, initially in Srinagar, and post the exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits in the '90s, in Jammu, where Hanjura's family settled. A piece, which is likely to have been written by Kashmiri mystic Lal Ded, Hanjura would hum along. "It was much later that I understood that these songs, the culture, poetry and rituals is all that was left with my family. When your roots are brutally cut off, you try harder to save them," says Hanjura, whose version of *Hukkas bukkas* along with a guitar and drums is like a simple monophonic melody. It's modern yet rooted, a somewhat Parisian chanson-style piece.

Hanjura grew up listening to Jagjit Singh, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and rustic South Asian sounds, "especially music from the Pakistani band Junoon", among others. But while she was humming in Hindi, Dogri and Punjabi, Hanjura chose to sing in Koshur and made a very conscious decision after a visit to Srinagar seven years ago. Before that she was a finalist on the TV show *Indian Idol*, and post that, was trying to figure a corporate life. As for music, she kept looking for purpose. She didn't want to be a play-back singer. And she found a purpose in Srinagar, when she visited their old home in Kannipura. "Before that, I had a very distant connection with Kashmir. It was kept alive culturally. The magnitude of the tragedy had not dawned upon me until I made that visit. Anybody can sing any-

JLF Begins

THE 13TH edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival started on Thursday. Inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, it began with the keynote addresses by British mathematician Marcus du Sautoy and Hindustani vocalist Shubha Mudgal on the topic, 'The Art, Sciences and Creativity'.

Gehlot inaugurated the book *Bijji: Timeless Tales from Marwar* by Vishesh Kothari. He said, "Writers wait for such an opportunity where they can openly talk about their *mamn ki baat*. It is important, so is *kaam ki baat*."

Mudgal highlighted the significance of

interdisciplinary arts in the Indian context. "It is a celebration of the journey with the arts, with countless experiences and sensations; to see both stillness and movement in the same moment," she said.

Sautoy quoted Indian scholar Srinivasa Ramanujan, who believed that every number had its particular character in the "story of mathematics". "For me" Sautoy said, "it is 13. Thirteen is a prime number and an indivisible number. And the Jaipur Literature Festival is certainly in its prime."

Festival producer Sanjoy K Roy cited the ever-increasing importance of literature and art as a platform to "push back the narrative of hatred".

ENS

Songs from the Valley

Aabha Hanjura on singing in Koshur, and finding her roots through music



thing and so can I, but I wanted it to mean something so that I stay motivated. On my way back, I kept weeping when I passed by abandoned homes, and something stirred inside," says Hanjura, who decided to find a route to peace in the Valley "where every community has suffered pain for decades".

"At some point, someone needs to make an effort, find peace and move on," says Hanjura, who, two years ago, decided to have a concert in Srinagar. "My family was worried," says Hanjura, who had 3,000 people at Sher-i-Kashmir Convention Centre, with young and old dancing at the concert. "It still remains the most special concert ever," says Hanjura. "How many times do you see Kashmiri pandits and Kashmiri Muslims dancing together? Art's job is to catalyse things at the end of the day," says Hanjura, who released her album six-track album *Sounds of Kashmir* a year ago.

When the abrogation of Article 370 happened, Hanjura started by being optimistic. "If this meant growth and peace, a wave of change that could help, it seemed like a good move," says Hanjura, whose opinions began to change as internet and phone lines were suspended for months.

"The internet situation is unfortunate and it's extremely disheartening, small businesses are and suffering; I never thought it would take this long to remove the communication blockade. It is not an ideal situation in 2020," says Hanjura, who will be performing at Jaipur Literature Festival, at the music stage, today, and is working on her second album — a mixed-bag of recent experiences in her life and that of Kashmir's.

"I will sing about things I genuinely feel strongly about," says Hanjura, whose songs *Roshewalla* and *Kinaro ke ghar* have found a lot of attention online.

Archer set to return as Root eyes series win

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
JOHANNESBURG, JANUARY 23

ENGLAND CAPTAIN Joe Root on Thursday was looking forward to the prospect of two of the world's fastest bowlers operating on a pace-friendly pitch in the fourth and final Test against South Africa, starting at the Wanderers on Friday. Root said Jofra Archer had bowled with "good pace" in practice on Wednesday after recovering from an elbow injury which kept him out of the second and third Tests — both of which England won to take an unbeatable 2-1 series lead to Johannesburg.

