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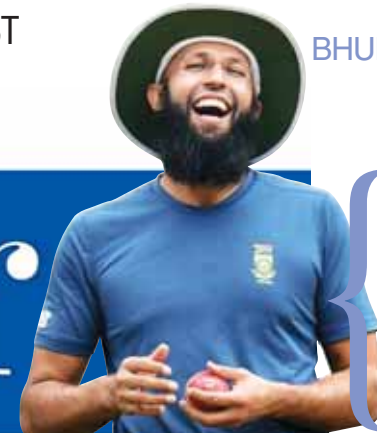
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BHOPAL, SATURDAY DECEMBER 29, 2018; PAGES 12-4 ₹1.50



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## Death for brutal child rape

Cabinet approves amendment to POCSO Act to make it more deterrent

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved amendments to strengthen the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and included the death penalty for "aggravated" sexual assault on children, besides providing stringent punishments for other crimes against those below 18 years of age. Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said children should be protected from sexual offences and the modification is made to address the need for stringent measures required to deter the rising trend of sexual abuse of children in the country.

"This is a wholesome initiative whereby the entire POCSO architecture is not only strengthened but also enlarged so that artificial medicines or hormones could not be abused to kill the childhood of a child. An unfortunate thing was going on in the



country, that children were being administered hormones to make them artificially majors, said Prasad. Addressing the media here on decisions taken in the Union Cabinet meeting, Prasad said the amendments to Sections 4, 5, 6, 9, 14, 15 and 42 of the POCSO Act 2012 are made to address child sexual abuse in an appropriate manner. Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Act are proposed to be amended to provide the option of stringent punishment, including the death



penalty, for committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault on a child. These amendments are aimed at discouraging the trend of child sexual abuse by acting as a deterrent, he said. The Act defines child as any person below the age of 18 years. It is a gender-neutral legislation, said the statement issued later. The amendments are also

proposed to the Section 9 of the Act to protect children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities and disasters and in cases where children are administered, in any way, any hormone or any chemical substance to attain early sexual maturity for the purpose of penetrative sexual assault, it said. Sections 14 and 15 of the

POCSO Act are also proposed to be amended to address the menace of the child pornography. It is proposed to levy fine for not destroying or deleting or reporting the pornographic material involving a child, the statement said.

The offender can be further penalised with jail term or fine or both for transmitting, propagating, administering such material in any manner except for the purpose of reporting as may be prescribed and for use as evidence in court.

"Penal provisions have been made more stringent for storing/possessing any pornographic material in any form involving a child for commercial purpose," the official statement said.

Prasad said, "The modification is made to address the need for stringent measures required to deter the rising trend of child sex abuse in the country."

## Triple Talaq faces acid test in Upper House

Opp parties mull strategy to block passage of Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Lok Sabha passed the Triple Talaq Bill with some contentious penal provisions for the deserter husband, the Opposition seemed to be united to stall it in the Upper House. The Opposition has accused the Government of indulging in vote bank politics and demanded that the Bill be referred to a joint select committee.

According to sources, Opposition parties will meet to devise their strategy to block the Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Monday when it is likely to come up for consideration.

Sources said all Congress members in the Rajya Sabha would meet in Parliament on



Monday morning, ahead of the start of House proceedings, to evolve its strategy on the Bill.

The numbers are tilted in favour of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, where the UPA has 112 members and the NDA 93. One seat is vacant. The remaining 39 members of other parties are unattached to either NDA or UPA and are likely to play an important role in the passage of the contentious Bill.

The Government had not agreed to the Opposition

demand for sending the earlier Bill to the select committee, when it was brought before the House in the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Though the NDA is way short of the halfway mark of 123 in the 245-member House, it had emerged victorious in the election of the Deputy Chairman, with its nominee Harivansh of the JD(U) bagging 125 votes against 101 for Opposition-backed Congress member BK Hariprasad. *Continued on Page 4*

## Supply of urea in MP continues to farmers

Bhopal: The supply of urea is being continuously made to the farmers of the State in this Rabi season. Railway is delivering the urea at the rake points.

Besides, the process of distribution to the concerned districts is going on at a fast pace. To ensure proper distribution of urea, the Agriculture and Farmer-Welfare Department and Cooperatives Department issued instructions to the concerned district collectors in this connection. This month 27,450 metric tonne urea will reach 10 rake points in the state by December 30.

Simultaneously, timely advice is also being given to the farmers regarding the safety of Rabi crops by field officials of the Agriculture Department. Rabi crops have been planted in about 98 lakh hectare area so far in the state this year out of which wheat has been sown in 47 lakh hectare area. *SR*

## BJP's Accidental PM tweet ruffles Congress feathers

Cong cries foul, BJP says it has freedom to wish movie good luck

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

A war of words has erupted between the Congress and the ruling BJP over the yet to be released movie *The Accidental Prime Minister*, starring Anupam Kher as Manmohan Singh. While the Congress termed it as BJP's propaganda against its party, Union Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore asked whether the BJP did not even have the freedom to extend wishes to a film.

The Congress locked horns with the BJP after the ruling party tweeted the trailer from its official Twitter handle on Thursday night. "Riveting tale of how a family held the coun-



try he will not back off from the snowballing controversy and took a swipe at Maharashtra Youth Congress' threats saying they should be happy a film has been made on their leader. Kher also referred to a recent statement by Congress president Rahul Gandhi that freedom of expression is a fundamental right.

The *Accidental Prime Minister* is based on a book written by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's media adviser Sanjaya Baru. The biopic stars Anupam Kher as Manmohan Singh and Akshay Khanna as Sanjaya Baru. The trailer of the movie shows Singh as a victim of the Congress's internal politics ahead of the 2014 elections.

Setting aside speculation of a probable ban on the movie in the Congress-ruled States, the newly formed Kamal Nath Government in Madhya Pradesh said it has not banned the film. *Continued on Page 4*

## Ban on Accidental Prime Minister denied

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The ruling Congress in Madhya Pradesh has denied banning 'The Accidental Prime Minister', a biopic on former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, which many believe gives a dim view of the Congress.

As one leader called for a ban and even wrote to the filmmakers, the Madhya Pradesh Congress spokesperson said there was no ban or any demand for it either.

Congress in-charge Narendra Saluja said, "The film is so lowdown that we don't even want to discuss it. We don't want to give any unnecessary publicity to this

As one leader called for a ban and even wrote to the filmmakers, the Madhya Pradesh Congress spokesperson said there was no ban or any demand for it either

film by protesting against it."

Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala also tweeted a denial accusing the BJP of spreading fake propaganda. "This is incorrect, MP Govt has taken no such decision," Surjewala tweeted.

The clarifications followed

a Congress leader aggressively declaring that the film would not be allowed in Madhya Pradesh, which recently witnessed a regime change after 15 years with the Congress taking over from the BJP.

Kamal Nath took over as chief minister of the new

Congress government last week.

"I have written a letter to the director, we strongly object to the name and what was shown in the trailer. We want to see the film before it is released or else, we won't allow its screening in the state," said Syed Zafar of the Madhya Pradesh Congress.

"Manmohan Singh is an intellectual leader. Using words like 'accidental' prime minister is very wrong and we will not allow such a film," he warned.

The Congress has accused the BJP of trying to capitalize on the film at a time the country is preparing for the national election due by May.

## CM allocates portfolios to Mins

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Friday allocated portfolios to his cabinet ministers. Nath has kept important departments like Industry Policy and Investment Enhancement and Public Relations with him.

Other departments with the Chief Minister include Science and Technology, Aviation, Public Service Management department, NRI department, Technical Education, Skill Development and Employment and other departments not allocated to any minister.

The portfolios of the ministers include Vijaylaxmi Sadho Culture, Medical Education and AYUSH, Sajjan Singh Verma PWD and Environment, Hukum Singh Karada Water Resources, Govind Singh Cooperatives and Parliamentary Affairs, Bala Bachchan Home, Jail and Affiliated to Chief Minister, Arif Aqeel Bhopal Gas Tragedy and Rehabilitation, Backward and Minority Welfare and MSME, Brijendra Singh Rathore Commercial Taxes, Pradeep Jaiswal Mining Resources, Lakhan Singh Yadav Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Tulsi Silawat Public

Health and Family Welfare, Govind Singh Rajput Revenue and Transport, Imarti Devi Woman and Child Development department, Omkar Singh Markam Scheduled Tribe and Nomadic tribes welfare department, Prabhuram Chaudhary School Education, Priyavrat Singh Energy department, Sukhdev Panse PHE, Umang Singhar Forest, Harsh Yadav Cottage and Gramodyog and New and Renewable Energy, Jaivardhan Singh Urban Development and Housing, Jitu Patwari Sports and Youth Welfare and Higher Education, Kamleshwar Patel Panchayat

and Rural Development, Lakhan Ghanghoria Social Justice, Disability Welfare department and SC-ST Welfare, Mahendra Singh Sisodia Labour department, PC Sharma Law and Legislature and affiliated to Chief Minister, Pradyuman Singh Tomar Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Sachin Subhash Yadav Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Horticulture and Food Processing departments, Surendra Singh Baghel NVDA and Tourism and Tarun Bhanot Finance, Statistical and Planning.

## Indians on moon soon! Govt OK's ₹10K cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will send a three-member team to space for seven days as part of the Gaganyaan project which will entail a cost of ₹10,000 crore.

The ambitious project, which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech, was approved by the Union Cabinet in its meeting on Thursday night.

If successful, India will become the fourth country in the world to send a manned mission to the outer space. So far only the USA, Russia and China have send manned mission in the outer space.

Briefing about the outcome of the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Gaganyaan Mission is expected to be undertaken by 2022 and India has already inked pacts with Russia and France for assistance in the ambitious project. The testing for the mission will start in December 2020.

"A human rated GSLV Mk-III will be used to carry the orbital module which will have



Space suits developed by ISRO for Gaganyaan Mission

necessary provisions for sustaining a 3-member crew for the duration of the mission. The necessary infrastructure for crew training, realisation of flight systems and ground infrastructure will be established to support the

Gaganyaan programme. ISRO will collaborate extensively with national agencies, laboratories, academia and industry to accomplish the Gaganyaan programme objectives," said the Government in a statement. The total fund require-

ment for the Gaganyaan programme is within ₹10,000 crore which includes cost of technology development, flight hardware realisation and essential infrastructure elements. Two unmanned flights and one manned flight will be undertaken as part of Gaganyaan programme. Gaganyaan programme will be a national effort in collaboration with industry, academia and other scientific agencies and laboratories as stake holders along with ISRO. ISRO will be responsible for realising the flight hardware through industry. National agencies, laboratories and academia will participate in crew training, human life science technology development initiatives as well as design reviews. First human space flight demonstration is targeted to be completed within 40 months from the date of sanction.

Prior to this, two unmanned flights in full complement will be carried out to gain confidence on the technology and mission management aspects, said the statement.

## Cold and pollution preying on birds

SUGANDHA ■ NEW DELHI

Making it difficult for them to fly, the lethal combination of cold and pollution in the National Capital has taken its toll on birds. Avian hospitals in the city these days are busy treating 15-20 birds being brought with the complaints of paralysis every day.

"Paralysis in birds has become common now. Everyday the hospital admits 15 to 20 birds affected with paralysis," said Sunil Jain, honorary secretary, Birds Charity Hospital, Chandni Chowk. The hospital which specialises in treating birds with different ailments is now treat-

ing birds which are apparently the victims of cold and pollution, he added.

"See, there are three basic reasons behind their pathetic condition. First, there is a lot of pollution in the air, second, the temperature is falling drastically, and third, the weather is not up to the mark making it difficult for them to survive," he said.

Wasim Akram, manager, Special Projects of Wildlife SOS, Delhi, said that because of the winter season and pollution, there is a problem of low visibility confronted by the avian population due to which they face survival issues. According to Jain, while



the hospital treats a variety of birds throughout the year, the

birds which are coming now are mostly pigeons as they are

the ones without any proper shelter.

"Most of the birds that we are treating these days are the rescued ones and pet birds being brought by their owners are relatively fewer in number. We are treating mostly pigeons these days; they are homeless," said Jain. Shockingly, the number of paralysed birds in the hospital has risen alarmingly since October this year because of rising pollution levels and the advent of winters, Jain said further.

The story is not different in other areas as well, said Wasim Akram as Wildlife SOS rescues a number of birds from across the city during winter months.

As per data provided by Wildlife SOS, the NGO rescued

71 birds of different species in October and 54 birds of different varieties in November. In December so far, the NGO has rescued 53 birds of different varieties already.

"Wildlife SOS has a 24-hour helpline which receives regular calls for birds in distress and in need of medical attention. In the month of October and November alone, we have rescued over 100 birds of various kinds," Akram said. The calls increase during winter months, he added.

This year, the NGO rescued pigeons, kites, owls and peacocks in the winter months, Akram said. Recalling special cases he said, "We are not sure

if it was due to cold or pollution but we in the recent past rescued a kingfisher, barn owl and an Indian eagle owl in bad condition."

Apart from paralysis, the birds in this weather become vulnerable also to serious respiratory and digestive problems, added other veterinarians.

Nevertheless, some birds coming with paralysis are kept in Intensive Care Units (ICUs), others are discharged after proper medication, Jain said. Owners are given prescriptions and recommendations after which the pet birds are discharged from the hospital, he added.

## JUNIOR NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION MP players bag 3 golds, 4 silvers, 2 bronzes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the junior national equestrian competition played in Kolkata, the players of the Madhya Pradesh State Equestrian Academy are performing well. In the competition, the players of the academy earned nine medals including three gold, four silver and two bronze. The competition was held on Friday.

Together, the players have earned 16 medals, including five gold, seven silver and four bronze medals. On this achievement earned by the Athletes of the Horse Academy, Director Sports and Youth Welfare S.L. Thoussen congratulated the medal winners

**IN THE COMPETITION, ACADEMY'S PLAYER PRANAY KHARE WON A GOLD AND A SILVER MEDAL IN THE INDIVIDUAL EVENT OF YOUNG RIDER DE SAGE (16 TO 21 YEARS)**

while expressing his happiness.

In the competition, Academy's player Pranay Khare won a gold and a silver medal in the individual event of Young Rider De Sage (16 to 21 years). However, Pranay Khare and Akanksha Vishwakarma's pair earned gold medals in the

team event.

Similarly, in the team event of De Sawan, Sudipati Hajela and Ali Hakim got the gold medal in the event. Parrikar Joshi won the bronze medal in the individual event of Junior Day, and Rajat and Sudipto Hajela won the bronze medal.

While Parida Joshi and Adarsh Rathore earned silver medals in the team event Competition jumping in individual competition Raju Singh Bhaduria won silver and Raju Singh, Akshat Joshi and Shri Awasthi won the bronze medal in the team event. The players are participating under the leadership of Captain Bhagirath, the Chief Instructor of the Academy.



Newly posted BMC Commissioner B Vijay Datta talking to mediapersons after assuming office in Bhopal on Friday

## Hindi play 'Baaki Itihaas' screened

**Bhopal:** A Hindi play 'Baaki Itihaas' was staged at Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum. The play was staged here on Friday under Abhinayan series of drama.

The play was directed by Jayant Bhargava. The play talked about that section of society who lives the daily routine and follow it like everyday.

The play began with a news that was published in the newspaper. The news read about a suicide. The play surrounded the life of a couple Vasanti and Sharad. Sharad and Vasanti are writers.

After reading that news article, Sharad asks Vasanti to write something on the topic. He inspires Vasanti to write about it as it is harming the society. Even Sharad writes about this topic. The play talked about different issues prevailed in the society. **SR**



Chief Minister and State Congress president Kamal Nath, along with Congress Seva Dal and party activists, takes oath at a programme to mark 134th foundation day of Congress at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Friday

## Literature gives direction to the society, says Sharma

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

P.C. Sharma on the occasion of inauguration of 'Dushyant Kumar Memorial Museum', 'Pranam 2018 said that the Government will try to make Dushyant Kumar Memorial Manuscript Museum as an example of a smart city.

He said that "Literature gives direction to the society," Dushyant Kumar, Sharad Joshi and Kamleshwar have carried forward this tradition, Dushyant Kumar has done a very important job by saving the heritage of the monument manuscript museum. Any assistance that is expected by the government will be done.

Senior journalist Rajesh Badal, who was present as a special guest, said that Dushyant Kumar is commemorating the memorial manuscript museum culture for the next generation, so in this

**Senior journalist Rajesh Badal, who was present as a special guest, said that Dushyant Kumar is commemorating the memorial manuscript museum culture for the next generation, so in this struggle we are all with the museum.**

struggle we are all with the museum. Rajurakar Raj, director of the Dushyant Kumar Memorial Manuscript Museum, highlighted the development journey of the museum.

The mentor of the museum and the son of Dushyant Kumar, Alok Tyagi said that the media fought for the values and supported the museum, so they deserve to be congratulated.

Later, Ustad Sakhawat Hussain Khan gave a musical presentation of Dushyant Kumar's ghazals. Ustad Sakhawat Hussain Khan is famous for his singing style at home and abroad.

He performed ghazals like Woh Aadmi Nahi Mulkam Bayan Hai, Roz jab raat ke barah gazar hota hai and many more, leaving the audience mesmerised.

## Man held for opening fire at 35-yr-old trader

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Haribganj police have arrested a miscreant for opening fire at a 35-year-old trader at 10 No. market in the afternoon on Friday.

Panic prevailed in the afternoon in the market area when the accused identified as Vinod Gogia opened fire at Nanak Das over the issue of constructing staircase between two buildings.

The victim is a builder and has sold a building to the accused Vinod but he still owns a flat in the adjacent building.

On Friday when he came with people to construct place for air conditioner outside his flat and in the space between the two buildings the accused came and started to argue with the victim claiming he is build-

ing stair case in the space left between the two buildings.

The victim tried to convince but accused continued with verbal spate and took out his licensed gun and opened fire at the victim. The victims escaped the gun shots while the accused was caught by the locals and later handed over to the police.

The accused fired once at the victim and before he could fire next shot locals grabbed him and overpowered him. Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 307 of the IPC and started further investigation. The nabbed accused was produced in the court and was sent under judicial custody. The accused hold crime record and has been booked for several crimes in the past.

**On Friday when he came with people to construct place for air conditioner outside his flat and in the space between the two buildings the accused came and started to argue with the victim claiming he is building stair case in the space left between the two buildings**

## Quota of urea to farmers increased in State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath's discussion with Union Fertiliser Minister has brought effective results.