He said that if Archer had no lingering signs of injury or soreness, England would have a "really good selection headache". Mark Wood startled several of the South African batsmen in the third Test in Port Elizabeth, bowling bouncers at around 150kmh. Archer is also among the world's small club of 150kmh bowlers. "It would be nice to see how they go together," said Root. "I think they would be a relentless barrage of pace which is exciting, especially on a surface such as you typically get here at the Wanderers."

But Root cautioned that history showed it was not always the fastest bowlers who prospered at the stadium. "The accurate guys are those who have success here. It would be great to have that firepower but ultimately we've got to make sure we hit those areas (on the pitch)," he added. "We've been very good in that department on this tour."

Root said that it would be "a very big achievement" if England could complete a series win. "When we've got our opportunities we've taken them," he said.South African captain Faf du Plessis said his side needed to dig deep to salvage a series draw. "How strong are we mentally in this last hurdle? We know where we have been a little bit poor in our game plans," he said.

He said South Africa had not scored enough runs in the first innings.

"That's the basic of Test cricket, you can look at England as a blueprint, the top three batting at their own pace and making sure they (are) setting up the innings for the rest of the guys to come in and play."

Du Plessis refused to answer questions about his future after being replaced as one-day international captain by Quinton de Kock — and left out of the squad that will play three ODIs against England, although a spokesperson said he would be willing to talk about one-day cricket at the end of the match. "I'd like to, for my own personal reasons, focus on this Test match," he said.

Du Plessis said Temba Bavuma would replace Zubayr Hamza in the XI, but there would also be a change in the batting order, with Rassie van der Dussen moving up to number three, the position filled by Hamza in the first three Tests.

He said the rest of the line-up was dependent on conditions, especially with a forecast of rain on the first day. Du Plessis said he hoped Vernon Philander, who will retire from international cricket after the match, would finish his Test career "with the story-book ending he deserves" on a pitch where he has done well in the past.

LIVE ON SONY SIX: 4th Test, 1:30 pm



An elbow injury kept Jofra Archer out of the second and third Tests. *File*

Ex-player takes Saurashtra state unit to court for nepotism, diverting funds

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 23

THE GUJARAT High Court on Thursday issued a notice to the chairman and electoral officer of BCCI, the secretary of the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) and the state charity commissioner, while acting on a public interest litigation filed by a former Ranji Trophy player, alleging nepotism, misuse of power, lack of transparency by office-bearers of the state association and non-compliance of Lodha Commission recommendations.

The petitioner, Nikhil Rathod from Rajkot, a former first-class player who also represented India at the Junior World Cup, has alleged that membership of the SCA remains confined to a "few family and friends" and that its management and control has remained "in the hands of a single family or its coterie for the past three-four decades ie from the very inception of the SCA."

Rathod, who was represented by senior advocate Asim Pandya, has stated in his petition that of the more than 300 members who have been enrolled since 1984, when SCA came into existence, most have been family members, relatives and friends of former SCA president Niranjan Shah, who has

Low investment, high returns

This is the philosophy that has made NZ competitive despite being small players money-wise

VISHAL MENON
JANUARY 23

THAT A country with a population of less than 5 million, and a cricket structure with an annual turnover of around \$50 million — half of Virat Kohli's net worth — has made two World Cup finals in a row and is ranked among the top three teams in both Tests and One-Day Internationals is a remarkable achievement in itself. To put the numbers in perspective, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, considered part of the so-called 'Fab Four' of contemporary batting, earns a base salary of \$236,000.

The Black Caps are always a competitive outfit, regardless of the names on the team sheet, and India — who face them in five T20Is starting on Friday, followed by three ODIs and two Tests — will take them lightly at their own peril. The Kiwis had a nightmarish tour of Australia recently. Ravaged by injury and illness and up against a rejuvenated outfit, they were hammered 3-0. But on their own turf, they will be a different proposition. Overall, their record in the longest format remains impressive, they are undefeated in 10 of their last 12 Test series since 2016. Apart from doing well at home, of late they have had a 1-1 draw in Sri Lanka while getting the better of Pakistan 2-1 in the UAE.

On the eve of India's opening T20I fixture against the Black Caps at Auckland's Eden Park, Kohli asserted: "We will look to put New Zealand under pressure from the first ball." It's easier said than done even though India may be in imperious form and New Zealand are smarting by the spate of injuries to some of their top players such as Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson. But the visitors will be wary as they were beaten 2-1 in the shortest format when they were in New Zealand last year.

What makes the Black Caps so ultra-competitive across formats, despite the limited resources at their disposal? "We've been blessed with a small playing group, where everyone knows everyone. They all support and back each other a lot. We see to it that we get the best out of our available talent pool," Heath Mills, CEO of New Zealand Players' Association, tells *The Indian Express*.

And in Williamson — much like his predecessors Martin Crowe, Stephen Fleming and Brendon McCullum — they have a captain with tactical nous who doesn't hesitate to think out of the box. "Since we don't have thousands of young players coming through the ranks at a given point in time, that's the only way to compete and remain relevant at the global stage," Mills explains.



Sometime in 2010, NZC took a decision that would have far-reaching consequences on the cash-crunched cricketing ecosystem in the country. "The administrators reached a conclusion that the best way to develop our players was to allow them to play in these high-profile T20 leagues such as the IPL, Natwest T20 blast in England and the Caribbean Premier League. The reasoning was simple — these leagues are paying for the development of our players. So, it's a win-win situation for us," Mills opines.

This opened the floodgates for players to ply their trades on foreign shores. People like Fleming, Daniel Vettori and Mike Hesson also turned into high-profile coaches.

"We have been very flexible in allowing our players to play abroad. I think that our players and our coaches bring a certain quality to the teams they represent because they are good at getting the best from players and in fostering a team culture. So, they are valued for their personal qualities," he elaborates.

Towards the second half of the last decade, there was a frenetic scramble among cricket boards to set up their own T20 league, along the lines of the IPL. The NZC, however, refrained from getting into this race. Instead,



New Zealand have a relatively smaller talent pool but have consistently punched above their weight.

Tradition of smart captains

MARTIN CROWE: He asked a spinner to open the innings and also employed a pinch-hitter to cash in on-field restrictions during the 1992 World Cup. Post-retirement, he also devised Cricket Max, a precursor to the modern-day T20 game.

STEPHEN FLEMING: Blessed with a sharp mind, he is now one of the most sought-after coaches in the IPL. The manner in which he unleashed Craig McMillan on Steve Waugh in a Test match in Brisbane was an act of genius. In an attempt to exploit Waugh's weakness with the short ball, Fleming employed a leg slip and got Craig McMillan from around the wicket. The Australian captain was caught on the crease with a barrage of

KIWIS IN T20 LEAGUES			
IPL	6 PLAYERS, 3 COACHES		
NATWEST T20 BLAST	11 PLAYERS		
THE HUNDRED	2 PLAYERS		
CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE	4		

they built a low-key T20 league, consisting of only domestic talents. It was called the Super Smash. With economies of scale, this was a pragmatic decision. "We recognise that we're a small country from a resource point of view, so we need to operate more smartly from a global cricketing environment point of view. Which was why we began our own domestic competition known as the Super Smash."

This competition and the several others around the globe that employ Kiwi cricketers have played a big role in making New Zealand a hard nut to crack in the T20 version. "I can confidently tell you that all our 20 contracted players who play for New

Zealand have a relatively smaller talent pool but have consistently punched above their weight.

short-pitched deliveries that Waugh took on the body. McMillan then slipped in a fuller delivery that he edged to wicket-keeper.

BRENDON MCCULLUM: Continued with Crowe's template of providing blitzkrieg at the start of the innings. He also had an eye for spotting talent. His out-of-the-blue pick of Grant Elliot proved to be a masterstroke at the 2015 World Cup.

KANE WILLIAMSON: Armed with left-arm pacer Neil Wagner, Williamson exploited Steve Smith's inherent weakness against the short-pitched deliveries. His decision to choke England in the World Cup final with Colin de Grandhomme was another example of his ingenuity.

\$50 million	
That's the annual turnover of New Zealand Cricket, which is roughly half of India captain Virat Kohli's net worth.	ENS

Zealand at the international level and another dozen others who are with our state teams — these are essentially our fringe players — go away to play in at least three franchise leagues during the year," Mills says.

At present, there are nine New Zealanders (six players and three coaches) who are in the IPL, 11 in the Natwest Blast and The Hundred, and another four with the Caribbean Premier League. If anyone wants to learn how to remain competitive on the cricket field with limited resources, they don't have to look beyond New Zealand Cricket.

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS: India vs New Zealand, 1st T20I 12.20pm

Chock-a-block calender needs to be looked at: Virat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AUCKLAND, JANUARY 23

INDIA CAPTAIN Virat Kohli on Thursday said cricketers are "getting closer and closer to landing at the stadium and playing straight" as his team geared up for a clash against New Zealand here, less than a week after beating Australia at home.