The Centre has increased the quota of urea to farmers in the state in this Rabi season to 2.52 lakh metric tonnes so that the urea is available to them as per their requirement. In addition availability of rake for urea transit has also increased.

It may be noted that Chief Minister Nath had held a direct discussion with the Union Fertilizer Minister and Union Minister of Railways in this connection.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Kamal Nath, a video conference will be held by senior officials of the Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare and Cooperatives Department with

**On the instructions of Chief Minister Kamal Nath, a video conference will be held by senior officials of the Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare and Cooperatives Department with the district collectors at the Mantralaya on Saturday at 11 am**

the district collectors at the Mantralaya on Saturday at 11 am. After discussion on the accessibility of fertilizers, distribution of available urea, along with other fertilizers to the farmers, important instructions will be given at the video conference.

Earlier 1.75 one lakh metric tonnes of urea was allocated to Madhya Pradesh in the month of January.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath had held a discussion in this connection over phone with the Union Fertilizers and

Chemicals Minister Sadanand Gowda sometime back. In the month of January, 2.14 lakh metric tonne urea will come from plants in the country whereas 38,000 metric tonne urea will come from the ports of the country.

The Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development Department had urged the Centre to supply urea from the plant so that farmers get continuous supply of urea. On this appeal of the state government, the central government has increased the supply of urea from the plants.

In the month of December, 3.70 lakh metric tonne urea has been allotted to the state of which nearly 3.05 lakh metric tonne urea has already been delivered. Remaining 0.45 lakh metric tonne urea is in transit. About 10 rakes of urea are coming daily in the state since few days.



Girls, allegedly involved in flesh trade arrested by police last night after busting a sex racket during a raid at two beauty parlours, being taken to court in Bhopal on Friday

## Couple hangs self to death under mysterious circumstances

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sensation prevailed in Sdhammara village under Gunga police station precincts after a young couple committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling in the afternoon on Friday.

Police said that a young

couple was found hanging in the afternoon on Friday. The two were identified as Arjun Singh (22) and Shilpi alias Pappi Kushwaha (19).

Circumstantial evidence suggests that the two were in relationship but reason of suicide remained unknown. The family members would be

questioned to reveal the reason of death.

In the initial investigation police have found that the girl went missing at around 3 in the night on Thursday and family members lodged complaint in the afternoon on Friday after she failed to return home.

Brother of girl Pawan dur-

**CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE TWO WERE IN RELATIONSHIP BUT REASON OF SUICIDE REMAINED UNKNOWN. THE FAMILY MEMBERS WOULD BE QUESTIONED TO REVEAL THE REASON OF DEATH**

ing searching her found that Arjun was also missing from

work and possibly accompanied his sister after which he went to check Arjun's house and found the two hanging.

Police were informed and a team reached the spot and started investigation.

The boy used to live alone at a shanty owned by his maternal grandmother for the past

two years and presently working at the digging work of a well in the village.

Bodies were sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation.

Family members of the

girl refused any kind of alteration over the issue of relationship with the boy and also confessed that they were not aware of Arjun's involvement with their daughter. Arjun hails from Sheelkheda village Ahmedpur. The possibility of killing the two could be denied said the police.

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## Devi gets warm welcome on her first visit to city

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Cabinet Minister in the Kamal Nath Ministry Imarati Devi was accorded a rousing welcome at the Railway Station during her first visit to the city as a Cabinet Minister. She was received at the station by party workers and district officials when she arrived around 3 am on Friday by the Habibganj Express.

Later on, speaking to the media persons from her residence at Harishankar Puram she said that one of her top priorities is to make Dabra, a district. She further told the congressmen gathered at her house that she is not the minister only for people of Dabra and that she belongs to everyone. She asked them to feel free to come to her with any grievances.

**She also said that she will take steps to bring water to about ninety villages in the region through the Jorasi Barkari canal. The Minister also accused Narendra Singh Tomar, the Union Minister for stalling the canal work. Later on she left for Dabra by road**

She also said that she will take steps to bring water to about ninety villages in the region through the Jorasi Barkari canal. The minister also accused Narendra Singh Tomar, the Union Minister for stalling the canal work. Later on she left for Dabra by road.

Speaking to the media persons, Mohan Singh Rathore, the Rural Congress Committee chief said that the minister is scheduled to return to Gwalior on Saturday when she will pay homage to the Late Madhav Rao Scindia at his Chhatri in the morning.

Later on a grand victory procession will be taken out from the Achleshwar Mandir to the Congress office to felicitate her. Meanwhile Munnalal Goyal, the MLA from Gwalior East said that it was through the persistent efforts of Devendra Sharma, the District Congress Committee chief that the party could win all the 3 seats from the city.

He was speaking at the foundations day celebrations of the congress at the DCC office where he was felicitated by the party chief and the workers for the thumping victory.

## 40-year-old man robbed of ₹5000, hunt on

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 40-year-old man was assaulted with sharp edged weapon and robbed of ₹5,000 by three bike borne miscreants near Devika Nagar under Nishaptura police station area in the early morning hours on Thursday.

According to the police, the victim Naushad Ali was robbed by three armed bike borne miscreants while on his way to Berasia bus stand in the early morning hours on Thursday.

The victim was rushed to hospital where his condition is reportedly stable. The victim was attacked with sharp edged weapon after he opposed the miscreants from snatching the money.

In his complaint lodged with the Nishaptura police victim stated that when he was on his way to Berasia bus stand in the morning at around 5 am

three youth who were wearing caps stopped him and asked to shed money he was having which the victim refused and angry with the refusal miscreants attacked the victim with sharp edged weapon. Victim sustained injuries in his bid to save from the attack. Later, he was rushed to hospital where he was discharged after providing primary treatment.

The total loss in the robbery is around ₹5,000 claimed the victim. Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under sections 394 of the IPC against the unidentified miscreants and have started further investigation.

The victim is a resident of Ekta Nagar and works at Berasia bus stand. Police have intensified the search for the miscreants. The nearby areas of the spot would be searched.



Differently-abled students participate in 'Umang-2018' Sports and Science fair organised at Taleem Democratic school, governed by Arushii, in Bhopal on Friday

## Unrest among State Ministers over delay in portfolio allotment

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The unprecedented delay in the portfolio allotment among 28 Cabinet Ministers in the State Government three days after the Ministers were sworn in on Christmas, is causing unrest among them.

While the Congress officially claimed there was no delay in the allocation of portfolios, sources in the party as well as opposition BJP have maintained that power tussles and groupism were creating hurdles.

Party sources said after inducting loyalists into the cabinet, all camps wanted good portfolios, and these tussles were causing a delay.

They said portfolios like Home, Finance, Urban Administration and Development and Public Works Department were the most in demand.

Congress sources pointed out that of the 28 cabinet ministers sworn in on December 25, the maximum number (10) were from the Digvijaya camp, nine were close to Nath and eight loyal to Scindia.

Congress media cell chair-

person Shobha Oza refuted the allegations of delay in portfolio allocation or factionalism in the party, saying, "Today is only the third day after the swearing-in of ministers.

"There is no delay as completion of any process takes time."

"The chief minister is discussing this issue and will allocate the portfolios suitably. The allocation may take place soon."

On Thursday, former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan took a swipe at the Congress over the delay in portfolio allocation.

Talking to media persons at his residence, Chouhan said, "I extended my wishes to the new government, but it is a matter of concern how the formation of cabinet was delayed and now portfolio distribution was being delayed. We are seeing media reports and various Congress leaders are insisting on particular departments, causing delay in the allocation. Quota of different camps (of Congress) was fixed. This delay is historic and never happened in the state," he added.

## Abduction case solved: Victim among 4 held



Accused persons in a fake abduction case in police custody in Bhopal on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

District police have solved a case in which a 19-year-old engineering student was abducted; it was revealed that victim along with his sister and two others planned of his kidnap to repay loan availed by sister.

Four accused including victim and his sister were nabbed for executing fake kidnapping in which Ayush Choubey, his sister Ruchika Choubey and their neighbor Gaurav Jain were arrested said DIG Bhopal Dharmendra Choudhary while speaking with media persons at a press conference on Friday.

After the kidnap family members and Ruchika received

phone from mobile number 7024442424, demanding ransom of Rs 1 crore and they were threatened not to report the kidnapping with the police. Aishbagh police registered a case under section 364 A of the IPC and started investigation.

Kidnapers asked to shed ₹1 crore at Crescent Water Park Sohore on December 25 but failed to appear and collect. Later when police investigated the close ones of the family and neighbours, in which it was found that their neighbor Gaurav Jain was involved in suspicious activities. Jain was trapped from Bhopal railway station when he returned from Agra.

Police grilled Jain and he confessed the kidnapping

which was fabricated with the help of victim, his sister and Atul Katholia.

The nabbed accused revealed that Ruchika was indebted with heavy loan and to repay the loan they planned fake kidnapping.

The family was having ancestral land in Jabalpur which was scheduled to divide among family members and her father would have received good amount but it was taking time due to which she planned fake kidnapping so that relatives would dispose the property speedily to provide money for Ayush's release.

The accused used the mobile phone for ransom calls in moving train to make the tracking difficult.

## Berth war begins in CM Nath Cabinet

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Dissent is brewing among those Congress legislators who could not get berth in the Cabinet of Chief Minister Kamal Nath. Among party MLAs, Aindal Singh Kansana is leading the charge against his own party with his supporters blocking national highway at Morena in the night of December 25 when the cabinet swearing in took place.

Kansana's staunch supporter and Sumawali block head Madan Sharma had resigned from the party over the treatment meted out to Kansana. Presently Kansana backers are camping in New Delhi demanding ministerial berth for their leader.

Senior Congress leader and the former minister Bisahul Singh from Anuppur district, where the Congress won all the three seats in assembly polls, had reportedly met Digvijay Singh post cabinet oath taking and was in tears. Another former minister KP Singh too has got in touch with party high command over his exclusion from the cabinet.

One of the Singh supporters in a veiled threat to Scindia has on social media advised

**Among party MLAs, Aindal Singh Kansana is leading the charge against his own party with his supporters blocking national highway at Morena in the night of December 25 when the cabinet swearing in took place**

the cabinet was sworn in. Alawa has reportedly sought an appointment from Congress president Rahul Gandhi over the issue. Alawa has been terming his exclusion from the cabinet as insult to the tribal community which helped Congress return to power.

Sanjay Sharma, three-time MLA from Tendukheda who had joined Congress ahead of assembly polls has claimed he was promised a ministerial berth and won't accept the post of parliamentary secretary. Burhanpur MLA Surendra Singh Thakur who had rebelled against Congress to fight and contest poll from Burhanpur too has warned Congress over his exclusion from the cabinet.

Among allies—BSP had extended support to Congress from outside while Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has expressed anguish over party's lone MLA not being given space in Kamal Nath cabinet.

With the fresh trouble looming large over the state government, party troubleshooter Digvijay Singh has swung into action and left for New Delhi on Thursday evening to consult the high command over the political trouble in MP.

## Bhopal shivers again with dip in temperature

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Changed weather conditions have disrupted normal life in the State and State capital after temperatures have dipped significantly again reaching freezing temperatures for the second time in the season.

The state capital recorded lowest night temperature of the decade on Friday at 4.9 degree Celsius making the weather conditions extreme.

Intense harsh weather conditions were witnessed and Met department has issued warning of cold waves and frost. The Gwalior, Chambal, Rewa, Sagar, Shahdol and Ujjain divisions and Jabalpur, Mandla, Seoni, Balaghat, Betul, Hoshangabad and Dhar districts would witness cold waves while Betul, Hoshangabad, Umaria and Chhatarpur districts are likely to witness frost like conditions in the next 24 hours.

The lowest temperature was recorded in Betul at 2 degree Celsius on Thursday.

The night temperatures were recorded below and around 5 degree Celsius at several places in the state. Khajuraho recorded night temperature at 3 degree Celsius, Shajapur recorded night temperature at 3.6 degree Celsius, Ujjain night temperature at 3.8 degree Celsius, Gwalior recorded night temperature at 4.1 degree Celsius, Datia recorded night temperature at 4.3 degree Celsius, Rewa recorded night temperature at 4.5 degree Celsius and Guna

**THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE WAS RECORDED IN BETUL AT 2 DEGREE CELSIUS ON THURSDAY**

recorded night temperature at 4.6 degree Celsius, Damoh recorded night temperature at 4.6 degree Celsius.

The chilly winds from north and northwest directions are blowing over the states of Madhya Pradesh as well as Chhattisgarh. These winds are traveling via snow clad mountains of Western Himalayas dipping the temperatures over central parts of the country particularly over Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have and leading to cold wave conditions over many places.

Meanwhile, due to persistence of dry winds from north and northwest directions appearance of fog over these states for next few days is expected.

In the coming days, we expect dry weather conditions to continue over entire Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with a significant fall in day temperatures. However, we do not expect much change in night temperatures for at least next 48 hours.

## PWD official's house burgled, jewellery, ₹20,000 cash stolen

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

House of an Assistant Engineer posted with Public Works Department (PWD) robbed at Rohtas Nagar under Piplani police station area on Thursday.

The victim Narendra Bhalavi along with his family had gone to Orcha on December 24 and when they returned on Thursday locks were found broken and valuables were found burgled.

A complaint was lodged by the victim with the Piplani police and in the complaint the victim had claimed that on his return he found that the locks were broken and on entering the house was found ransacked. Gold and silver jewelry and ₹20000 cash were found burgled claimed the victim.

In the burglary the almirah which was having the valuables was targeted and the other

valuables were not disturbed. The lock of the almirah was found broken and the cash and gold jewelry were found burgled. The police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation. A pair of gold chain, one gold chain and cash were found missing. The total loss would be around ₹80000. Meanwhile, valuables worth ₹25000 were burgled from Budhakheda Hanuman Temple under Bairagarh police station area on Thursday. Police said that door of the temple was found open and valuables were found burgled.

Miscreants escaped with Sound system, donation box carrying cash and other valuables from the temple. The loss would be around ₹25000. The police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and started further investigation.

कार्यालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी, जिला धार ( म.प्र. )

क्रमांक/20189/रीडर-2/2018 धार, दिनांक 27.12.2018

विज्ञप्ति

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक मेसर्स एलकेम लेबोरेटरीज लिमिटेड, प्लॉट नं. 17 सेक्टर-3 पौथमपुर जिला धार में पेट्रोलियम क्लास बी एवं सी के भण्डारण हेतु टैंक (क्षमता 30 केएल हार्ड स्मॉइ एवं 30 केएल फर्नेस आईल) के भण्डारण हेतु पर पेट्रोलियम क्लास बी एवं सी के भण्डारण हेतु अनापत्ति प्रमाण-पत्र प्रदान किये जाने हेतु अनुरोध किया गया है। जिसके संबंध में इस न्यायालय में कार्यवाही प्रचलित है।

2. अतः आवेदित भूमि/स्थल में पेट्रोलियम क्लास बी एवं सी के भण्डारण किये जाने के लिये अनापत्ति प्रमाण-पत्र जारी किये जाने के संबंध में किसी को किसी प्रकार की कोई आपत्ति हो तो न्यायालय जिला दण्डाधिकारी, जिला धार में उक्त विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन दिनांक से एक माह के भीतर उपस्थित होकर अपनी लिखित आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। नियम समयवधि के पश्चात् प्रस्तुत किसी भी प्रकार की आपत्ति पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।

3. यह विज्ञप्ति आज दिनांक 27.12.2018 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं परमुद्रा से जारी की गई है।

अतिरिक्त जिला दण्डाधिकारी  
जिला धार ( म.प्र. )

**भारतीय थल सेना**  
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**अधिकारी प्रविष्टियां**

- निम्नलिखित कोर्सों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं :-  
(क) अल्पसेवा कमीशन (गैर तकनीकी) एन.सी.सी. विशेष भर्ती योजना 46वां पाठ्यक्रम अक्टूबर 2019 पुरुष एवं महिला तथा युद्ध में हताहत सेना कर्मिकों के आश्रितों (पुरुष और महिला) के लिए।  
(ख) अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (गैर तकनीकी) जे.ए.जी. भर्ती योजना 23वां पाठ्यक्रम अक्टूबर 2019 पाठ्यक्रम कानून में स्नातक पुरुष और महिला अभ्यर्थियों के लिए।  
(ग) 53वां अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) पुरुष एवं 24वां अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) महिला पाठ्यक्रम (अक्टूबर 2019) के लिए।
- ऑनलाइन आवेदन निम्नांकित अवधि तक खुलेंगे :-  
(क) एन.सी.सी. विशेष - पुरुष और महिला - 09 जनवरी से 07 फरवरी 2019  
(ख) जे.ए.जी. - पुरुष और महिला - 16 जनवरी से 14 फरवरी 2019  
(ग) अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) - पुरुष और महिला - 23 जनवरी से 21 फरवरी 2019

**OFFICER ENTRIES**

- Applications are invited for the following courses:-  
(a) Short Service Commission (NT) NCC Special Entry Scheme 46<sup>th</sup> Course Oct 2019 for Men & Women (including Wards of Battle Casualties of Army personnel).  
(b) Short Service Commission (NT) JAG Entry Scheme 23<sup>rd</sup> Course (Men & Women) Oct 2019 course for Law Graduates.  
(c) 53<sup>th</sup> Short Service Commission (Tech) Men and 24<sup>th</sup> Short Service Commission (Tech) Women Courses commencing in Oct 2019.
- Online applications open as under:-  
(a) NCC (Special) - Men & Women - 09 Jan to 07 Feb 2019.  
(b) JAG - Men & Women - 16 Jan to 14 Feb 2019.  
(c) SSC (Tech) - Men & Women - 23 Jan to 21 Feb 2019.

**नोट :**  
1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।  
2. ऑनलाइन आवेदन खुलने और बंद होने की तारीखों में परिस्थितियों के अनुसार परिवर्तन हो सकता है।  
3. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन और जानकारी के लिए, कृपया [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in) पर जाएं।

**Note :**  
1. Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.  
2. The dates of opening and closing of online applications are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.  
3. For detailed Notification & latest updates, visit our website [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in).

davp 10601/11/0025/1819

# Confusion as Ray's next decision delays

## Now, it's talked that he may join Cong

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA



After Dilip Ray's adieu to the BJP, the talks about his next political move have taken the centre stage in the steel city.

It is said that due to Ray's exit, the BJP may have to suffer a great loss, especially in Rourkela. The political pundits opine that given the prominent role played by Ray for the BJP organization in

Sundargarh district, the party may not hope for a rosy picture in 2019 election in the whole of the district.