India are set to take on New Zealand in a five-match T20 International series within five days of completing a home ODI assignment against Australia. Kohli said the short turnaround is tough given the busy international calendar.

"Well it's definitely getting closer and closer to landing at the stadium and playing straight. That's how compressed the game has become but I think this kind of travel and coming to a place, which is seven hours ahead of India time, is always difficult to adjust to immediately," Kohli told reporters on the eve of the first T20 here.

"So, I am sure these things will be taken into consideration much more in the future, yeah it is what it is, you can do whatever you can to get better and get on the park again, and that's international cricket for you today, it is back to back," he said.

On the upside, the skipper said the scheduling ensures that players are in the zone.

"The last series we played against Australia was ODIs so we spent more time on the field, but we played a few T20s before that. Having played a lot more cricket than just T20s in the last three games, we will find it easier to come here and play even though with less time (to prepare). We are looking forward to that and starting with the series because this is the year of the world cup and every T20 is important," Kohli said.

Williamson ready to step down for team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AUCKLAND, JANUARY 23

KANE WILLIAMSON on Thursday hinted that he is open to stepping aside as New Zealand captain if such a move serves the team better in the wake of the humiliating Test series loss to Australia.

The 0-3 defeat at the hands of the trans-Tasman rivals earlier this summer has shocked the cricketing fraternity here and the New Zealand authorities have set up a review with Williamson's captaincy on the line as well. Asked if he was still interested in leading New Zealand across all formats, Williamson said, "For me it's always been about what is the best for the team. If those discussions are to even-tuate and collectively there is a thought that it will be best for the team, then my stance is whatever right and fits the group."

"So, I'm open to whatever is good for the group and to move the team in those directions. And you want to be making good decisions. Once again, not just a personal thing but a team thing," he said on the eve of the first T20 International against India here. Williamson, however, said it was time for the Black Caps to move on from the disappointment and focus on the India series.

"You need to keep moving on. The schedule is such that challenges keep coming thick and fast and now we got a great opportunity against India who are one of the top sides in the world but different personnel in terms of the T20 format and the guys are looking forward to the challenge.

"At times obviously it is tough. Australia was a humbling experience to get beaten badly like we did. You do want to be playing the best. Not losing."

He said playing against the best is an opportunity to learn. "I had a few days off in between Australia series and this one, which is nice. Performance wise, you forever want more. Those sorts of results (loss to Australia) do push you to get better and make you better. "The humbling experience that it was is also an opportunity to keep improving and moving your game forward. It was a disappointing tour but you do need to keep moving and developing."

Like India, New Zealand too will be preparing for the T20 World Cup later this year. The skipper outlined that change in format and personnel should help his side overcome the recent defeats. "It is tough with such a different group and a different format. But I don't think it's a matter of burying what happened in Australia."

INDIA TOUR OF NZ		
1st T20	JAN 24	
EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND		
2nd T20	JAN 26	
EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND		
3rd T20	JAN 29	
SEDDON PARK, HAMILTON		
4th T20	JAN 31	
WESTPAC STADIUM WELLINGTON		
5th T20	FEB 2	
BAY OVAL, MOUNT MAUNGANUI		
1st ODI	FEB 5	
SEDDON PARK, HAMILTON		
2nd ODI	FEB 8	
EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND		
3rd ODI	FEB 11	
BAY OVAL, MOUNT MAUNGANUI		
1st TEST	FEB 21-25	
BASIN RESERVE, WELLINGTON		
2nd TEST	FEB 29-MAR 25	
HAGLEY OVAL, CHRISTCHURCH		

In first Test in more than a year, Zimbabwe show heart in defeat



Fast bowler Suranga Lakmal finished with figures of 4 for 27. *File*

of wiping out that lead and saving the first Test they have played since November 2018. Lakmal, however, was quick to make inroads, removing the top three, all left-handers, in his first three overs as Zimbabwe crumbled to 41 for three.

In his first over, the second of the day, Lakmal found some extra bounce to induce an edge from Prince Masvaure which carried through to wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella. In his next two overs, he had the other opener Brian Mudzinganyama, who had been drafted in for the concussed Kevin Kasuza, leg before and Craig Ervine, who

made 85 in the first innings, caught at short leg. Three wickets had fallen for eight runs and Zimbabwe were sinking before Sean Williams and Taylor temporarily steadied the ship with some positive batting on a surface that remained largely benign in spite of the occasional ball keeping low.

At lunch, they had added 79 and taken Zimbabwe to 120 for three, still 37 short of making Sri Lanka bat again.

Both, however, were dismissed without adding any further runs in the first eight balls after lunch. Lakmal had Taylor caught at mid-on and Kasun Rajitha prompted Williams to feather a catch to Dickwella for 39.

The 'keeper then produced a smart stumping to remove Sikandar Raza off some probing left-arm spin from Lasith Embuldeniya. Zimbabwe added just 32 in 29 overs in the afternoon session, slipping further into the mire just after clearing the arrears when Lahiru Kumara used the new ball to blast out Donald Tiripano, Kyle Jarvis and Ainsley Ndlovu. Regis Chakabva scratched 26 from 142 balls before being bowled by Embuldeniya to set up the Sri Lanka target. **BRIEF SCORES:** Zimbabwe 358 & 170 (Sean Williams 39, Brendan Taylor 38; Lakmal 4/27, Lahiru Kumara 3/32) lost to Sri Lanka 515/9 declared & 14 for no loss by 10 wickets.

BRIEFLY

Anand draws with Dubov; Carlsen back in reckoning

Wijk Aan Zee: Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand played out yet another draw, sharing points with Daniil Dubov of Russia in the ninth round of Tata Steel Masters, here. Anand could not do much with his white pieces against Dubov on Wednesday although optically his position appeared to be preferable after the opening. As it happened in the game, the players reached a fairly level position after the opening and the draw was not a problem for Dubov. With 4.5 points, the Indian ace is at number 10 in standings. World's top ranked Magnus Carlsen of Norway stormed through the defense of whiz-kid Alireza Firouzja to bounce back in reckoning for top honours.

TT teams a win away from securing Olympics berths

Gondomar: Indian men and women are just one win away from securing their maiden qualification for Olympics, following their contrasting victories against Luxembourg and Sweden respectively in the Team Qualifier here on Wednesday. India's men's highest ranked player G Sathiyam took some time adjusting to the pimpled rubber of Luka Mladenovic but other than that it was a straight forward tie for the fifth seeds who play 11th seeds Slovenia in the all-important round of 16 clash here on Friday.

Mohun Bagan consolidate top spot

Imphal: I-League leaders Mohun Bagan registered an emphatic 3-0 victory away from home against Neroca FC at the Khuman Lampak Stadium here on Thursday. Nongdamba Naorem gave Mohun Bagan the lead in the 27th minute before creating the second goal for Papa Diawara in the 53rd minute. Substitute Komron Tursunov added the third, deep into stoppage time, to seal the deal for the Mariners. Neroca head coach Gift Raikhan made just a solitary change to his previous match line-up, with Ronald Singh coming in for Zico Sekle, while his Mohun Bagan counterpart Kibu Vicuna named an unchanged eleven.

Sonia in semifinal; Nikhat bows out



Lather clinched a 3-2 win over Ireland's Michaela Walsh .

Imphal: Former world silver-winner Sonia Lather (57kg) entered the semi-finals to be assured of a medal but defending champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) bowed out of the Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria on Thursday. Lather, also a two-time Asian silver-medallist, clinched a 3-2 triumph over Ireland's Michaela Walsh in a hard-fought contest. However, Zareen was beaten by a similar margin in her last-eight stage clash against American Christina Cruz.

AGENCIES



HIT AND A GIFT

Rafael Nadal passes a ball girl his head band after a miscued shot struck her flush on the forehead during the match against Argentina's Federico Delbonis. Reuters

After showers, Rafa thunders

Post a spell of rain that left the courts muddy, Nadal outclasses dogged Delbonis; Kyrgios subdues Simon

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 23

TOP SEED Rafael Nadal laboured past dogged fellow left-hander Federico Delbonis Thursday to take another step towards only a second Australian Open crown. The Spanish world number one created 20 break point chances but was constantly denied by the Argentine before he wrapped up a 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 win on Rod Laver Arena.

The victory set up a third-round clash with countryman Pablo Carreno Busta, his doubles partner at this month's ATP Cup. "It was a tough match. I lost a lot of opportunities on break point but found a way to finally win the second set," he said. "In the third I was more relaxed, more aggressive and found better play in that set."