But on other hand, the delay and confusion over Ray's next political move have left many of his followers who are in the list of aspirants to con-

test 2019 election with the blessing of Ray from Rourkela seat, apprehensive. It may be noted here that on November 30, Ray after resigning from the BJP and the position MLA, left for abroad without clearing his future stand point but the other leader Bijay Mohapatra who also left the party with Ray told that their further course of action will be cleared in 15 days after Ray comes back. Even in a facebook posting Mohapatra had clearly told that after Ray's return from abroad the next

step will be taken by both of them jointly.

Though Ray had not told openly about his next action but it was a common perception that he will be joining the BJD soon. Even many started to talk that Ray would be joining on December 26 at the BJD Foundation Day.

With none of the predictions having come true so far concerning the two heavyweights' political future, now it is speculated that both Ray and Mohapatra may be planning for an alternative, instead of joining the BJD. Even a group is of the opinion that Ray may join the Congress instead of the BJD. Though this message gives certain reliefs to the anti-Ray camp in the BJD in Rourkela, but to some extent it is disheartening for those who are expecting party ticket of BJD with the support of Ray.

# -In Baleswar- Wheelchairs, sticks given to Divyangs



PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Baleswar district administration with THE assistance of the National Insurance Company Limited distributed tricycles, wheelchairs, hearing machines and braill sticks to as many as 128 Divyangs at the Utkal Balashram here on Wednesday.

District collector Ramesh Rout distributed the appli-

ances provided by the NICL under its CSR programme. The Collector said a resource centre would be built on a patch of 20 acres of land for the differently-abled persons of the district soon.

NICL Regional Manager Sukanta Mishra, District Social Security Officer Kamlakanta Behera, DIPRO Subash Nihal, NICL Diviosnal Manager Girish Kumar Sahu, representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Rabinranath Mishra, Rajkishor Sahu and Gurudutt Lenka were present, among others.



Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Chairman Anthony DeSa addresses at Green Highways convention organised by National Highways Authority of India at EPCO in Bhopal on Friday  
Pioneer photo

# 'Bijubabu had respect for Opposition'

## BJD Foundation Day held at B'pur

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Foundation Day of the BJD was held here where a



large number of people particularly women participated.

The meeting on the occasion was presided over by Bijay Samal and was addressed by local MLA DR RC Chyaupatnaik, MP Siddhant Mohapatra, former Minister Chanmdra Sekhar Sahoo, former MLAs Udaya Nayak and Siba Sahani, BDA vice president Subash Chandra Moharana and several former Mayors of the city BJD State secretary T Gopi recalled the services of Bijubabu for Odisha.

He said the national BJP leaders should adhere to the spirit of republican and multiparty culture, the basis of our Constitution and respect the role of Opposition.

# 'C'pur Lok Kala festival to boost artists'

## DM urged for B'pur-Rambha link with city transport

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Speaking as guest on the third day of the Loka Kala Mahotsav at Chhatrapur on Wednesday, State Planning Board Member Rama Chandra Panda praised the State Government and Ganjam district Collector Vijay Amrut Kulange for starting the fest for the first time in the district headquarters which will boost the folk artists.

He hoped the district Collector would soon provide urban transport facility from Brahmapur to Rambha via Ganjam to facilitate general public and tourists to enjoy the Potagada fort on the Rushikulya mouth and Chilika



lake. He said Ganjam's folk arts/dances such as Prahalad Natak, Ghuduki and Daskathia would certainly be promoted through this festival. DIG Ashish Singh also thanked the district Collector for starting the event and requested him to hold it every year to protect the indigenous folk art and culture.

Among others, Ganjam SP Brijesh Kumar Ray, Berhampur SP Pinak Mishra, ADM Bijoy Kumar Das, DRDA PD Siddharth Sankar Swain and

ON THE OCCASION, RADHAKRISHNALILA OF CHIKITI, RAMALILA OF SANAKHEMUNDI, CHATRAPUR'S LITTLE DIAMOND AND PUNJABI BHANGADA GROUPS PERFORMED

Chatrapur Sub-Collector Debabrata Sahoo and DIPRO Biranchi Narayan Pradhan were present.

On the occasion, Radhakrishnalila of Chikiti, Ramalila of Sanakhemundi, Chatrapur's Little Diamond and Punjabi Bhangada groups performed.

# Paradip Marathon on Jan 3 to mark port day

PNS ■ PARADIP

The Paradip Marathon 2019 will be held on January 3 next to mark celebrations of the Paradip Port's foundation day. The Marathon will start from the Hanuman Temple near Gate No. 5 covering a route of 14 km and conclude at the Gopabandhu Stadium.

The participants must be above 18 years and below 40 years of age and have to submit fitness certificates from a Government Medical Officer or the Medical Officer of Paradip Port Hospital. The men participants have to deposit an entry fee of Rs 50 per head and women participants Rs 30. The participants will be supplied with a set of vests and shorts and chest numbers. Registration of partic-

## The winners will be awarded with cash prizes. The first 150 participants in men category and first 50 in women category covering the distance of 14 km will be given mementos

ipants will be made on January 1 and 2 at the Gopabandhu Stadium as detailed below:

The winners will be awarded by cash prizes. The first 150 participants in men category and first 50 participants in women category covering the distance of 14 km will be given mementos. Those who complete the distance within two hours will be provided only certificate of participation.

Interested participants may contact the Secretary, Paradip Port Sports Council for further details in the following numbers: (10 am to 7 pm) 06722 - 222076; Mob: 9437183515, 9437317133.

# Triple Talaq faces acid test in...

From Page 1

The Government has expressed hope that the bill, which criminalises the practice of instant divorce by Muslim men, will find support in the Rajya Sabha, whose approval is necessary for the bill to become the law.

CPI member D Raja said the Opposition has the numbers and would press for referring the bill to the Select Committee. "Opposition parties are asking for referring the Triple Talaq Bill

to the Select Committee for further scrutiny when the bill comes up for consideration in the Rajya Sabha on Monday," said Raja.

He alleged that the government wants to use the bill for political purposes. "They are not genuinely interested in gender equality and gender justice," Raja alleged. Another leader claimed that opposition parties are united in referring the bill to the Select Committee as the proposed legislation needs to be examined properly.

-Kalinganagar fest-

# A tribute to Bijubabu's industrialisation dream



PNS ■ JAJPUR

## Second edition of Kalinganagar Mahotsav was organised from December 22 to 26 to pay tribute to Bijubabu

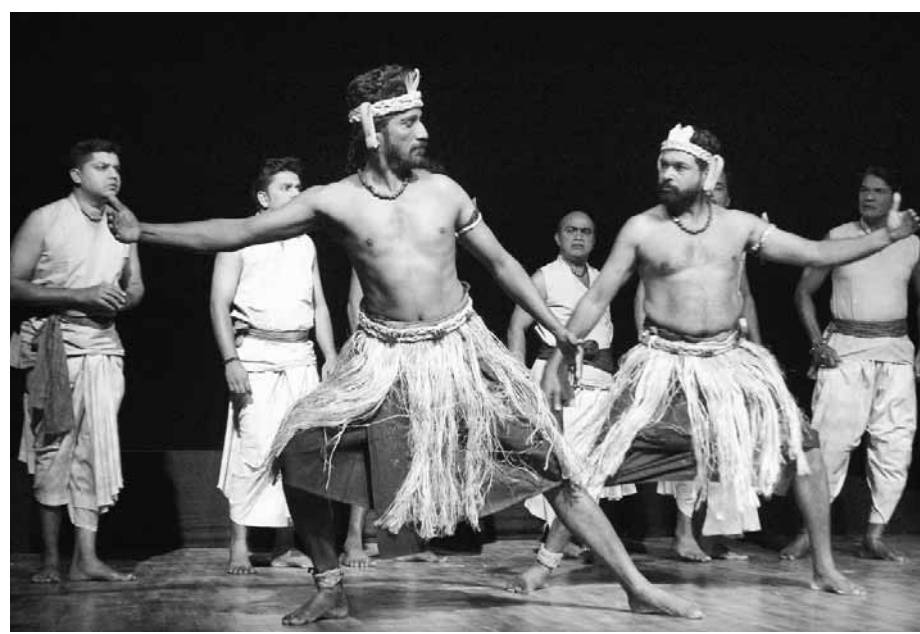
Odisha's second steel hub of Kalinganagar in Jajpur district has completed 26 years. The then Chief Minister Biju Patnaik had visualised Kalinganagar industrialisation in the 1990s. He laid foundation-stone for this in 1992.

Now, over ten small, large and medium industries are operating in Kalinganagar. The second edition of Kalinganagar Mahotsav was organised from December 22 to 26 to pay tribute to Bijubabu. Ministers Prafulla Samal and Ashok Chandra Panda graced the occasion.

At the concluding ceremony, former local MLA and former Minister Prafula Ghadai said, "Biju Patnaik initiated

the process of Kalinganagar industrialisation and invited industry leaders and experts for the purpose. Now, Kalinganagar has created a special identity for itself not only in India but also abroad. The Kalinganagar Mahotsav is a real tribute to Bijubabu."

Local MLA Pritranjan Ghadai said, "The aim of the Mahotsav is to create conducive environment to minimise the gap between industries and local people. It provides a platform to youngsters to showcase their talents."



A scene from the Malayalam play 'Kallurutti' staged during Adi Vidroh drama festival at Shaheed Bhawan in Bhopal on Friday  
Pioneer photo

# In Ganjam Wanted criminal held; gun, cartridges seized

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A notorious criminal, Amit Das, was nabbed in Digapahandi area in Ganjam district late on Thursday night following a raid carried out by a police team.

Acting on a tipoff about Amit's presence, the Digapahandi police carried out a raid in the area. Noticing the cops, Amit tried to escape from the spot but the cops managed to overpower and nab him.

The cops also seized one pistol and three live bullets from his possession.

Sources said, a Test Identification (TI) Parade of

## Sources said Amit is an associate of another dreaded criminal Jaya Pradhan

the arrestee was conducted on Friday and later the accused was forwarded to court, police said.

Sources said Amit is an associate of another dreaded criminal Jaya Pradhan, who was injured and nabbed in a police encounter near Changudei hill in Digapahandi block on December 21.

However, Amit had managed to escape during the raid and was absconding since then.

# BJP to do away with 75-plus bar

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Come Lok Sabha polls, the BJP will remove the age-bar on contesting and holding political posts as two of its prominent women leaders Sushma Swaraj and Uma Bharti have suo moto announced their intention to not contest and Speaker Sumitra Mahajan may be opting out of the poll.

The post-2014 victory in the Lok Sabha polls led the BJP to re-write rules of the games for the party members which included retirement from active politics after 75 and diminishing chances of getting party tickets after reaching 70.

The formation of Margdarshak Mandal in August, 2014, to accommodate aged veterans like LK Advani and MM Joshi had raised many eyebrows even as they also did not find seat in BJP's Parliamentary Board, the all powerful decision-making body of the party.

All that may change now with the onset of the election season. The BJP sees age 75 with no-bar for contesting Lok Sabha polls, sources in the party said. As the coming poll turning out to be a keen con-



test, the party would put premium on winning the seat rather than allowing "youthful experiment" a chance.

The age flexibility in the candidates selection for the Lok Sabha may thus see many 'seniors' allowed to contest, if they are wanting to throw their hat in the ring again.

However, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, 75, may choose not to contest again after getting elected from Indore for the record eighth time.

According to sources, her

decision may be linked to health issue including a lingering knee problem.

The two other prominent women BJP leaders Sushma Swaraj (66) and Uma Bharti (59) have already announced that they would be opting out of the Lok Sabha polls.

With the BJP finding itself short of experienced hands while engaging a rather aggressive Opposition in 2019, the party is mulling the possibility of drafting its State satraps like Shivraj Singh Chouhan (59), Raman Singh (66) and

Vasundhara Raje (66) for the LS electoral fray.

Advani (91), Joshi (84) were earlier sidelined by the BJP leadership leading provoking senior party leader

Yashwant Sinha to claim in 2015 that present BJP leadership had declared leaders above 75 as "brain dead." Induction of BJP patriarchs in 'Margdarshak Mandal' in 2014, had then also invited a sharp dig from the Congress with the comment that "they have been put in an old age home".

There has not been a single meeting of 'Margdarshak Mandal' even as it includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajant Singh as its members.

BJP had also dropped two Ministers Babul Gaur and Sartaj Singh in Madhya Pradesh Cabinet from the State Cabinet, last year, after they attained the age of 75.

# BJP's Accidental PM tweet ruffles Congress feathers

From Page 1

The Department of Public Relations of Madhya Pradesh Government tweeted that there is no decision by the Government to ban the film, adding that media reports announcing the ban were not factual.

Responding to the BJP, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said on Twitter that "such fake propaganda" would not stop it from asking the Modi Government questions on "rural distress, rampant unemployment, demonetisation disaster, flawed GST, failed Modinomics and pervading corruption".

The Maharashtra Youth Congress too withdrew its demand for a special screening of the film on the former PM claiming that it did not wish to see the "campaign movie of the BJP".

Maharashtra Youth

Congress chief Satyajeeet Tambe had written to the film's producer demanding a special screening before the movie hit the screens as well as "course correction" in case there was any distortion in the way events of the time were depicted in the film.

Taking a dig at the BJP over the biopic, RJD's Rajya Sabha member Manoj Jha said that movies should also be made on alleged irregularities in the Rafale fighter jet deal, demonetisation and farmer suicides. He said films should also be made on embattled liquor tycoon Vijay Malloya and fugitive billionaire jewellers Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah also tweeted on the film, saying, "Can't wait for when they make The Insensitive Prime Minister. So much worse than being the accidental one."

# With or without natural snow, you can now ski down Manali's slopes

FIANS ■ MANALI

Now you don't have to depend on natural snow to ski in the Solang Valley of Himachal Pradesh.

The slopes of the picturesque Valley in the western Himalayas, near this tourist resort, beckon you to put on your skis and slide away at your pleasure - thanks to a newly-imported "snow gun".

It was used for the first time on Thursday night to freeze snow in Solang -- popular among skiers for its great snow and steep pistes just 13 km uphill from Manali -- where the country's first artificial snow park has been set up to boost tourism in the region. The brain behind the venture, set up on a private land, is international skier Roshan Lal Thakur, who has long been associated with the Winter Games Federation of India.

"We have procured a snow gun from Europe with a cost of Rs 60 lakh. For the first time we

used the gun on (Thursday) night to form the snow," Thakur told IANS. "By using 60,000-70,000 litres of water, we managed to freeze over one foot of snow spread over a 100 metre radius," he added.

This year, the Solang ski slopes are not adequately covered with the natural snow and skiers were desperately awaiting the onset of heavy snowfall. During this period, the slopes are normally covered in three to four feet of snow.

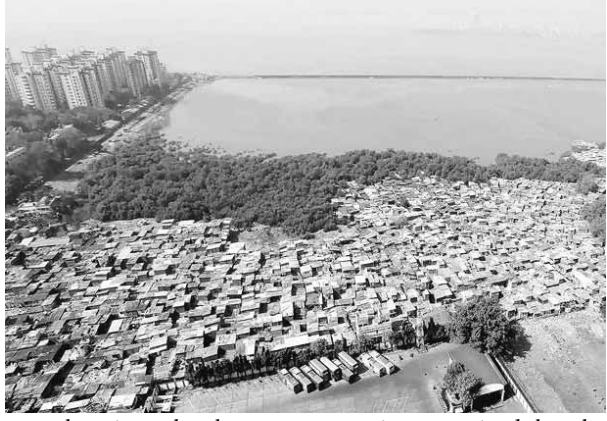
The initiative to set up the snow park has brought cheer to the faces of members of the hospitality industry.

They feel renting out the snow park to the skiers will boost adventure-related tourism in the Kullu-Manali region, a hot spot for tourists, which is followed by Shimla and Dharamsala.

Besides skiing, tourists can also indulge in sledding at the snow park, where the entry fee is ₹500 per person.

# New rules for coasts OK'd Cabinet approves Bill for setting up of NCIM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Modi Government on Friday approved new rules governing India's coastlines keeping tourism promotion, employment generation and economic development along with nature conservation in mind. The new regulations stipulate a No Development Zone (NDZ) of 20 metres from the High Tide Line (HTL) for all islands, but allows temporary tourist facilities on the beaches, falling under the Coastal Regulation Zone-III, like shacks and changing rooms. The temporary tourism facilities would, however, have to be 10m from the High Tide Line.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018, wherein it delegated powers to give clearances to projects falling in CRZ-II and III at the State level with necessary guidance.

"The proposed CRZ Notification, 2018 will lead to enhanced activities in the

coastal regions thereby promoting economic growth while also respecting the conservation principles of coastal regions. It will not only result in significant employment generation but also to better life and add value to the economy of India. The new notification is expected to rejuvenate the coastal areas while reducing their vulnerabilities," an official statement said.

The CRZ notification was last reviewed and issued in 2011. The move comes in the backdrop of a series of representations received by the Environment Ministry from various coastal States/UTs and other stakeholders.

"Temporary tourism facilities such as shacks, toilet blocks, change rooms, drinking water facilities etc. have now been permitted on beaches. Such temporary tourism facilities are also now permissible in the NDZ of the CRZ-III areas as per the Notification. However, a minimum distance of 10m from HTL should be maintained for setting up of such facilities," the statement

**The CRZ notification was last reviewed and issued in 2011. The move comes in the backdrop of a series of representations received by the Environment Ministry from various coastal States/UTs and other stakeholders**

said.

The notification also streamlined the process of CRZ clearances and only projects located in the CRZ-I (Ecologically Sensitive Areas) and CRZ IV (area covered between Low Tide Line and 12 nautical miles seaward) will now be dealt by the Union Environment Ministry for clearance.

"The powers for clearances with respect to CRZ-II and III have been delegated at the State level with necessary guidance," the statement said.

"For islands close to the main land coast and for all backwater islands in the main land, in wake of space limitations and unique geography of such regions, bringing uniformity in treatment of such regions, NDZ of 20 m has been stipulated," it added.

All ecologically sensitive areas have been accorded special importance and specific guidelines related to their conservation and management plans have been drawn up as a part of the notification.

"Pollution abatement has been accorded special focus. In order to address pollution in Coastal areas treatment facilities have been made permissible activities in CRZ-I B area subject to necessary safeguards. Defence and strategic projects have been accorded necessary dispensation," it said.