Nadal had dropped only 10 games in three previous emphatic wins over 76th-ranked Delbonis, and defeat was never on the cards at Melbourne Park. But the Argentine, whose best Grand Slam result was the third round in Melbourne in 2016, made life hard for the 19-time Grand Slam winner, fending off 16 break point chances. Nadal looked on track for another straightforward victory after racing through the opening set, sealing it with a trademark crosscourt forehand.

But he found it tougher going in the second, which went with serve up to the tiebreaker. Nadal, though, came through and Delbonis never recovered as the Spaniard asserted his authority to race home, but not before hitting a ballgirl on the head with a ball.

He rushed over to console her and gave her a kiss for good measure. "For her it was not a good moment, I was so scared for her, the ball was quick and straight on her," Nadal said. "I'm very happy she is good. She is brave. Well done."

Victory in Melbourne would make Nadal the first man in the Open era -- and only the third in history -- to win all four Major titles

twice, after Roy Emerson and Rod Laver.

While he has won 12 titles at Roland Garros, four at the US Open and two at Wimbledon, his only triumph in Australia came in 2009 when he beat Roger Federer, with four runner-up finishes to his name. If he does win a second title in Melbourne, Nadal will equal the 20 Grand Slams crowns held by great rival Federer.

Kyrgios blasts Simon

Showman Nick Kyrgios blasted Frenchman Gilles Simon off court at the Australian Open Thursday, with his raw talent shining through in front of an adoring home crowd. The 24-year-old had the measure of the veteran early on then lost concentration and became agitated before refocusing to win 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 on his favoured Melbourne Arena.

It set up a third-round clash with either Russian 16th seed Karen Khachanov or Sweden's Mikael Ymer, with the winner of that match on course to meet world number one Rafael Nadal in round four. "I definitely lost my way a little bit... but I decided to refocus," Kyrgios said of his mini-meltdown in the third set. "I could have gone to a very dark place in the fourth set but I put it away."

A seemingly more mature Kyrgios has spoken of how the bushfire crisis in his homeland has given him perspective and focus, and that he felt he was playing for the nation rather than just himself. And with the roars of the crowd ringing in his ears, he broke the Frenchman in the first game and consolidated by holding serve.

Kyrgios looked sharp and broke again for 5-2 then served out the set, sending down five aces and, crucially, making only two unforced errors. Simon was struggling with his serve and the Australian broke again for a 1-0 lead in the second set, making some big shots when it counted.

It went with serve before Kyrgios, watched again by his ATP Cup captain Lleyton Hewitt, won the set with another

rocket serve. He broke Simon again early in the third set, letting out a huge "C'mon!" But the Frenchman broke back as Kyrgios started to lose concentration in game eight, berating himself and gesturing to his box as frustrations kicked in.

He lost the set as his focus drifted and he yelled at his box: "Of all the things you could say, 'Stay tough'. Thanks man, thanks. That's what I get, every break point, 'Stay tough'. Wow." But the Australian conquered his mental demons to regroup, getting a crucial break to go 6-5 up in the fourth and completing victory with a big ace, his 28th of the match.

Medvedev overcomes nosebleed, underarm serve

Daniil Medvedev insisted a mid-match nosebleed was not a serious problem as he overcame an underarm serve and stiff resistance from Spanish qualifier Pedro Martinez Thursday to book his Australian Open third-round ticket. The Russian fourth seed was pressed hard in a competitive first set before grinding down the 22-year-old 7-5, 6-1, 6-3 with the roof closed on Margaret Court Arena.

He plays Australia's Alexei Popyrin next in Melbourne. "It was not easy, especially the first set, but I managed to stay there the whole match and came through because he has less experience," said Medvedev, who won four titles last year and was runner-up at the US Open.

He was up 5-0 in the second set when he required a medical timeout with blood dripping from his nose, something that also interrupted his Australian Open last year. "Well, I was bleeding from the nose, which can happen to me sometimes. Doesn't usually happen during the match so I had to stop it," said the 23-year-old.

"Usually takes like four minutes, three, four minutes. I called the physio so he could help me to stop it. But it's nothing." While nosebleeds are a recurring issue, he said they did not happen often enough to be a major problem. "Let's say it happens maybe two

A seemingly more mature Kyrgios has spoken of how the bushfire crisis in his homeland has given him perspective and focus, and that he felt he was playing for the nation rather than just himself.

times a year or maybe once. I remember it actually happened at last year's Australian Open in the first round."