According to the statement, as per CRZ, 2011 Notification, for CRZ-II (Urban) areas, Floor Space Index (FSI) or the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) had been frozen as per 1991 Development Control Regulation levels.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the draft National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCIM) Bill, 2018, which seeks to replace the existing regulator, the Central Council for Indian Medicine (CCIM), with a new body to ensure transparency and accountability.

The draft Bill provides for the constitution of a National Commission with four autonomous boards entrusted with conducting overall education of Ayurveda under the Board of Ayurveda and Unani, Siddha and Sowa Rigpa under the Board of Unani, Siddha and Sowa Rigpa.

There are two common boards namely Board of assessment and rating to assess and grant permission to educational institutions of Indian systems of Medicine and Board of ethics and registration of practitioners of Indian systems of medicine to maintain National



Register and ethical issues relating to practice under the National Commission for Indian Medicine, the statement stated.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "It also proposes a common entrance exam and an exit exam, which all graduates will have to clear to get practicing licenses. Further, a teacher's eligibility test has been proposed in the Bill to assess the standard of teachers before appointment and promotions." Till now things were adhoc, he added.

Prasad said the government was committed to promote Indian System of Medicine, from Ayurveda to Siddha to Unani. "But it is equally important that we remain alive to having value addition in terms of eligibility, quality, in terms of having a system which produces quality practitioners and quality teachers. It is a major step in this direction," he said.

The draft Bill, according to the statement, is aimed at bringing reforms in the medical education of Indian medicine sector in lines with the National Medical Commission proposed for setting up for Allopathy system of medicine.

The proposed regulatory structure will enable transparency and accountability for protecting the interests of the general public, it said.

The NCIM will promote availability of affordable health-care services in all parts of the country, according to the statement.

## Export incentive for onion farmers doubled

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Concerned over the fall in onion prices, the Government on Friday doubled the export incentive for the kitchen staple to boost shipments and ensure better returns for farmers. At present, onion traders get 5 per cent export incentive on fresh crop under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS). Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhakar has sought ₹179.16 crore from the Finance Ministry to double the incentives for onion exporters amid significant fall in prices of the vegetable.

Meanwhile, seeking to provide relief to coconut growers, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Friday announced a steep hike in minimum support price of copra by up to ₹2,170 per quintal to ₹9,521-9,920 for 2018-19 season. The MSP (minimum support price) of ball copra has been increased by ₹2,170 per quintal to ₹9,920

per quintal for the 2018-19 season from ₹7,750 per quintal in the last year, an official statement said. The support price of milling copra has been raised by ₹2,010 per quintal to ₹9,521 per quintal for the current year from ₹7,511 per quintal in the last year.

In a communication to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Prabhakar said the Ministry of Commerce is keen to increase export incentives under MEIS from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. Under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), the government provides duty ben-

efits depending on product and country.

"The Government today increased the export incentives under the MEIS from existing 5 per cent to 10 per cent in the interest of farmers," an official statement said.

This will result in better price for onion in domestic markets. Wholesale prices of onion are 'subdued' at present due to increase in the arrival of the fresh crop in the mandis, it said.

"To contain the situation, it has been decided by the government to encourage export of

Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhakar has sought ₹179.16 crore from the Finance Ministry to double the incentives for onion exporters amid significant fall in prices of the vegetable

onions so that the domestic prices stabilise," the statement said. With the current increase, onion enjoys one of the highest incentives for agro-exports. This timely intervention would help the farmers who have recently harvested their produce and who have sowed or recently planted their seeds and expected better prices, it added.

In July 2018, the Government had introduced 5 per cent export incentive for fresh onions.

India's exports of fresh and chilled onion stood at \$256 million during April-October 2018-19.

It was \$511.5 million in 2017-18. Good monsoon in states like Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh has led to huge production of onion, resulting in less demand from south and north region.

Due to this, onion from Maharashtra has not been transported to other states, which caused a glut and sharp decline in prices.

## Committed to democratic process in J&K: Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday informed Lok Sabha that the Centre is committed to democratic process in Jammu & Kashmir, while replying to the debate on the Statutory Resolution on imposition of President's Rule in the troubled state. The Statutory Resolution on imposition of President's Rule in Jammu & Kashmir, which requires Parliament's approval, was adopted with voice vote amid din in the House. The Opposition termed the decision to dissolve the Assembly as "unconstitutional".

Countering the arguments of the Opposition parties, the Home Minister said that no party in the Assembly was in a position to form the Government even a day before the decision to impose President's Rule. He also rejected claims of some Opposition parties that the BJP was propping up a regional party under the leadership of Sajjad Lone to

**Countering the arguments of the Opposition parties, the Home Minister said no party in the Assembly was in a position to form the Government even a day before the decision to impose President's Rule**

form Government, saying if his party had such an intention, it would have done so within six months of the Governor's Rule.

"The Government doesn't conduct elections but the Government is ready for election. It is the responsibility of the Election Commission to hold elections... We are totally committed to democratic process," he said. The Minister assured the House that security requirement of the Election Commission will be met for free and fair Assembly election in the State.

Soon after imposition of the Governor's Rule in June, Singh said, the Governor's

report of June 19 to the President indicated that no party or coalition of parties in the state was in a position to form government. The Statutory Resolution will now go to Rajya Sabha for approval.

Initiating the debate, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said Governor Satya Pal Malik acted in "gross violation" of the Supreme Court order in SR Bommai case that had stated that whether an alliance has a majority or not can be decided only on the floor of the assembly. Malik's decision to impose Governor's rule after the NC, PDP and the Congress made a move to form the Government in the State was also in "violation" of the Sarkaria Commission's guidelines on Centre-state relations, he said.

Trinamool Congress' Saugata Roy termed the Governor's decision as "arbitrary" and claimed the Centre had propped up a rival alliance led by Sajjad Lone, who had the support of "only two MLAs".

## Sonia to convene Congress general body meet on Jan 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress President Sonia Gandhi will convene a meeting of General Body meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) on January 2 to discuss the remaining course of action within Parliament scheduled till January 8 and also deliberate upon issues related to General elections 2019, the alliance partners and other strategy for the party ahead. The grand old party also observed its 134th Foundation Day with Rahul Gandhi hoisting the party's flag at its headquarters on Friday.

Sources said that CPP meeting will be presided as Sonia as she continues to be head of CPP after stepping down as Party president last

year which was taken over by Rahul Gandhi.

A Congress MP said that though he was not aware of the agenda of the CPP, but assumed that Rahul Gandhi's success in the recent concluded assembly polls may be discussed and the new chart of action for the Lok Sabha polls. A decision to reached out to "like-minded parties" to defeat the BJP in the next general election could also be discussed.

In her last year CPP address this year, Sonia had said that the party needs to ready itself for the challenge. "I will work with the Congress president (Rahul Gandhi) and other colleagues in discussions with like-minded political parties to ensure that in the next election the BJP is defeated and India is restored to a democratic, inclusive, secular,

tolerant and economically progressive path," she had said in February 2018.

Celebrating the foundation day on Friday, the party stated it will continue to fight the propagators of hate with peace, unity and love. On the occasion, Rahul Gandhi acknowledged the selfless service and contribution of leaders and workers in building the party.

The event was attended by senior party leaders, including former prime minister Manmohan Singh, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former defence minister AK Antony. Top party leaders Ahmed Patel, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Motilal Vora and Kapil Sibal were also present on the occasion during which a cake was also cut.

## Amid Govt's U-turn, ICMR to form task force on rare diseases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Days after the Union Health Ministry dumped its plan to set up ₹100 crore fund for treatment of rare diseases, its research wing, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is mulling formation of a task force to promote therapeutic research and expedite new drug development for the sector.

However, Ministry's U turn after it had announced fund of ₹100 crore under the National policy for the rare diseases has upset the patients and their families who cannot afford huge treatment cost.

The Ministry recently decided to "reframe" the policy citing bureaucratic hurdles and financial shortage.

Compounding the problem is the fact that there are some rare diseases like

Gaucher, MPS, Pompe, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Spinal Muscular Atrophy etc., for which treatment is available but is unaffordable due to exorbitant costs. In many cases, the treatment has been seen to drastically improve the quality of life of a patient. The high cost of treatment, thus, increases inequality with respect to access to treatment for rare disease patients. A senior official from the Ministry said that the ICMR's task force studies are national initiatives that are centrally planned, coordinated and implemented on a multi-centric basis.

The projects have defined targets and specific timeframe. With the new programme, the ICMR is encouraging researchers in areas such as clin-

ical and molecular genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and new drug development to collaborate and come up with innovative plans to tackle orphan diseases. Infact, the Council has already started accepting proposals from researchers. Apart from R&D, the task force will explore options to improve diagnostic, prenatal diagnostic and counselling facilities across the country. Short-term training programmes for clinicians to recognise and diagnose rare genetic diseases are also on the cards.

It is estimated that one in 20 Indians is affected by one of the 7,000 diseases listed as rare diseases. Last year, the ICMR had joined hands with AIIMS and JNU to launch the country's first Rare Disease Registry.

## CBI registers 2 cases of illegal trafficking of minors to US, Kenya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered two separate cases of illegal trafficking of women and children to the United States of America and Kenya.

Both the cases were registered on Thursday and the first relates to a complaint from the US embassy which reported that an attempt was made by a woman Gagan Gupta, in August last year, to smuggle four minor children to that country allegedly using assumed identities of four students of St Joseph's Convent in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district in Punjab. Five persons have been named as accused in the case. The second case registered following a reference from the Ministry of External Affairs which stated an unregistered recruitment agency was involved in trafficking girls and women to Kenya on the pretext of providing them employment.

The embassy said that the staff of United Airlines-83 flight stopped them from boarding the flight as the faces of four children did match with their photographs in the passport, according to the US Embassy complaint to the CBI, which is now part of the FIR.

However, their passports were not seized and they were allowed to leave the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The airline staff did not contact the local police but it provided photos of the minor subjects, of the passports and the airline tickets to the embassy officials.

During inquiry by the embassy, it surfaced visas issued to the kids were part of a school group from St Joseph Convent for which a trip to the United States was organised by Click Education Services Pvt

Limited.

The school was allegedly sending its students for a cultural trip to the US for which the passports of student and staff were collected by an agent promising them to help in the visa process. The agent allegedly tried to send four of its clients on the assumed identity by providing them passports of the students to whom the visas were issued for the cultural trip.

The embassy conducted its own enquiry and managed to get vital information before it sent a detailed complaint on February 7 this year to the CBI.

The five named in the case include Balraj Singh of Kings Punjab Travels, a travel agency besides other agents which include Gagan Gupta, Chetan Sabharwal, Lovepreet Singh and Tilak Raj.

The second case has been registered on a complaint from the External Affairs Ministry that Indian embassy in Nairobi, Kenya has rescued three young girls who were allegedly trafficked to Mombassa on the pretext of giving employment as dancers but were coerced into prostitution. The girls were taken to Nairobi by Shama Javid Deen, a Kenyan national and an agent Aryan who allegedly ran an "organised crime syndicate" which involved her family members too.

"It appears that the above mentioned persons are running a human trafficking network by pushing young Indian girls into prostitution abroad with a false promise of good job and salary," Col Rahul Dutt, Director (Overseas Employment) said in complaint in March, 2018.

"They were forced to consume alcohol and smoke against their will and were also being coerced to enter into prostitution."

## Drone Olympics to be held in Bengaluru

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India for the first time will host an international level competition of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) named "Drone Olympics." It will be held during the forthcoming international aerospace exhibition Aero India 2019 in Bengaluru. The top three winners of the drone competition will be honoured with total cash prize of ₹38 lakh. Aerospace exhibition will take place from February 20 to 24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate it.

Giving details of the unique event, Defence Ministry sources said here on Friday it will not only encourage the UAV manufacturing in the country but will also provide an opportunity to the armed



forces to assess the capabilities that exist in the world.

The market of UAV is one of the fastest growing in the world and role of the UAVs in defence sector is ever increasing on account of new features

being added to them making these machines fit for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, electronic warfare and strike missions, they said.

As regards the Drone Olympics, officials said it is

open to both Indian and international players. Three categories of events include surveillance challenge to determine surveillance capability, supply drop challenge to assess the weight dropping capability of the UAV and formation flying challenge to demonstrate different shapes with group of UAVs. A newly designed webpage was launched on Friday for Drone Olympics for registration of UV players.

On the Aero India 2019 event, they said it will be the 12th edition of the biennial exhibition. The coming event will see Indian origin US astronaut Sunita William attending the show and other women achievers will also be present there, officials said.

For the first time, the country's civil aviation exhibition

will be subsumed into the upcoming edition of Aero India. So far, Aero India has been defence oriented while a separate civil aviation exhibition was held in Hyderabad.

The biennial Aero India began in 1996 and has emerged as the largest aerospace exhibition in Asia attracting all major aerospace manufacturers around the globe giving India's large armed forces looking at major modernisation. Yelahanka Air Force station in Bengaluru has hosted all the 11 editions so far. The tag line of Aero India 2019 is "runway for a billion opportunities." The logo is inspired by indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

Several firsts are planned in the 12th edition of the show which includes a round table of global Chief Executive Officers

(CEO), a student's event, academic seminars and photography contests.

The CEOs round table is scheduled on the inaugural day and in which about 15-20 CEOs from global aerospace majors are expected to participate.

Students will be encouraged to present projects related to the industry and is being promoted and monitored by the Defence Ministry. A Joint Secretary in the ministry is overseeing the effort, they said. Two international level academic seminars based are also planned.

## Streaming content

Bollywood extended its story bandwidth like never before powered by the interactivity and intimacy of digital platforms



**E**ntertainment is serious business in Bollywood and that is perhaps one of the reasons why it gets real about it faster than dipstick surveys. This year didn't set out to be a breakthrough one but as it turned out, the film industry realised the worth of smart budgeting, stories that are true to life, content with an endearing bandwidth, heroes who could be human and flawed and women who could shoulder the burden of a ₹100-crore revenue graph quite effortlessly. Also the star persona changed

offscreen as A-listers embraced normal patterns of life, coming out of their shells as it were, choosing to marry, have babies, go on vacations while being on top of their game, normalising family life and not letting it be a career deterrent as it once was, particularly for women. This levelling exercise has got to be credited in part to the digital streaming platforms that have consumers eating out of their palmtops, literally. In the quest for snackable content and a wider catchment area, Amazon and Netflix have indigenised shows and made them a personal talking point for every individual equipped with the internet at the local, neighbourhood level. So it is that the real India has found an echo in everyday life that includes the underbelly, the marginalised, the queer, the misfit, the conflicted and the grey. Be it Ganesh Gaitonde of *Sacred Games* or Akhanand Tripathi of *Mirzapur*, both dons brought us up close to the putrescence of a system that bred them, the anatomy of a contemporary socio-political milieu that doesn't talk down from the urbane perspective of arthouse but a felt rawness of the ground below. In such a situation, even a lawkeeper like Sartaj Singh sways on the edge of right and wrong. This "life or something like it" mantra online is the reason why we have had films on loveable rogues (*Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety*) geriatric pregnancy (*Badhaai Ho*) and the piercing subtlety of urban crimes (*Andhadhun*). Meanwhile, the women — be it the principled queen (*Padmaavat*), a Kashmiri spy (*Raazi*) who prizes nationalism over emotions for her equally nationalist enemy, a woman ghost who would abduct abusive men (*Stree*) or a teacher battling a speech disorder (*Hichki*) — showed that age, size, shape and looks did not matter as the mettle they were made of. All of these raked in big money at home and overseas too, shedding the pretty diaspora myth and proving Indians are totally comfortable in their skin, warts and all, and are not afraid to show their unabashed passion and fury, aspiration and ambition and most importantly engage with conflict and attempt a conversation with issues so long considered taboo, sex or terrorism. That a big commercial venture like *Sanju* did well has also got to do with the story about a flawed hero who had his comeuppance. Or as the year ends, *Simbaa* roars from the corrupt matrix he is born of and decides to turn it on itself. Bollywood has always made larger than life films for the masses but now the same masses do not want escapism but a stake in the truth of their everyday life with messy concerns, one that can be easily comic or tragic. Perhaps this is the reason why big ticket films, including the multi-starrer *Thugs of Hindostan*, *Race 3* and *Zero* tanked horribly. This also dimmed the sheen of the trinity of Khans — Salman, Shahrukh and Aamir while Saif rescued himself online. The young brigade of Ayushmann Khurrana, Rajkumar Rao, Vicky Kaushal and Ishan Khatter showed that they could handle both artistry and fame with equal elan and would surprise us with their non-conventional choices.

Regional films were mainstreamed, either as adaptations or importing their stars post the pan-India success of a *Bahubali*. Much experimentation is happening in the regional space and backed by big Bollywood funding, we could see a content storm brewing ahead of us. Thanks to digital flatness, the entertainment space has emerged as accommodating all kinds of "otherness."

And finally it was the year of Bollywood nuptials, complete with designer Sabyasachi and foreign exotica, that plumed up the big fat Indian wedding economy as an attractive option for Westerners too. Be it the trans-continental coming together of cultures in the Priyanka Chopra-Nick Jonas wedding or the inter-community alliance of Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, these stars not only showed us how to celebrate but widened the possibility of couple branding as an allied revenue stream. Priyanka turned investor in a tech app while Deepika is running her mental health foundation, showing that diversification is the key to relevance. That pretty much sums up the mantra that Bollywood lived by.

## The trouble with flying

The House panel on civil aviation wants to have its cake and eat it too. The financial health of airlines precludes that



**A**re airline passengers an angry lot? Yes. They are frustrated with high excess baggage charges, over-priced food and occasional inordinate delays of the airlines. But with airline tickets being cheaper than ever before, more and more Indians are flying. While some of the charges are understandable, they remain the only way for most airlines to make money. Indeed, evidence from airlines in the international market has proven that a lot of airline profits are driven by what are now known as ancillary revenues such

as these. After a Parliamentary Committee report made it clear that many of these practices are unfair, what is the way forward? Well, the airlines should charge more for all tickets then. But given that a huge majority of travellers do manage to travel within the weight limits, fare increases, because some people want higher baggage allowances, might be unfair to the former. Why should a person, taking a short business trip between Delhi and Mumbai, subsidise the luggage allowance of another passenger? Especially with most Indian airlines suffering financially, these statements are confounding.