Asked if it was related to tension, he replied: "No, not at all. If it would be, I would be bleeding every match I play." The highest seed behind the Big Three of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, Medvedev struggled to get going against a tenacious player making his Australian Open debut. But his strength and big serve ultimately counted, with 19 aces.

So frustrated was the Spaniard that he resorted to an underarm serve. I don't know actually why he did it, but it surprised me a lot," said Medvedev. "But if he would make a good one, I think I would be in trouble. But it was really a bad one, so I had the ball easy."

The pair stayed on serve until the Russian's pressure paid dividends in the first set, working break points in game four and getting the edge when Martinez, ranked 168, sent a backhand into the net.

But poor technique on a volley handed the Spaniard a break back for 3-4 and Martinez's confidence grew. They went game for game until Medvedev stepped up a gear to break again for the set when Martinez put a simple forehand into the net. With the Spaniard sapped of energy, Medvedev twisted the knife, racing into a 5-0 second-set lead before his nosebleed. Medvedev is aiming to better his best performance at Melbourne Park, which came last year when he made the round of 16 before falling to eventual champion Djokovic.

TRAMLINES

Cahill offers Halep donation discount for reaching third round

WHEN SIMONA Halep pledged to donate A\$200 (\$137) to bushfire relief every time she gave her coach a hard time during her matches in Australia this month, she was ready for the final total to be a hefty sum. However, her Australian coach Darren Cahill joked that Halep had earned a half-price discount on Thursday as she had reached the third round of the Australian Open with a fairly drama-free 6-2 6-4 win over British qualifier Harriet Dart. "He (Cahill) told me actually that he cut everything at 50 per cent because I won the match. I could finish the second set. So I'm in a good position," the 28-year-old Romanian told reporters with a smile.

Foot fault: Gulbis, seventh time lucky

Former top-10 player Ernests Gulbis is now ranked outside the top 250 after a series of injuries and no longer has a shoe contract, which led to a bit of an issue at the Australian Open: He ran out of footwear. "I buy my own shoes now," he said. "I came here with one pair and I had to buy two pairs of shoes here. I thought that in Melbourne, during the Australian Open, it's going to be no problem at all." Wrong. The 31-year-old Latvian, a French Open semifinalist in 2014, started calling around, checking in with stores in Melbourne to find some that would be suitable replacements. The problem he ran into was finding the proper size, 11 in the U.S. It took seven attempts, but eventually Gulbis found what he was looking for.

Scaling new peaks

Garbine Muguruza has scaled the heights of tennis--two Grand Slam titles; the No. 1 ranking -- and now she's trying to work her way back to that sort of lofty status. In the meantime, she also scaled the heights of Mount Kilimanjaro. Muguruza spoke after edging Ajla Tomljanovic 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the second round of the Australian Open about an off-season trek to Africa's highest peak during a five-day climb in November: "You don't get any award, any prize, any photo, any nothing up there," Muruguza said.

AP

UN-BREAK POINTS

24 Dominic Thiem had an incredible 24 break chances against wild-card Alex Bolt, but he converted only seven of those.

KEY RESULTS

Men's second round: (7) Alexander Zverev bt. Egor Gerasimov: 7-6 (5), 6-4, 7-5, (4) Daniil Medvedev bt. (Q) Pedro Martinez: 7-5, 6-1, 6-3, 5) Dominic Thiem bt. (WC) Alex Bolt: 6-2, 5-7, 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-2 (10). Gael Monfils bt. Ivo Karlovic: 4-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4, 7-5, (23) Nick Kyrgios bt. Gilles Simon: 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, (15) Stanislas Wawrinka bt. Andreas Seppi: 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, (16) Karen, Khachanov bt. Mikael Ymer: 6-2, 2-6, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (10), (1) Rafael Nadal bt. Federico Delbonis: 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-1. **Women's first round:** (2) Karolina Pliskova bt. Laura Siegemund: 6-3, 6-3, (6) Belinda Bencic bt. Jelena Ostapenko: 7-5, 7-5, (17) Angelique Kerber bt. (WC) Priscilla Hon: 6-3, 6-2, (19) Donna Vekic bt. Alize Cornet: 6-4, 6-2, (4) Simona Halep bt. Harriet Dart: 6-2, 6-4.

I definitely lost my way a little bit... but I decided to refocus. I could have gone to a very dark place in the fourth set but I put it away."