That said, it is imperative, as the Committee has noted, that airlines train their ground and cabin staff better to deal with trouble. While many Indian passengers do scream and shout, they should understand that many of the airline staff are doing a thankless job on days when there are weather-related delays and what not. Better staff training can help mitigate those problems. At the same time, the Government and the Civil Aviation Ministry should move an airline passengers' 'Bill of Rights' that has proper time-bound compensation written out in case of delays and cancellations. In Europe, all airlines are forced to pay out in case there are heavy delays instead of just 'refunding' tickets. Sure, there should be exemptions made for events beyond the airlines' control, such as the drone problems at London's Gatwick, but codifying compensation issues is a better move than demanding more baggage allowance.

# Veterans as political prop

Using Army men for diplomatic muscle-flexing, be it in the US, UK or India, has become commonplace. In the end, it diminishes the institution's name and glory



BHOPINDER SINGH

**G**lobally, 'veterans' naturally gravitate towards conservative parties as the Centrist and Left-of-Centre parties are traditionally perceived to be 'soft on security'. The Republican Party in the US and the Conservative Party (the Tories) in the UK usually garner more support than the Democratic Party or the Labour Party, respectively. With politics assuming more nationalistic undertones, political appropriation and posing of the 'soldiers' and their ostensibly-related causes has become more blatant and commonplace. UK Prime Minister Theresa May had slammed FIFA's decision to disallow English football players from wearing 'poppy' lapels (in remembrance of soldiers who died in wars) as "utterly outrageous"; whereas US President Donald Trump came back from the Bastille Day military parade in Paris, wanting to replicate and top the same with his own version of a grand military parade. Clearly, centering the 'soldier' makes for good politics.

However, beyond the immediate traction, overplaying the symbolic hand on this tact without doing anything concrete or meaningful has diminishing returns. Already, the unprecedented cuts in the UK's Department for Work and Pensions, affecting the 'veterans', have made ex-service personnel account for one in 10 rough sleepers across the UK. Indeed, in the US, Trump's shocking mock of the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)-affected soldiers or the 'privatisation' of the veteran health services, militate against the professed concerns for the uniformed fraternity. The lazy perception that these men and women of honour could join the Administration of the ruling political dispensations as 'trophy-candidates' and loyal 'yes-men', to project militaristic muscularity, patriotism and decisiveness on the bankrolling party, is slowly coming undone. It is true that the institutional ethos and regimental/corps spirit bequeaths these combatants with certain outwardly machismo, steel and heroic 'branding', but beyond the razzmatazz of their medals, uniforms and swagger, lie decades of hands-on experience, blood-sweat-toil in disturbed areas and years of training and reflection that make these people amongst the most balanced and nuanced individuals who do not suffer from knee-jerk reactions.

Usually, what comes as a surprise to the politicians is the latent gravitas, inherent sense of self-respect and the undying spirit of speaking the truth (gently but surely), that ultimately make the political masters uncomfortable in their midst. The retired Marine Corps General James Mattis (who recently quit as the US Secretary of Defence) is famous for telling his troops: "You are part of the world's most feared and trusted force. Engage your brain before your weapon."



The healthy institutional diversity within the 'barracks' and the societal bonhomie under the most trying of circumstances make these veterans life-long believers in plurality and 'inclusiveness' that is above the regressive divides that beset and define partisan politics.

Combatants are also hard-wired into believing "dissent is not disloyalty", albeit, expressed in a certain form with the requisite context, form and dignity. Thus, the unimpeachable spirit of 'brothers-in-arms' that swears only to the hallowed Constitutional spirit of the nation, riles against the political necessities, compromises and bigotry that usually accompany partisan politics.

Contrary to some caricatured perceptions, soldiers are not war-mongering or blood-lusting cadres, as the nobility of the soldiers code ensures a more professional, rationale and reasonable instinct that differentiates a soldier from a mercenary. The legendary General Douglas MacArthur famously said: "The soldier above all prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war."

The recent case of a similar realisation dawned on the draft-evasive, Trump, who, in order to inject some testosterone of muscularity that befitted his contours of 'America First', got carried over by the Captain America-like superhero image of the iconic, four-star General,

James Mattis (popularly known as 'mad dog' and 'warrior monk'), and inducted him as the Secretary of Defence.

Perhaps, unknown to Trump was the erudition, sagacity and profundity that also came along with the Pattonesque-persona, whose real-time combat experience was enhanced by the scholarship that came with a personal library of over 7,000 books, unlike the empty rhetoric and vacuous bluster of a Donald Trump. The officer-like conduct in Mattis had insisted on a certain decorum and dignity in engaging with the allies, and not in the fanciful flights of temperamental rants that define Trump. Mattis' exit and inability to get along with Trump mirrored the similar fate that beset other veterans, like the previous National Security Advisor, Lt Gen McMaster.

Historically, in India, too, veterans-turned-politicians have been amongst the most respected, well-read and responsible leaders. However, in the last few years, a new phenomenon emerged of newsroom-warriors plumed in their regimental regalia, thundering political invectives and positions dominating the prime-time slots. Thankfully, time and tide forced some into introspection, reflection and

realisation that the politicos appropriated and misused the imagery of the 'soldier' for their own partisan purposes and basically the institutional interests and concerns remained unanswered, as before.

Election time is always fraught with the risk of such tactical propping of veterans as 'show-horses' for posturing patriotism and political muscularity. Care must be taken to ensure that the apolitical-construct and wiring of the Armed Forces is respected, and no 'firing from the shoulders' of these veterans is done to justify political pettiness, nefarious designs and selfish electoral objectives.

Like the veterans of yore, no implied extension of their military service should be encouraged to suggest an 'institutional' preference towards any political party — the veterans should propagate their partisan preferences in their individual capacity and certainly not on behalf of the 'institution'. A delicate line must be maintained. Irrespective of the political parties, matters concerning the 'soldier' have remained unaddressed and in crunch situations, the discomfort of politicians with the perspective and concerns of the 'soldiers' — be it in the US, UK or India — has led to the steady diminishment of the 'institution' in the national narrative.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

## SOUNDBITE

The current situation in the Valley is an outcome of a series of blunders by successive Congress Governments in the State starting with the Nehruvian blunder.



Union Minister — Jitendra Singh

National security is supreme. But declaring suspects as terrorists on the basis of *sulli* bombs, associating (them) with the dreaded IS is premature.



Former J&K Chief Minister — Mehbooba Mufti

Governor's House is not the place to prove majority. Governor didn't wait and dissolved it. The solution to the problems is not through the police.



NC leader — Farooq Abdullah

The Governor's private assessment is anathema to the Constitution and is also subject to personal malfeasance in Jammu & Kashmir.



Congress leader — Shashi Tharoor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Timely intervention

Sir — This refers to the report, "Terror bids foiled in nick of time" (December 27). The timely intervention of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) saved the nation from a great deal of chaos. That the investigative body seized a huge stash of bomb-making materials and a country-made rocket launcher from the terrorists' hideouts, testifies their very intent. It is now up for the NIA to make a water-tight case against these terrorists, undertake a thorough enquiry to get an in-depth details about their plans and *modus operandi*. Political parties must not politicise this matter to score brownie points.

Yvonne Fernando  
Chennai

### Seize the moment

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Annus Horribilis" (December 27). I totally agree with the views expressed in the editorial. This past year, the BJP has seen many ups and downs. However, despite the many losses, the Indian elec-

torate bestows faith on the Prime Minister who still enjoys massive popularity. His charisma is intact and his credibility remains strong.

A little jerk was the most essential for the BJP to unshackle it from day-dreaming about the Modi wave. That alone cannot lead it to register victory in the 2019 General Election. Honestly, there is no close

substitute to Modi yet. It should, therefore, not be troublesome for the BJP to get back to track once again.

All they need is proper strategy and a tactical plan to harmoniously tie up with allies in regional areas and build robust bond with the electorate to defeat the nemesis.

Kirti Wadhawan  
Kanpur

### Mine tragedy brings to fore certain hard truths

**T**his refers to the editorial, "The forgotten" (December 28). It is sad to learn that 15 young men remain trapped in an illegal mine in Meghalaya. It is a fact that none in our country seem to care about them. Curiously, it is also strange that the North-East barely warrants a mention in the national media. Why does the Government keep dilly-dallying on taking urgent action to rescue those trapped young men? In the recent past, 12 members of the young Thai football team went missing in a cave and the Government over there made all efforts to rescue them, although a Thai military diver lost his life.

In the instant case, the missing men are not locals, but migrants from other States and some even illegals from Bangladesh. Like others, they are precious human beings and the Government is bound to save them on war-footing. It is heart-breaking that precious two weeks have passed since the occurrence of the



tragedy. It is not even known if they are dead or alive. Clearly, the Government was not equipped to meet this challenge. It must call for external help to rescue them at the earliest. Time is ticking away. Something must be done urgently to save them.

TK Nandanam  
Chennai

Congress and the Samajwadi Party, staged a walk-out. Further, the ruling party does not have the numbers in the Rajya Sabha.

Most Muslim countries have discarded this practice. In fact, a section of the Indian Muslims, too, do not follow it. It is also a fact that attributing criminality and imprisoning of Muslim men would have a cascading effect on the livelihood of the affected family. Reform must happen but one that benefits the community.

Syed Nissar  
Hyderabad

### Punish the guilty

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Moment to movement" (December 28). Harassment or sexual exploitation against any gender can never be justified. It is of utmost importance that no innocent man/woman becomes a victim of allegations. It's the duty of the courts to punish and fine those against whom allegations have been proved right.

Mahesh Kumar  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Towards a more friendly GST

Slowly but steadily, India is making the move towards a less flawed system of implementation. Lower tax rates will ensure wider coverage



SANJU VERMA

The 31st Goods and Services Tax (GST) council meet on December 22, 2018, undertook some sweeping changes. Most important of all, tax slabs for more than 30 items were slashed, thereby making them cheaper. Barring tobacco products, luxury vehicles, molasses, air conditioners, aerated water, big televisions, dish washers among others, were transferred from the 28 per cent slab to 18 per cent and 12 per cent slabs. Changes will come into effect from January 1, 2019. Only 28 luxury or sin items will now remain in the highest 28 per cent bracket. Indeed, the Government has taken a significant move as 183 goods will now fall in the 0 per cent category; 308 items will be taxed at five per cent; 178 in the 12 per cent category; and 517 goods will fall under the 18 per cent bracket. Naysayers, who had predicted that GST would be inflationary during its initial years, had to eat humble pie. From a pre-GST tax rate as large as between 28 and 31 per cent, post the Modi Government's path-breaking GST move, 1,186 goods — comprising 97.69 per cent of the 1,214 goods widely used — will now be taxed at 18 per cent or below. Certainly, this is the biggest middle class friendly move taken by any Government in post-independent India.

Hence, while Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and his coterie of sycophants can keep vacillating between false bravado and sheer desperation, it's time for his party to stop playing the 'martyr' and blaming the BJP for 'snatching' their idea. An idea after all is only as good as its execution. Also, those, who accuse the Government of shifting goal posts, would do well to note that both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have, in no uncertain terms, commended the Modi Government's GST move. They said that while most countries have taken a few years to see GST stabilise, given its post-execution complexities, the pace of seamless transition in India has been much faster. This, of course, is borne out additionally by the fact that between April and November, ₹91,149 crore worth of refunds were disbursed, more than 10 crore e-way was generated, over 11 crore returns were filed and over 352 crore invoices were processed. Over ₹7.76 lakh crore worth taxes were collected in the first eight months of 2018 itself, with a monthly run rate in excess of ₹97,000 crore.

Of more than 140 odd countries that have implemented GST — France being the first one to do so in 1954 — only 49 of them follow the one-tax slab module; around 28 countries have two-slab tax modules; and all others have modified/tweaked the GST structure to align it with their country's specific needs. This essentially means that there is no need to follow an 'all size fits one' approach. One of the best things about GST is that there are no hidden taxes. What one sees is what he/she gets. Efficiency gains, higher compliance, prevention of tax leakages, lower rates, wider base, export friendliness and tax neutrality have all brought down the overall tax burden for consumers and enhanced ease of doing business. Besides, of course, they have also made India's fuel economy more competitive by eliminating the need for truckers to wait endlessly to pay octroi and entry taxes at inter-State checkpoints.

In just one year, 105 per cent more two-wheelers and 42 per cent more cars and SUVs were registered in Mumbai as of April 2018 due to the elimination of a 4.5 per cent additional levy by way of octroi that was paid earlier on Mumbai-registered vehicles. According to RTO officials, a significant number of buyers prefers registering vehicles outside Mumbai in far off Thane or Panvel to save costs. The amount thus saved ranges between ₹3,000-₹5,000 for two-wheelers, ₹18,000 on an average for a hatchback, to roughly ₹60,000 for an SUV. But GST has made life all the more easier — there is no difference between registering a car within Mumbai or outside as one has to pay the same road tax and insurance across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

In November 2017, during its 23rd meeting in Guwahati, the GST Council reduced rates for all AC and non-AC restaurants from 18 to five per cent. Now only starred restaurants, with a tariff of ₹7,500 or more are being charged at 18 per cent. At its recent meet this month, the GST Council, among other concessions, announced its decision to exempt the 34 crore odd Jan Dhan accounts from taxes. The Modi Government's clarion call of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' is not a mere platitude but a work ethic it truly abides by.

(The writer is an economist and chief spokesperson for the BJP in Mumbai)

THE BJP IS TRYING TO DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE FROM ACTUAL ISSUES THROUGH THE FILM, *THE ACCIDENTAL PRIME MINISTER*.

—CONGRESS LEADER  
PL PUNIA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



CAN'T WE EXTEND OUR WISHES FOR A FILM? CONGRESS HAS BEEN ALL FOR FREEDOM, WHY IS IT QUESTIONING THAT FREEDOM NOW?

—UNION MINISTER  
RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE

India scores in climate politics

Given that the country is well on course to achieving its targets much ahead of the deadlines, a holistic approach to the climate change mitigation process will lead to meaningful action



VK BAHUGUNA

The global climate change negotiation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is held periodically under the aegis of the Conference of Parties (CoP). The 24th CoP to the UNFCCC, COP24, was held in Katowice, Poland, from December 2 to 14. After the historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015, the Katowice meet was the most significant. It was supposed to lay down the contours for climate change action plans. This year marked the deadline, as agreed by signatories of the Paris Agreement, to adopt a "work programme for the implementation" of commitments that were made in 2015. An analysis of the decision taken in CoP24 clearly indicates that the shadow of the US' withdrawal from the climate change talk is over. A new global leadership has emerged and India is leading from the front.

Thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, his actions, determination and dynamism ensured that the commitments made at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21, reached the ultimate goal despite the many problems faced by our country, most important of them pertaining to the growth in population. The second most important leader in the global climate leadership is French President Emmanuel Macron, who readily agreed to Prime Minister Modi's proposal for setting up the International Solar Alliance (ISA), which was signed by both leaders earlier this year. More than 120 countries have become signatories to the ISA. In October 2018, more than 48 countries along with 25 heads of states attended the ISA conference that was hosted by India.

Another reason for the progress of climate-related talks is the trust factor. Most low and middle income countries bestowed faith in Prime Minister Modi's capability to steer the climate change proceedings due to his stature as a global leader. The only other country that holds similar potential is China. But then, it suffers from trust deficit. It would be worthwhile to discuss some of the takeaways from the CoP24 and India's role in the successful conclusion of the climate change conference. Prior to this, we saw the then Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jairam Ramesh, registering similar impact on India's idea of climate diplomacy. Ramesh also espoused the cause of the developing world.

Global rules are necessary to ensure that every percentage of the emission released into the atmosphere is accounted for. In this way, progress towards the limitation goals of the Paris Agreement can be measured accurately. Currently, climate actions of rich nations for the pre-2020 period are being guided by the Kyoto Protocol. The UN climate change conference adopted a rulebook for the implementation of the Paris Agreement only after protracted negotiations. This deal is meant for climate action by all countries across the globe.

Its success was explained by Michal Kurtyka, CoP24 president: "We have worked on this (Katowice) package for three years. With 200 countries in the room, it is not easy to find agreement on a deal so specific and technical. But under these circumstances, every single step



“ THE KATOWICE CLIMATE PACKAGE INCLUDES GUIDELINES THAT WILL OPERATIONALISE THE TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK AND POINTS OUT HOW COUNTRIES WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS THAT DESCRIBE THEIR DOMESTIC CLIMATE ACTIONS. THIS INFORMATION INCLUDES MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES AS WELL AS DETAILS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ”

forward is a big achievement.”

The Katowice climate package includes guidelines that will operationalise the transparency framework. It sets out how countries will provide information about their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that describe their domestic climate actions. This information includes mitigation and adaptation measures as well as details of financial support for climate action in developing countries.

With this, countries can chalk out a roadmap for the implementation of the Paris Accord that covers the period from now till 2020. The Katowice package also includes guidelines for establishing new targets on finance from 2025 onwards to follow on from the current target of mobilising \$100 billion per year from 2020 to support developing countries. The other guidelines include how to conduct the global stock-taking of the effectiveness of climate action in 2023 and how to assess progress on the development and transfer of technology by the developed nations. The guidelines, known as the Paris rulebook, will promote trust among nations that all countries are playing their part in addressing the challenge of climate change.

The word 'trust' signifies the most positive outcome of the Katowice Conference. However, issues that still have to be taken into account circle the use of cooperative approaches as well as the sustainable development mechanism, as contained in the Paris Agreement's Article 6. These would allow countries to meet a part of their domestic mitigation goals through the use of so-called 'market mechanisms'. On this matter, the Paris Agreement

recognises the need for global rules to safeguard the integrity of efforts of all countries. It is hoped that this issue will be decided in future meetings, and India is expected to play a key role.

The Indian delegation reiterated its stand with overwhelming support that the Paris Climate Agreement was "non-negotiable" and there could be no compromise on the basic principles such as equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It effectively countered the attempts of rich countries, led by the US and the European Union, to dilute this provision.

India stressed the need for using scientific findings on climate change and welcomed the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Special Report, which said that human activities are estimated to have caused approximately one degree celsius of global warming above the pre-industrial levels and are currently increasing at 0.2 degrees celsius per decade.

India in its statement stood for the poor, marginalised and vulnerable communities as they are worst-hit by the vagaries of climate change. On the first day of CoP24, India made it clear to the world that it was well on course to achieve all its climate targets much ahead of the deadline it set for itself. It asked its developed counterparts to meet their obligations, including those relating to providing financial and technological help to the developing countries.

The Institute for Energy Economic and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), a US-based organisation that conducts research and analysis on financial and

economic issues related to energy and environment, showed that India was likely to attain the goal of having 40 per cent of its electricity generation coming from renewable sources by the year 2020, instead of the original target of 2030. It said that by the year 2027, renewable energies like solar, wind and biomass would generate about 275 GW of electricity, comprising 44 per cent of India's total power generation of 619 GW. Hydro and nuclear energy, which are also considered as clean sources of energy, would contribute another 80 GW or about 13 per cent.

The Government, however, needs to take some more pro-active action, especially in tackling the landscape. This (because India is a tropical nation facing the vagaries of climate change) has already started affecting its landscape and consequently the livelihoods of the poor. It has caused uncertainty in agriculture and disturbed hydrological cycles.

The Himalayan glaciers are receding and the flow of rivers originating from these glaciers is making the whole living scenario precarious. There is a need to adopt a holistic approach for the overall developmental process in which climate change mitigation and adaptation should be a collateral benefit. Otherwise, it will jeopardise the goals of sustainable development in the long run. Also, joint forest management must be made the central theme of the entire mitigation and adaptation procedure. It is to be hoped that the Government takes action on the suggested lines.

(The writer is a Retired Civil Servant)

Myths about Jinnah's last words

Like an impressionable teenager, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan circulated a video of Dr Israr Ahmed claiming that the Quaid advocated a caliphate from his deathbed, when the claim is highly suspicious



NADEEM PARACHA

On December 14, 2018, Prime Minister Imran Khan uploaded two short videos of eminent Islamic scholar Dr Israr Ahmed. I am not quite sure which year the videos were from but they were obviously at least eight years old, since he passed away in 2010. In one of the videos, Ahmed quotes an excerpt from a diary written by Dr Riaz Ali Shah, who was a physician of Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, when the latter was suffering from tuberculosis. Jinnah passed away in September 1948.

In the video, Ahmed informed his audience that he had picked the excerpt from an article published in a September 1988 edition of the Urdu daily *Jang* — 40 years after

Jinnah's demise. Ahmed quoted the 1988 newspaper article about Riaz Ali's diary in which he wrote that as Jinnah lay on his bed suffering from tuberculosis, he (Jinnah) spoke about his vision of a Pakistan that would be an Islamic state, or a 20th century manifestation of a state, constructed during the rule of Islam's first four caliphs (Khilafat-i-Rashida).

Riaz was one of the four doctors present during Jinnah's last hours. According to an article in the *Pulse Fortnightly* written by Lt Gen (Rtd) M Ahmad Akhtar and published on November 1, 2014, four physicians accompanied Jinnah when he travelled to the vacation resort of Ziarat in Balochistan. They were: Dr M Ali Mistri, Dr Illahi Bakhsh, Dr Ghulam Muhammad and Dr Riaz Ali Shah. Dr Mistri was Jinnah's personal physician who, according to Lt Gen Akhtar, had moved to Karachi from Bombay on Jinnah's request after the creation of Pakistan.

Nothing was reported about

Jinnah's 'last words' as such until the appearance of a book in 1978 by Dr Illahi Bakhsh, which was re-printed by the Oxford University Press in 2012. Dr Illahi's book, *With the Quaid-i-Azam during his Last Days*, is largely a detailed account of the Quaid's illness and how Jinnah tried to live with it. There is nothing in the book about a man ravaged by a crippling disease but one lucidly advocating the creation of an Islamic state.

There is also a PDF copy available online of an Urdu translation of Dr Illahi Bakhsh's book. However, attached to it is an Urdu translation of notes supposedly kept by Riaz Ali Shah in a diary. The notes appear in the shape of a booklet called *Quaid-i-Azam Kay Akhri Lamhaat* (The Quaid's Last Moments). It does not mention the date of publication. It is not available in any of the major bookstores in Pakistan nor on Amazon. And it is not mentioned in the long list of books and papers on Jinnah that appears on the Government of Pakistan's website dedicated to the

study of Pakistan's founder.

In a 2003 article for *The Concept*, Raja A Khan wrote that the booklet by Dr Shah was published in 1950. However, Raja only speaks about Jinnah sharing his views on Kashmir with Riaz. One wonders though, how many diverse topics the founder was discussing with the good doctor during his very last moments. What is more important is that after going through the online version of the booklet, I found no mention of Jinnah speaking to Dr Shah about the idea of the caliphate.

The booklet is only scarcely referenced in the papers and books written on Jinnah. Moreover, whenever it is, as in Masud-ul-Hasan's *Anecdotes of Quaid-i-Azam* (1976) and in an article in the 2002 issue of *South Asian Studies*, they simply quote Riaz as saying that Jinnah's last spoken words were, "Allah, Pakistan." Therefore, Imran Khan may have gotten a tad too excited — like an impressionable teenager — after coming across the mentioned clip of

Dr Ahmed. Without much thought, the Prime Minister used it in the same manner in which Jinnah was concocted by the Gen Zia dictatorship in the 1980s.

This is why I believe the confusion in this respect is rooted in what transpired during the Zia regime. For example, only quotes of Jinnah that had the word 'Islam' in them were allowed to be used in state-owned media. From 1978 onward, the sequence of words of Jinnah's motto, "unity, faith, discipline" was switched to "faith, unity, discipline."

In 1982, a portrait of Jinnah painted by artist Ahmad S Nagi was replaced in the waiting lounge of the Karachi Airport just because it showed Jinnah wearing a suit and a tie. An article on Nagi that appeared in the September 2, 2006 edition of *Dawn* said that the painting was finished in 1944 and then brought to Karachi after the creation of Pakistan. It was placed in the airport lounge but replaced in 1982 with another portrait of Jinnah in which he is seen wearing a *sherwani*.

Then in 1983, the Zia regime gleefully announced the 'discovery' of a diary kept by the founder in which he had expressed his desire of an Islamic state. KK Thomas, in the 1998 issue of *Asian Recorder*, and author Khaled Ahmed in his 2001 book *Pakistan: Behind the Ideology Mask: Facts About Great Men We Don't Want to Know*, write that the state-owned media enthusiastically began discussing the contents of the so-called diary.

According to Ahmad, Jinnah's personal secretary, KH Khurshid and veteran Muslim Leaguer, Mumtaz Daultana, challenged the discovery. Consequently, the claim was quietly dropped. Most interesting is the similarity between what Zia claimed Jinnah wrote in his diary and what Dr Ahmed claimed Dr Riaz wrote in his. One can thus conclude that may be a third party was involved who, for political reasons, concurrently ascribed the mentioned quotes to Jinnah as well as Dr Riaz. (Courtesy: Dawn)



BLAME THE CROWD FOR THE DISRUPTION

If America's national parks had a theme song, it might be "You Always Hurt the One You Love." These natural treasures are suffering, not from indifference or inattention, but from more visitors than ever before. No one wants to close the gates on the parks. But something needs to be done to keep the crush of humanity from ruining what all those people come to see. (Chicago Tribune editorial)

# TN hosts prayer for world peace

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■**  
CHENNAI

It was Tamil Nadu's response to cow vigilantes and mob-lynching which has become frequent affairs in North India. In Christmas day, Pongal in south west Tamil Nadu played host to this century's first ever Shodasa Mahalakshmi Maha Yagam which saw hundreds of priests offering special Pooja and Yaga for the Global peace, safety, security and prosperity of the country and its people, especially the farming community.



was mandatory for the rulers to perform Mahalakshmi Yagam before assuming the charges of administering the country. The yagam is a declaration to the people and the country that his life was dedicated to the prosperity and well being of the people," said Elangovan.

The three day event which commenced on December 23 culminated on December 25 and nearly five lakh people took part in the Yagam, according to Thirunavukarassu Elangovan, president, Hindu Munnani, the lead organisers of the event. "Shodasa Mahalakshmi Maha Yagam is to propitiate the 16 Maha Lakshmis while we are familiar with only Ashtalakshmi Poojas. Shodasa means 16," Elangovan told *The Pioneer*.

He said Shodasa Mahalakshmi Maha Yagam were held during the days of the Chola, Pandya Kings in lines with Aswamedha Yaga. "It

the way coupons for the event was sold out. "More than 1,22,000 tickets costing ₹180/- per ticket was sold out a week before the Yaga. We charged entry fees to ensure that people attend the event," said Elangovan.

Sreepriya Iyer travelled all the way from Chennai to take part in the three day event. "Normally, we perform Ashtalakshmi Poojas in our houses. But Maha Lakshmi is worshipped in 16 forms during the Shodasa Maha Yagam and it is a rare event," said Iyer, a serious student of Indian culture.

Rama Gopalan, octogenarian founder of Hindu Munnani who has been confined to a wheel chair led the three day Yagam. "Yaso Lakshmi, Vidya Lakshmi,

Dhairya Lakshmi, Dhana Lakshmi, Santana Lakshmi, Dhanya Lakshmi, Gaja Lakshmi, Veera Lakshmi, Samraja Lakshmi, Moksha Lakshmi, Sowmya Lakshmi, Sidha Lakshmi, Sri Lakshmi, Sowbhagya Lakshmi, Prasanna Lakshmi, Jaya Lakshmi are the forms of Lakshmi we worshipped during the three days," said Rama Gopalan.

Nagaraj said the Shodasa Mahalakshmi Yagam, though not held frequently, was imbibed in the Kongunadu culture. "We wish people with the words Pathinaru Sevungal Pettu Peruvaku Vazhka (Tamil for 'Live prosperously with all the 16 assets which are the manifestation of 16 Maha Lakshmis)," said Nagaraj.

The event culminated peacefully but there was an attempt to derail it as members of the Periyar Dravida Kazhagam, followers of late E V Ramasamy Naicker had approached Madras High Court with a plea to ban the event because of their fear that the cows may cause the spreading of anthrax in and around Tirupur. The court is hearing the case after the Christmas vacation but by that time the cows would have reached their shelters after the Pooja.

# Deoband forbids women to attend marriage processions with men

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband issued a fatwa forbidding women from participating in marriage processions with men.

It is common for women relatives of the groom to participate in such processions with other men in the family. Sometimes, music is also played in these processions.

The fatwa came after a Saharanpur resident raised questions regarding the practice with the fatwa department of the seminary. The seminary responded that not only were women forbidden from participating in such social functions with men, they were also forbidden from eating food alongside men on such occasions.

The seminary also asserted that Muslims should not eat food while standing and advised them to refrain from such activities.

Deoband has come up with such bizarre fatwas at a remarkable frequency. Earlier in February, the Islamic seminary decided to issue a fatwa against Muslim women from taking



help of men while trying banquets in shops.  
Prior to that, Darul Uloom

Deoband clerics had issued a fatwa against life insurance, as they claimed that life and death were in the hands of Allah and no insurance company could guarantee a man's longevity.

In the past, a cleric of the seminary issued a fatwa against women watching football match, on the plea that watching men playing with bare knees was forbidden for women.

# Darul Uloom Deoband opposes triple talaq Bill

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband has opposed the triple talaq bill passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday, terming it as "interference in religious affairs of Muslims".

Reacting strongly to the triple talaq bill which seeks to criminalise instant divorce, Mohtamin (Vice-Chancellor) of Darul Uloom Deoband, Maulana Mufti Abul Qasim

Nomani, said that the bill not only targeted Muslim men but was also against the welfare of Muslim women.

"The move of (Narendra) Modi Government to bring a legislation to criminalise triple talaq is a direct interference in the religious freedom of Muslims. It is an infringement of Shariat law. Muslims want to lead their life and conduct their family and social affairs strictly as per provisions of Shariat," Nomani said.

# BULANSHAHR VIOLENCE Man who 'shot' cop sent to 14-day custody

Bulandshahr (UP): A court Friday sent to 14-day judicial custody the man who allegedly shot dead a police inspector during mob violence in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district earlier this month.

Prashant Nat, who was arrested Thursday from Sikandrabad, was produced in the court of the additional chief judicial magistrate.

"He was not named in the FIR but was held based on local intelligence, eyewitness accounts and assessment of the video footage that was gathered. During the probe, we even recreated the crime scene," Bulandshahr Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Prabhakar Chaudhary said.

Mob violence broke out near Chingrawathi police post on December 3 after cattle carcasses were found strewn in a field near Mahaw village. Inspector Subodh Kumar Singh and 20-year-old Sumit Kumar were shot dead as the mob attacked the police.

Chaudhary said Nat, around 27, was absconding since December 3 and has confessed to shooting at the inspector. *PTI*

# Sohrabuddin case: CBI wanted to implicate leaders, says court

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Justifying the "clean chat" given by his predecessor earlier in the alleged Sohrabuddin-Tulsiram fake encounter cases, Additional Sessions Judge SJ Sharma has indicted the CBI, saying that it had a "premeditated" theory and a "script" intended to "anyhow implicate" political leaders and it nearly did what was required "to reach that goal rather than conducting an investigation in accordance with law".

In the concluding portion of his 350-page judgement copy of which was accessed by the media on Friday, Special CBI court Judge Sharma observed: "Having given my dispassionate consideration to the entire material placed before me and having examined each of the witnesses and the evidence closely, I have not hesitation in recording that the premier investigating agency like CBI had before it a pre meditated theory and a script intended to anyhow implicate political leaders.

"And the agency there after nearly did what was required to reach that goal rather than conducting an investigation in accordance with law, the judge noted.

"It clearly appears that the CBI was more concerned in establishing a particular pre



conceived and pre meditated theory. Rather than finding out the truth. My predecessor has, while passing an order of discharge in the apatiounnof accused number 16 (Amit Shah) clearly recorded that the investigation was politically motivated," Judge Sharma observed.

It may be recalled that the then Special Judge M.B. Gosavi, while discharging BJP President Amit Shah had on December 30, 2014 observed that the charges against BJP president Amit Shah in the Sohrabuddin Sheikh and Tulsiram Prajapati fake encounters had a political undertone. "I found substance in the main contention made by the applicant (Mr. Shah) that he was involved in the case by the CBI for political reasons," special CBI judge M.B. Gosavi had said.

The concluding portion of the crucial judgement in the Sohrabuddin Tulsiram "fake" encounter came into public domain exactly seven days after the CBI court acquitted all the 22 accused in the case for lack of "satisfactory" evidence.

# Drugs worth ₹1K cr seized in Mumbai; four arrested

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In what is being as the biggest drug haul in recent years, the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) sleuths of the Mumbai police seized ₹1,000 crore worth banned Fentanyl and arrested four drug peddlers from Vile Parle (East) in north-west Mumbai.

Acting on a tip off about the delivery of Fentanyl, the ANS personnel seized 100 kgs of the recreational (party) drug and from a car parked near the service road at Shakti Nagar located in the vicinity of the Mumbai

Airport at Vile Parle (East) on Wednesday.

Fentanyl is a potent narcotic analgesic, abuse of which leads to habituation or addiction. It is primarily a mu-opioid agonist. Fentanyl is also an opioid used as a pain medication and together with other medications for anaesthesia.

Fentanyl is also made illegally and used as a recreational drug, often mixed with heroin or cocaine to increase its euphoric effects. It is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. It is prescribed in the form of transdermal patches or lozenges.

Most recent cases of fentanyl-related harm, overdose, and death in the United States are linked to illegally made Fentanyl. It is sold through illegal drug markets for its heroin-like effect. There were as many as 20,000 Fentanyl over dosed-related deaths in the United States in 2016.

"We have seized 100 kg of the banned Fentanyl. One kilogram of Fentanyl is worth around ₹10 crore. In essence we have seized ₹1,000 crore worth drugs," Deputy Commissioner of Police and ANC chief Shivdeep Lande said.



Sadhus raise the Dharma Dhwaaja (religious flag) to commemorate the Kumbh Mela 2019 festival in Allahabad on Friday. *PTI*

# Ahmedabad: Fire in storeroom at ISRO campus

**Ahmedabad:** A minor fire broke out Friday at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) campus here, an official said.

The fire broke out in a storeroom in ISRO's Space Application Centre, the official said. Chief Fire Officer M F Dastur said the fire was brought under control in an hour, adding that five fire tenders were deployed for the operation, but only one was used.

"The fire started in a storeroom in the SAC campus on Friday morning", he said. *PTI*

# JD(S) Minister's 'street dog' jibe at BJP leaders

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka Transport Minister and JD(S) leader DC Thamanna on Friday took a jibe at BJP leaders using an analogy of street dogs while rebutting senior BJP lawmaker Umesh Katti's claim that the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government would collapse soon.

Katti had recently claimed that 15 disgruntled MLAs of the ruling coalition were in touch with him and that the saffron party would form the new Government in Karnataka by next week.

Hitting out at Katti, Thamanna said, "J H Patel (a former Chief Minister) had once narrated a story in the State Assembly about an elephant and street dogs. He recalled Patel saying an elephant was walking ahead of street dogs who were hoping something would fall from atop the tusker that they would eat.

"Neither did the food fall, nor the dogs got something to eat. This story fits perfectly with BJP leaders, who are expecting this Government to

fall," he told reporters at Maddur near Mysuru.

Replying to a query, Thamanna said Katti has been predicting the Government's fall "today or tomorrow" for quite some time.

"For the past seven months, we are hearing this every day but this has not materialised," he said. Soon after Katti's claim, state BJP chief and Leader of the Opposition B S Yeddyurappa had ruled out any attempt by his party to destabilise the present dispensation. *PTI*

# Yoga is common heritage of mankind: Prez Kovind



President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurating the centennial celebrations of 'The Yoga Institute' in Mumbai on Friday. *Pioneer photo*

Verifying that "togetherness is the essence of yoga", President Ram Nath Kovind said here on Friday that "Yoga not only helps us in connecting body, mind and soul but it also plays an important role in connecting different communities and countries".

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of centennial celebrations of "The Yoga Institute" in Mumbai, Kovind said: "It is not appropriate to link yoga to any religion or sect. It is a common heritage of mankind. It belongs to everyone who is looking forward to healthy life. A healthy person makes a healthy family, healthy com-

munity, healthy country and finally a healthy world".

The President said that it was our responsibility to establish good yoga institutes and skilled yoga teachers, since on India's initiative yoga was getting more popular across the world. Maharashtra Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao released a book 'Yoga for All' written by director of the institute Hansaji Jayadeva Yogendra, on the occasion. The book is based on hundred years of research by The Yoga Institute.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union minister of state for AYUSH Shripad Naik and other dignitaries were present at the function.