NICK KYRGIOS

GROUND REALITY

Change of turf threatens to put Indian kho kho on the mat

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 24

"GIVE NEPAL 5-6 years, and they'll start beating India," comes the lanky lad's doomsday prophecy, tumbling out at great speed and with an urgency that will barely strike a chord with any of his disinterested country folk. Unlike his illustrious namesake in cricket -- the legendary Vijay Hazare - this Vijay Hazare is a 'batsman' in a modest, low-key sport: kho kho.

The young man from Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur, though, did emerge as India's best player at the recent Nationals, turning out for Indian Railways who created a stir by beating longstanding champions Maharashtra for the first time ever. He also travelled with the Indian team to the South Asian Games where a surprisingly well-trained Nepal team ran them very close prompting his apocalyptic prediction for Indian kho kho (As originators of the sport, India rule it. Up to now.)

With great historical relish and drawing parallels from the doomed Panipat war that ended Maratha supremacy to Indian kabaddi's overthrow at the 2018 Asian Games by Iran, Vijay Hazare has a ready vil-

lain for the piece: the turf. As kho kho goes international with its first pro league this year, the traditional school playground game is forced to relocate from bare feet on mud to shoes on the mat.

It's a repeat of the *kushti* story all over again for Maharashtra, Hazare says, speaking from the Ground Zero of kho kho - Jayhind Mandal in Kolhapur, a legacy mud sport club dating back to 1945, which churns out national champions year after year and is one of India's hotbeds for the sport. Close to 50 from Jayhind have kho-khoed their way into jobs with police, army, railways and state departments.

"Railways beat Maharashtra because we trained on the mat for a month. Once players from the north see opportunity and money in this sport when the league starts, Maharashtra will struggle just as it did when wrestling moved from mud to mat," Hazare says of the oncoming overthrow.

The sport rewards power, speed and strength when it moves onto the mat. "Almost double-triple energy is needed on the mat. Those who could play 2-3 minutes of non-stop chasing and batting, now get breathless at the one-minute mark. And if Maharashtra players don't adapt quickly,



Kho kho player Vijay Hazare (blue jersey) reckons that the move from mud to mat would come at the cost of India's supremacy in the game.

then naturally Punjab, Haryana, UP players are going to edge them out. Players get older quickly now on the mat. You watch," he says. "And if Nepal could scare India, imagine what

other Asian countries will do..."

So, the wrestling, hockey and kabaddi playbook goes on the loop: a long, rich history of dominance goes kaput when the new

turf is wheeled in. This isn't an ordinary mat either. 535 mat pieces are needed to build one kho-kho playing 'field', shiny and blue. 600 pieces come for a whistling 7 lakh. Not all state teams could afford these this year (Railways promptly shopped for it sensing a chance to upstage Maharashtra). "It'll be difficult for individual clubs to own these," Hazare says.

While bruises and blood injuries significantly reduced at the Nationals and some heroic pole dives were witnessed, kho kho's first tryst with the mat at the nationals led to several ankle twists as players struggled to run with shoes on the mat, with an almighty drag exerted on the calves. O"t It helps the runners - the batsmen. Chasing speed is reduced to 40 per cent and becomes very tough. The difference is zameen aur aasmaan between mud and mat," he reiterates.

Kolhapur - a nursery for wrestlers of yore - also boasted of India's top five kho kho clubs. "Pandhari nagri" - spiritual home, he calls it. "All of Central and Western Railways players are from here. Now South-Central and Northern have started bolstering their teams with Punjab and Andhra players who are strong on mat," he says.

Kho kho draws its players from lower-

and middle-class households, and Hazare's story is no different. He was born to a humble home where his father still runs a paan shop, where sparing money for him led to noisy fights between his parents and grandparents till the time his sisters completed their education and married to move away. "The sport was my sanctuary from being poor and repaying loan installments and the fights," he recalls.

His coach at Central Railway Sudhir Mhaske, who mentored him, was a senior ticket collector who needed to supplement his income to keep the team alive by turning into a bag man. In Mumbai, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and Mazgaon Docks had kho kho teams but the maximum prize money for a winning team would only be Rs 3,000. The upcoming Pro League might change things for the better, if it takes off.

But the change to mat has set kho kho on an irreversible path: "An injury on the mat - no blood, but broken bones - can set you back by Rs 50,000. The sport has changed completely with the mat. Neither Maharashtra at the Nationals, nor India in Asia should take their dominance for granted. The mat changes everything."