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)-II WAZIRABAD WATER WORKS, TIMARPUR, DELHI-110054**

**PRESS N.I.T. No. 11(2018-19)/EE/(E&M)-II**

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last date /time receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
01	Procurement of Electrical Actuators for Filter House at 3rd 40 MGD Plant Wazirabad Water works. (Reinvited) Make: Limitorque/Flotork/Auma.	Item Rate	50000/-	Tender Id: 2018_DJB_163725_1 Publish Date 13 Dec 2018 06:55 PM onward	08-Jan-2018 Up to 12:15 PM
02	Renovatio of Central Turntable and Driving mechanism of Hindustan Dorr-O-Liver make clarifier No. 03 at 1st 40 MGD plant at Wazirabad Water Works.	Item Rate	50000/-	Tender Id: 2018_DJB_163725_2 Publish Date 13 Dec 2018 06:55 PM onward	08-Jan-2018 Up to 12:15 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 623/2018-19

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)-II

# PM to visit Varanasi, Ghazipur today

**Lucknow:** Amid growing pressure from partners in the ruling alliance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday will visit Varanasi and Ghazipur, the areas where two NDA allies have considerable influence.

The Prime Minister's trip to his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi will be his second visit there in the last two months. He will inaugurate the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and South Asia

Regional Centre (ISARC) on the campus of National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

The centre will serve as a hub for rice research and training in South Asia and the SAARC region.

Modi will also attend the 'One District, One Product' Regional Summit at Deendayal Hastakala Sankul (Trade Facilitation Centre & Crafts Museum) in Varanasi.

A commemorative postal

stamp on the Maharaja Suheldeo will be released by the Prime Minister in Ghazipur, where he will also address a public rally at the RTI ground there.

However, senior minister in the Yogi Adityanath government and SBSP president Om Prakash Rajbhar, an MLA from Zahoarabad assembly constituency in Ghazipur district, announced that he will not attend the Prime Minister's programme. *PTI*

**हरियाणा सरकार**

## TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSVP	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF STRUCTURE FALLING IN ALIGNMENT OF BADSHAPUR DRAIN IN VILLAGE KHANOSA INCLUDING BRICK WORK, PLASTER, FLOORING, CONSTRUCTION OF ROOM - 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING 15.01.2019	39.80 LACS	www.hsypb.org Tender No:36.37 2018_HBC_73425_1_2018_HBC_73426_1	01244805697 xenh5vppgm@gmail.com
2	HSVP PANCHKULA	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF RCC KERBS/CEMENT CONCRETE ON INTERNAL ROADS SECTOR 28, PANCHKULA EXTENSION INCLUDING 3 YEARS MTC & DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FREE OF COST	CLOSING 08.01.2019	17.80 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No: HSPV/DV-I/2018-19/256	9214688874 xenh5vppgm@gmail.com
3	HSIDC	WIDENING & STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING ROADS, P&F PAVER BLOCK, CONSTRUCTION OF RIGID PAVEMENT, FOOTPATH & DLP PF 60 MONTHS IN OLD INDS AREA, PANIPAT UNDER SLIDS	31.12.2018 15.01.2019	1840.69 LACS	<a href="https://hsidc.harayanaprocurement.gov.in">https://hsidc.harayanaprocurement.gov.in</a>	9291220029 haidcpanipat@gmail.com
4	HSIDC	INVITATION FOR E-QUOTATIONS ON E-PORTAL FOR COLLECTION OF USER FEE THROUGH USER FEE COLLECTING AGENCY AT 11 NO. TOLL PLAZAS OF KUNDLI MANESAR PALAWAL	29.12.2018 08.01.2019	2 CRORE	www.hsisc.org.in	98956812172 helicongpuragaon@gmail.com
5	HAFED	E-TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF RICE	27.12.2018 07.01.2019	285 LACS	www.hafed.gov.in	01222390520 hafed@hry.nic.in
6	HAFED	E-TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF RICE BRAN DOILED, RICE BRAN OILED, MUSTARD DE-OILED CAKE, MAIZE-SOYABEAN EXTRACTION	28.12.2018 10.01.2019	8.21 LACS	www.hafed.gov.in	01222390520 hafed@hry.nic.in
7	MAHARISHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY ROHTAK	TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENTS FOR OIL + 1 OTHER WORK	27.12.2018 15.01.2019	135 LACS	mdurohark.haryanaprocurement.gov.in	dir.cil@mdurohark.ac.in

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in) OR [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)** **RO NO. 74520**

# Rath Yatras meant for God, not to indulge in riot, says Mamata

**Sagar Island (WB):** Coming down heavily on the BJP for its proposed Rath Yatras in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said such yatras are typically conducted in the name of God, and not meant to indulge in "danga" (riot).

The Supreme Court on Monday declined an urgent hearing on a BJP plea challenging a Calcutta High Court order disallowing its Rath Yatras in the state.

"There are yatras for Lord Krishna and Lord Jagannath, we take part in those rath yatras.

Those who carry out yatras to kill common people indulge in 'danga' yatras," Banerjee said at a public distribution programme here.

"We don't insult anybody. We respect everyone irrespective of their religious affinity," she added.

The three-phased Rath Yatra, also being called the 'Save Democracy Rally', was scheduled to be held this month, covering all the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state. The rallies were to be flagged off by BJP president Amit Shah. *PTI*

**GENERAL MANAGER UTTARAKHAND AGRICULTURE PRODUCE MARKETING BOARD, MANDI BHAWAN, RUDRAPUR, UDHAM SINGH NAGAR**

Email: gmcrud@gmail.com, www.ukapmb.org. Phone: 05944-250056 Fax: 05944-250056

**Letter No: UKAPMB/2018-1690** **EOI** **Date - 27-12-2018**

Uttarakhand government is going in for Agri processing cluster under Pradhan Mantri Kissan Sampada Yojna by MOFPI. This will be under the name of Sridev Suman Agri processing cluster at Nautha, Tehsil Dhanolti Dist. Tehri, Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board is inviting EOI for Food processing units which have to come up in Agri cluster. Following categories of Food processing units are sanctioned in the cluster:

1. Pears/Peach pulp processing
2. Tomato paste and ketchup
3. Honey Processing
4. Garlic and Ginger paste and powder
5. Lime, Amla Juice and pulp Spice Processing

The Major benefit includes 50% grant/subsidy on the proposed food processing units with a maximum grant limited at Rs 5 crores. Following common facilities will be developed in food processing cluster:

1. CA Cold Store
2. Cold store
3. Washing grading lines
4. Food testing labs

This will be proper food processing cluster with demarcated plots having roads, Common parking, weigh, bridge, sewerage etc. Electrical and water connection will be available for the Units. 11Mw solar power plant is also coming up in the cluster. Land for the plots in this cluster will be provided on lease basis to the interested food processing units. The lease rate will be **Rs. 20 per sqm per month**. There will be other benefit provided by State Government. For further details please visit Agriculture Produce Marketing Board website [www.ukapmb.org](http://www.ukapmb.org)

**General Manager (Tech) UKAPMB, Rudrapur**



# Banker-turned-terrorist killed in J&K encounter

**KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR**

Security forces shot dead a terrorist during a brief encounter in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday. Clashes erupted in the southern area after the encounter and the authorities halted train services as a precautionary measure.

Sources said the slain terrorist, Ishaq Yousuf Wani, had joined the terror ranks last year abandoning his fruit business. Before starting his own business he had quit job with a leading national bank.

Police said on the basis of credible input about the presence of militants a cordon and search operation was launched in Banderpora village in Awantipora area of Pulwama district, 30 kilometers from here.

"As the searches were going on, the search party was fired upon by the terrorists. The fire was retaliated leading to a gunfight. In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist was neutralised," a police spokesman said.

Wani was wanted by the law for his complicity in a



Young protesters against Pulwama encounter killing throw stones at police during a clash in Srinagar on Friday PTI

series of terror crimes including attacks on security establishments and civilian atrocities.

Sourced said that Ishaq's father was a militant and had been killed in an encounter with security forces in 1996. Ishaq had pursued masters in management before joining a leading bank. The reasons for his joining militancy were not known.

Clashes erupted in Wani's Koil village after his body was handed over to his family for last rites. The authorities suspended train services in the area after the clashes.

Meanwhile, General

Officer Commanding in Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Ranbir Singh arrived in Kashmir Valley to review the prevailing security situation. A defence spokesman said that the Army Commander visited the forward areas in frontier districts of Kupwara and Baramulla where he was briefed by the commanders on ground on operational preparedness. He also visited the hinterland formations for feedback on current situation and recent counter terrorist operations.

Gen Singh was accompanied by the XV Corps Commander Lt Gen AK Bhatt.

# TRANSFER OF SURPLUS GODAVARI WATER TO CAUVERI

## Gadkari's promise still pending

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**

The "Game Changer" promised in November 2017 by Union Minister for Water Resources Nitin Gadkari to the farmers of the four South Indian States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka remains a non-starter.

While speaking to journalists at Chennai on November 23, 2017, Gadkari had said he would soon call for a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the four States to evolve an action plan to transfer surplus waters of Godavari to Cauveri for addressing the perpetual water scarcity in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

"My Ministry has decided to transfer surplus water from Godavari river to Krishna, to Pennar river (Karnataka) and finally to Cauveri," the Minister had said. His Ministry was discussing with the States concerned, he said, adding "in near future we will come up with a concrete action plan." But till date no such meeting has taken place, according to farmers in Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile another legal battle has erupted in



Supreme Court between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the Mekadattu reservoir being planned by the latter across River Cauveri.

The Minister had also said that 3,000 Thousand Million Cubic (TMC) feet of water was being wasted from Godavari into Bay of Bengal. This along with the diversion of a portion of the 2,000 TMC ft of water being wasted into the Arabian Sea from the Hemavati River would have brought an end to the woes of farmers in Tamil Nadu, according to Kattumannarkoil Kannan, farmer leader in Tamil Nadu's Cauvery Delta.

"The recent Cyclone Gaja which devastated a portion of the Nagapattinam district and Thanjavur and Thiruvallur districts have upset the lives of farmers in the region," said Kannan while speaking to The Pioneer. Since no farming

operations was possible in his farm land, Kannan has turned author and is writing a book on the sufferings of the ryots in the region. Farmers in Tamil Nadu stand to lose 50 per cent of the yield this year because of Cyclone Gaja and an attack by a new breed of pests, said Kannan.

"There are readymade solutions to address the problems faced by the farmers but what the governments at the State and Centre lack the will power to execute them. The Modi Government had promised many times that it would launch the inter linking of major Indian rivers, but silent about it now," he pointed out.

According to Kannan and Arpathi Kalyanam, another farmer from Nagapattinam, the Narendra Modi Government missed a golden opportunity to earn the good will of the people by not taking up the inter linking of rivers. "More than waiving of loans, what we require is the infrastructure for agricultural operations. Making water and fertilisers available round the year is the responsibility of the Government," said Kannan. Mohammed Raffi, former

associate professor, Centre for Advanced Studies in Marine Biology (CASMB), Porto Novo, Cuddalore, said he was shocked over the apathy shown by the government in taking up the project to divert a portion of water from the west flowing rivers of Netravati to Cauvery through Hemavati river. "This is a win-win situation for all stake holders in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The flash floods in Cauvery and Netravati could be avoided and water would be available to the farmers throughout the farming season," said Raffi who has worked with the Cuddalore district farmers for years.

Late Bhavani Shankar, who was the chief engineer of Karnataka Government had submitted many proposals to the authorities stating that it was possible to transfer the west flowing waters of Netravati to Cauvery by a network of canals.

Vijayakanth, leader of the DMDK, had cast his lots with the BJP in the 2014 Lok Sabha election based on the assurance given by the Hindutwa party that it would take up the project to inter link the Indian rivers.

# Bengal Govt to file FIR against Kolkata Metro for fire mishap



PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government has decided to file an FIR against the Metro Railways a day after 47 passengers travelling in a Dum Dum-bound tube train fell ill and had to be hospitalised after a fire broke out in the engine of a running train inside the tunnel barely 100 metre off the Maidan Station.

Apart from the FIR being registered Trinamool Congress MP and Railways Standing Committee chairman on Friday directed Metro Railways General Manager to submit a report on the Thursday's incident within three days so that the same could be taken up for discussion in Parliament.

Bengal Fire Minister Sujit Bose who met top police officers at Lal Bazar Police headquarters on Friday said "we are taking appropriate action because this was no small incident and many people might have been killed. We have asked the Police to file an FIR and start a case," adding the forensic experts had been asked to investigate the matter too.

Meanwhile a three-member committee comprising electrical engineers and traffic officers had started an inquiry and were likely to submit a report within ten days' time, sources said.

A mild blast and fire somewhere around the front wheel of the front coach got the entire passengers of the fully crowded train running inside the tunnel trapped. "Many felt suffocated by the noxious fume and people had to literally break the windows and jump on to the track risking their lives as power supply to the high voltage third railway line was still on," passengers said.

One of the victims a woman had lost voice temporarily and she was unable to speak even 24 hours of the incident, doctors said.

# Govt's priority is Sunburn, not our trial: Arms haul accused

Mumbai: Sharad Kalaskar, a suspected right-wing Hindu activist arrested in an arms haul case, has sought bail contending that the Maharashtra Government is more interested in ensuring smooth conduct of the Sunburn festival than conducting his trial.

Kalaskar, Avinash Pawar and Shrikant Pangarkar, all arrested in August, moved a special court here Friday seeking bail. Judge D E Kothalikar will hear the pleas on January 7.

The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of state police has arrested a total of 12 people under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) following raids at multiple places and seizure of arms and explosive materials.

The bail applications of Pawar and Pangarkar con-

tended that the material on record does not contain any evidence against them, not does it prove any offence under the UAPA.

Kalaskar said in his plea that "social media reports suggest that the state home ministry is too busy with preventive actions for ensuring a smooth conduct of the Sunburn festival next week (at Pune)."

"Such smooth conduct has taken priority over smooth and speedy trial. There is no seriousness for the State... To conduct this case.

The liberty of accused cannot be curtailed for satisfying whims and fancies of political rulers who prioritise their resources for their own cultural and political agenda," the plea added. PTI

# Another woman alleges contracting HIV after transfusion in TN Govt hospital

Chennai: In yet another case of alleged medical negligence in Tamil Nadu, a woman has claimed that she contracted the HIV virus following blood transfusion at a Government hospital where she underwent treatment for low haemoglobin.

The Government hospital has refuted the allegation.

The affected woman, said to be in her 20s, told a Tamil TV channel Friday she underwent the transfusion in April while being pregnant.

She came to know she had HIV only when the hospital informed her after conducting

tests in August when she went there for check-up.

The women said though she had been regularly visiting a local public health centre when she was pregnant, she was only administered vaccines there.

"The blood transfusion happened at the Government Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital (GKMCH) only. That is where the mistake happened," she said.

Refuting the allegation, hospital dean Dr P Vasanthamani said the woman was transfused with "100 per cent HIV free" blood. PTI

# Guj CM orders probe into graft charges against pilgrimage board

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Government on Friday asked the Vigilance Commissioner to probe the allegations of corruption in carrying out projects at religious sites by the pilgrimage development board and ordered suspension of an officer.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani ordered the suspension of an officer whose audio clip brought the issue of alleged corruption in the board to the fore.

In an official release, the government said the CM has asked the Vigilance Commissioner to probe the allegations of corruption against the Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board.

The issue came to the fore after a purported audio clip, hav-



ing conversation of a senior government officer and an RTI activist, went viral on social media platforms.

In the purported clip, Anil Patel, additional secretary in the state panchayat department, can be heard admitting large-scale corruption in the board where he was once posted.

Patel can be heard saying that corruption took place in carrying out various works at pilgrimage places such as Pavagadh, Rameshwari,



A man walks on a foot bridge in the interiors of Dal Lake on a cold morning in Srinagar on Friday PTI

# Only Didi can solve Ram temple issue: Bengal priest

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

Gyandas Mahant, the high priest of Kapil Muni Ashram at Ganga Sagar, once again drenched Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in a cascade of praise saying only she could construct a Ram Temple at Ayodhya.

A highly revered priest in the Hindu order, Ganga Sagar mahant said, "we want a Ram temple washed by milk, not by blood and that can only be done by our Didi even as the Chief Minister stood by him a tad embarrassed, but not altogether disliking the praise.

Attacking Modi, the celebrant said "we do not want

a Prime Minister like him who only talks big loud but does nothing. Rather we want a Prime Minister like our Didi, Mamata Banerjee who means business and converts her promises into action."

If Banerjee is made the Prime Minister of India then "definitely India will progress," he said advising "conflict can never achieve a human goal."

"I am a Hindu, a devotee of Lord Ram. I pray to Him for the well-being of the nation and the world. I pray for the construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya."

Paradip Port Trust

## NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF BID

No. SSA/Esstt/Materials/SB/502/2018/5313 Date: 28.12.2018  
The notice inviting e-tender vide No. SSA/Esstt/Materials/SB/502/2018/5148 dated 19.12.2018 for supply of School Bags for NRSTC-Fresh & Seasonal Hostel is hereby extended up to 08.01.2019. The bid can be uploaded till 08.01.2019 up-to 1.00 pm and will be submitted up-to 2.00 pm on 08.01.2019 and opened at 3.00 pm on 08.01.2019. SSA, Assam, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

1. निआातृसूां 126/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "Improvement of service roads of various type of GPRA, qtrs at sector-3, R.K. Puram New Delhi dg 2018-19 (SH: Near Block 17 to 95, 97 to 133, 106 to 134, & 49 to 64, 33 to 48, 321 to 328, 329 to 336, 337 to 343, 345 to 352, 357 to 364, 365 to 372, 389 to 390, 391 to 433, 390 to 436, 439 to 459 & 459 to 483 Type-I qtrs)", अनुमानित लागत रू 26,14,580/- घरोहर राशि रू 52,292/- कार्य निष्पादन अवधि-02 (दो) मास बिड को जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 07.01.2019 को 12:00 बजे तक।
2. निआातृसूां 127/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "Improvement work in back lane in GPRA Type-I qtrs at Sec-2 R.K. Puram, New Delhi dg 2018-19", अनुमानित लागत रू 26,83,078/- घरोहर राशि रू 53,662/- कार्य निष्पादन अवधि-03 (तीन) मास बिड को जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 07.01.2019 को 12:00 बजे तक।
3. निआातृसूां 127/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "A/R & M/o to various type of qtrs. at Sector-1, R.K. Puram, New Delhi dg 2018-19 (SH: Change of tenancy)", अनुमानित लागत रू 26,69,559/- घरोहर राशि रू 53,391/- कार्य निष्पादन अवधि-10 (दस) मास बिड को जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 07.01.2019 को 12:00 बजे तक।
4. निआातृसूां 128/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "Upgradation in Type-IV, GPRA qtrs at sector-3, R.K. Puram, New Delhi dg 2018-19 (SH: Improvement of staircase with kota stone flooring in Yard Design for Qtr No. 137 to 192 & 321 to 328)", अनुमानित लागत रू 26,85,589/- घरोहर राशि रू 53,712/- कार्य निष्पादन अवधि-02 (दो) मास बिड को जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 07.01.2019 को 12:00 बजे तक।

नोट:- बिड प्रपत्र और अन्य विवरण वेबसाइट www.tenderbid.com/CPWD से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। प्रेस विज्ञापन www.eprocure.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।

FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	AGI Cargo Private Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	17.06.2011
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC- Delhi
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U63000DL2011PTC223809
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Office No. 202, KH. No. 548, F/F, Mahalpur New Delhi-110037 India
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	12.10.2018 (Order intimated to IRP on 17.10.2018 vide NCLT directions dated 17.10.2018)
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	28.12.2018
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Eligibility Norms: 1. Minimum Net Worth of INR1 Crore. 2. Turnover of INR 50,000 as per the latest audited Financial Statement. Other details can be sought by emailing: nazim@nmkassociates.com
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	http://ibbi.gov.in/webfront/legal_framework.php (Official website of IBI-Legal Framework-Updated Code) Also, details can be sought by emailing: nazim@nmkassociates.com
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	11.01.2019
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	20.01.2019
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	25.01.2019
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	05.02.2019
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	25.01.2019
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Request for Resolution Plan (RFRP), Evaluation Matrix and Information Memorandum (IM) shall be available through email id of Resolution Professional, nazim@nmkassociates.com IM shall be obtained after giving undertaking of confidentiality under Section 29(2) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	24.02.2019
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Through speed post/registered post or by hand delivery addressed to Mohd Nazim Khan Resolution Professional of AGI Cargo Private Limited, G-41 Ground Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval of resolution professional	25.03.2019
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Mohd Nazim Khan IBBI/IPA-002/P-ND0076/2017-18/10207
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Mohd Nazim Khan G-41, Ground Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 nazim@nmkassociates.com C-41, Ground Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 nazim@nmkassociates.com
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	
22. Further details are available at or with	Further information can be obtained from Resolution Professional through: nazim@nmkassociates.com
23. Date of publication of Form G	28.12.2018

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKET : NEW DELHI-110017. NIT NO. 47/(S-I) (2018-19)			
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution
1	Replacement of old/ damaged water line by P/L 150/100mm dia D.I. water line in F-IInd block Madangir in Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Assembly Constituency (AC-48) under EE(South)-I	32,77,070/-	24.12.2018
NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on Web Site <a href="https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> . ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 620/2018-19			

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)II DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI Near Dwarka, WTP, Dwarka, NEW DELHI-110043 NIT No.43 (18-19)						
S. N	Name of work	Amount Put to Tender	EMD & TENDER FEE	Completion Period	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date / time receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	P/LJ 150/100mm dia Water Line Shyam Kunj in Matiala Constituency under EE(SW)-II (I.D. No.2018_DJB_164499-1)	Rs.32,65,493/-	Rs. 65,500/- & Rs.500/-	90 Days	27.12.2018, 2:00 PM onward	14.01.2019 Up to 3:00 PM
NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on DJB Web Site <a href="https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 630/2018-19						

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that girl Namely **Sita** D/o Rajender R/o 29/100, T-Huts, Harijan Basti, Kotla Firoz Shah, Behind Express Building ITO, New Delhi  
**Age:** 26 yrs., **Height:** 5'1" **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Wearing** Blue Colour Pajama & White Colour T-shirt, Coffee Colour Shawl and Black Colour Shoes in feet has been missing since 15.12.2018 at 10:30 am from 29/100 T-Huts, Harijan Basti, Kotla Firoz Shah, Behind Express Building ITO, New Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 28A dated 16.12.2018** has been lodged at PS IP Estate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS IP Estate, Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. 011-23370928, 23378474  
DP/5943/CD/18 23232294

Govt mulls zero interest on timely crop loan repayment

Interest burden could double to ₹30K cr if interest is waived for prompt repayment, sources say

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To address farmers' distress ahead of 2019 general elections, the Government is considering waiving interest on crop loans for farmers who pay on time, costing an additional ₹15,000 crore to the exchequer, according to sources.

distress in the agriculture sector after it lost power to the Congress in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh in the recent state polls.

Besides, the Government is contemplating tweaking the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to bring down the farmers' premium burden by fully waiving it on food crops and reducing a bit on horticultural crops.

Central Bank to raise ₹200 cr via staff stock purchase plan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Central Bank of India on Friday said it will raise about ₹200 crore by issuing shares to staff under the employee stock purchase scheme.

over 6,000 PSB officers caused bad loans: Jaitley

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday said action has been taken against more than 6,000 officers of nationalised banks last fiscal in cases of lapses that led to bad loans.

NPAs of PSU banks decline by ₹23,000 cr in H1 FY19: Official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Various initiatives taken by the Government have yielded results, with the bad loans of public sector banks declining by over ₹23,000 crore from a peak of ₹9.62 lakh crore in March 2018, said a senior Finance Ministry official.



and Bankruptcy Code and debarment of wilful defaulters and connected persons, which has resulted in record recovery this year.

Sebi slaps ₹50 lakh fines on Citrus Check, directors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday imposed a penalty of ₹50 lakh on Citrus Check and its directors for non-compliance of its order, where it had barred them from raising funds from the public.

company was raising money from investors through collective investment scheme (CIS) without obtaining requisite approval from it.

GST evasion worth ₹38,896 cr detected during April-October

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has detected GST evasion worth ₹38,896 crore in 6,585 cases in the April-October period of 2018-19, Parliament was informed on Friday.

RBI to ensure sustainable growth of NBFCs with adequate credit

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In spite of the prevailing concerns around non-bank lenders due to defaults by industry major IL&FS, the Reserve Bank on Friday said it will ensure that growth in the shadow-banking sector is sustained and liquidity fears are eased.



The report said the NBFC sector, with a size of around 15 percent of the commercial banks' combined balance sheet, has been growing robustly in recent years, providing an alternative source of funds to the commercial sector in the face of slowing bank credit.

Business Corner
Balakrishna Aise S has been appointed as Executive Director of Oriental Bank of Commerce. Balakrishna Aise S assumed charge as Executive Director of the Bank on December 26, 2018.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found at Jwala Ghat No. 13, Faridabad Bus Stand, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi, dated 20.12.2018. In this regard a DD No. 14-A dated 20.12.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that a dead body was found at Casualty Ward in BSA Hospital, Sector 6, Rohini, Delhi. Dated 23.10.2018. In this regard a DD No. 11-A dated 23.10.2018, has been lodged at P.S. North-Rohini, Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that a male namely Anand Singh, S/o Ranveer Singh, R/o H.No. 396 KH no 54 Chandan Colony Saidulajab Village New Delhi has been missing since 15.11.2018 from the area of P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The plot No. 208, Sector 17, HSIIDC, Industrial Estate, Bahadurgarh was allotted in the name of M/s Touchwood Puplist Pvt. Ltd., having its Regd Office at: V-248, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Guru Harkrishan Nagar, Paschim Vinar, New Delhi-87 by HSIIDC vide Regular Letter of Allotment No. HSIIDC/RLA/Bahadurgarh/4877 Dated: 12.07.08 for setting up the Industrial Project of Mfg. of Footweares. Subsequently Change in constitution vide HSIIDC letter No.HSIIDC/BOB/garh/2008/131 Dated: 16.04.2008 and again vide letter No.HSIIDC/BOB/garh/2009/2300 Dated: 20.04.2009 was allowed by HSIIDC.

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Sapna D/o Dharmbeer, R/o Jhuggi No. 60, G-Block, Mangolpuri, Delhi, has been missing since 01.02.2018. In this regard, a case FIR No. 79/18 dated 02.02.2018 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Fajal S/o Dilshad R/o H.N. D-50, Rajdhani Park, Nangloi, Delhi, has been Missing/kidnapped since 02.12.2018. In this regard, a case FIR No. 481/18 U/S 363 IPC dated 04.12.2018 has been registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Ms. Gauri @ Radha D/o Bhagwan R/o Jhuggi No.5, Badarpur, Delhi and also residing at R/o Near Shyam Rao Thakre House, Ward No. 5, Borgaon (Maghe), Wardha, Maharashtra has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 308/15 U/s 379/411 IPC P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Ms. Gauri @ Radha can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ms. Gauri @ Radha has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Corrigendum No.02 against E-Tender enquiry No. 12/CWR/HVPN/2018-19 Dated: 14-11-2018
HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Last date of online bid Submission is extended up to 10-01-2019 (13:00 Hrs)
Name of Work: Construction of ODGS foundations, ODCAT at 132 KV Sub-Station, Lala Ahir (R-2)
Draft NIT and Tender document is available at website: https://haryanaprocmnt.gov.in, https://www.hvpn.gov.in

US Govt shutdown set to drag on to 2019

TRUMP, DEMOCRATS STICK TO THEIR STANDS

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The partial US Government shutdown is all set to drag on to the new year as Opposition Democrats and Republicans refused to show any sign of compromise Thursday to end the impasse over President Donald Trump's demand for border wall funding.

Trump has refused to sign any stopgap spending bill that does not have provisions to fund a wall along the US-Mexico border which he says is essential to stop the flow of illegal immigrants.

The Democrats, who will hold majority in the US House of Representatives in 2019 and carries the crucial numbers in the Senate despite being in minority, has argued that such a move is waste of taxpayers' money.

Statements issued by both the camps on Thursday indicated that the impasse is all set to continue in the new year. The partial Government shutdown that started last Saturday has affected 800,000 federal employees, who have either been furloughed or are working without pay.



The Capitol is seen on a rainy morning in Washington on Friday

AP

President Trump continued to blame Democrats for the shutdown. In a tweet, Trump said the government shutdown is not about the wall.

"Everybody knows that a wall will work perfectly (In Israel the Wall works 99.9%). This is only about the Dems not letting Donald Trump and the Republicans have a win. They may have the 10 Senate votes, but we have the issue, Border Security. 2020!" he said.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders also criticised Democrats on Thursday, saying in a statement that they had "decided to go home" over the Christmas holiday rather than stay in Washington to negotiate. "The President has made

clear that any bill to fund the Government must adequately fund border security to stop the flow of illegal drugs, criminals, MS-13 gang members, child smugglers and human traffickers into our communities - and protect the American people," the White House said.

"The administration understands this crisis and made a reasonable, common-sense solution to Democrats five days ago - we've not received a single response," it said in a statement.

The President and his team stayed in Washington over Christmas hoping to negotiate a deal that would stop the dangerous crisis on the border, protect American communities, and re-open the Government, it said.

Indonesia trims tsunami death toll, hikes injury tally

AFF ■ JAKARTA

The number of people evacuated after Indonesia's deadly tsunami has nearly doubled to some 40,000 while more than 7,000 were injured in the disaster, officials said Friday, as they trimmed the official death toll.

Authorities said 426 people had been killed - down from a previous tally of 430 - with double-counting by different districts blamed for the change. Two dozen people remain missing almost a week after the disaster.

The fresh figures come a day after Indonesia's disaster agency raised the danger alert level for an erupting volcano that sparked the killer tsunami at the weekend.

They have also warned that fresh activity at the crater threatened to trigger another deadly wave.

Previously, the number of displaced - including many left homeless - stood at 22,000 but that figure has now jumped to just over 40,000, according to the latest tally.

Some 7,202 people suffered injuries, jumping from 1,495, while nearly 1,300 homes were destroyed as the waves crashed into the coastlines of western Java island and south Sumatra, authorities said.

Trump has 'black and white' world view: Jeremy Hunt

AFF ■ LONDON

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt on Friday criticised Donald Trump's view of the world after the US President's announcement of a withdrawal of American troops from the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria.

"President Trump makes a speciality of talking in very black and white terms about what's happening in the world," Hunt told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"We have made massive progress in the war against Daesh (Arabic acronym for IS), but it's not over and, although they have lost nearly all the territory they held, they still hold some territory and there is still some real risk," he said.

"We have to continue to be vigilant," he added.

Trump announced the pull-out last week, stunning allies including Britain and France who warned that the fight against jihadists in Syria was not finished.

Some 2,000 US troops, joined by other foreign forces, have been assisting local fighters battling against IS.

Britain takes part in the coalition by carrying out air strikes in IS-held areas in Iraq and Syria.

During a visit to Iraq this



'We don't want to be taken advantage of any more by countries that use us and use our incredible military to protect them'

week, Trump declared an end to the US role of being the world's "policeman".

"We don't want to be taken advantage of any more by countries that use us and use our incredible military to protect them," he said.

Asked what would happen if US troops also withdrew from Afghanistan, Hunt said: "We will continue to do everything we need to do to make sure the streets of Britain are safe."

"This is a security issue for the UK as well as for Afghanistan," he said.

GLOBE TROTTER

CHINA TEACHER JAILED OVER 'NEEDLE' SCANDAL

Beijing: A Chinese kindergarten teacher was on Friday jailed for 18 months for abusing children with needles, a Beijing court said, sparking criticism online that the sentence was too short. Liu Yanan, who was a teacher at the RYB Education New World kindergarten, picked four children with needles in November 2017, the Beijing Chaoyang Court said.

EX-PREZ RAJOELINA WINS MADAGASCAR VOTE

Antananarivo: Former Madagascar president Andry Rajoelina has beaten his rival and predecessor Marc Ravalomanana in an election beset by allegations of fraud, the electoral commission said Thursday. Rajoelina has returned to power after he won 55.66 per cent against 44.34 per cent for Ravalomanana in the run-off vote held last week, it said.

19 KILLED, 219 HURT IN SUDAN PROTESTS: GOVT

Khartoum: Clashes between Sudanese anti-riot police and protesters in demonstrations against a rise in bread prices have killed 19 people, including two security force personnel, the Government said on Thursday.

"Nineteen people lost their lives in the incidents including two from security forces," Government spokesman Boshara Juma said on state television, adding that 219 people were wounded.

LOSS OF PASSPORT

We, KADHIM JAWAD HUSSEIN S/O JAWAD HUSSEIN AND IMAN ABDULJALEEL IBRAHIM D/O ABDULJALEEL IBRAHIM R/O DIALL, IRAQI, Original Passports No. A1797747, KADHIM JAWAD HUSSEIN (2) Passport No. A1797787, IMAN ABDULJALEEL IBRAHIM have been lost. FIR has been lodged in Police Station, Sushant Lok, District Gurugram, Haryana India vide NCR No. dated 26.12.2018.

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD-II, M. BUND OFFICE COMPLEX, SHAHSTRI NAGAR, DELHI - 110031

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. III, I&FC, Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online tender for the following works.

1. NIT No: EE/CD-II/NIT/44/2018-19 HOA: 2711 MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE Name of work:- Maintenance of Trunk Drain No. I from RD 0M to RD 5260m by uprooting grass, vegetation and cleaning the bank and slope and by collecting all kind of floating material, grass, clearing of hyacinth, removal of obstructions etc. from water surface of the drain to maintain free flow and clearing of all vegetation along the bank and slope including supply & installation of floating trash barrier at RD 2870m for collection or any other location of drain. Estimated Cost: Rs. 34,93,632/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 69,873/- Period of completion : 365 Days; Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m. on 04.01.2019. (Tender I.D 2018. JFC. 164294. 1).

2. NIT No: EE/CD-II/NIT/45/2018-19 HOA: 2711 MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE Name of work:- Maintenance of Shandara Cutoff Drain from RD 0M to RD 5900m by uprooting grass, vegetation and cleaning the bank and slope and by collecting all kind of rubbish, garbage from drain water surface including clearing /removal of obstructions to maintain free flow for one year including Supply & installation of floating trash barrier at RD 1000m & RD 5600m or any other location of drain. Estimated Cost: Rs. 75,49,459/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,50,989/- Period of completion : 365 Days; Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m. on 04.01.2019. (Tender I.D 2018. JFC. 164295. 1).

3. NIT No: EE/CD-II/NIT/46/2018-19 HOA: 2711 MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE Name of work:- Maintenance of Trunk Drain No. II from RD 0M to RD 4550 M by uprooting grass, vegetation and cleaning the bank and slope and by collecting all kind of rubbish, garbage from drain water surface including clearing /removal of obstructions to maintain free flow for one year including Supply & installation of floating trash barrier at RD 40 M & RD 3900m or any other location of drain. Estimated Cost: Rs. 46,67,172/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 93,343/- Period of completion : 365 Days; Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m. on 04.01.2019. (Tender I.D 2018. JFC. 164296. 1).

4. NIT No: EE/CD-II/NIT/47/2018-19 HOA: 2711 MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE Name of work:- Maintenance of Ghazipur Drain from RD 0 M (Chilla Regulator)/to RD 6150 M by uprooting grass, vegetation and cleaning the bank and slope and by collecting all kind of rubbish, garbage from drain water surface including clearing /removal of obstructions to maintain free flow for one year including Supply & installation of floating trash barrier at RD 400 M or any other location of drain. Estimated Cost: Rs. 47,11,704/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 94,234/- Period of completion : 365 Days; Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m. on 04.01.2019. (Tender I.D 2018. JFC. 164298. 1).

5. NIT No: EE/CD-II/NIT/48/2018-19 HOA: 2711 MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE Name of work:- Repair and Renovation of Petrol Pump at Mughal Bund. Estimated Cost: Rs. 21,38,179/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 42,764/- Period of completion : 120 Days; Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m. on 04.01.2019. (Tender I.D 2018. JFC. 164298. 1).

Other details can be seen at website: http://delhi.govt.nic.in/tender

Executive Engineer, CD-II D/P/Shabbardh/2590/18-19

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Amar Singh who is the owner of his plot of land area measuring 1000sq. Yes. out of Khassa No. 321, situated in Village Nawada Mazra, Hissar, Haryana vide Relinquishment Deed dated 24.10.2016 and will be mortgaging against the Financial assistance from Auxilio Finance Pvt. Ltd. The Surviving Member Certificate of Legal Heirs of Late Mrs. Angoori Devi is not available so to comply the requirements of bank/NBC we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and / or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this notice at below address: Lucem Legal LLP 269 Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Mohl, Opp. Uday Park, South Ex-II, New Delhi-49 Contact: 011-40043161

BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR NORTHERN REGION, NEW DELHI

In the matter of the Companies Act, Section 13 AND Pursuant to the Companies (Central Government's General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 2012 AND In the matter of AL SHRIN TOURS AND TRAVELS PRIVATE LIMITED, having their Registered Office: A-18, First Floor, LIP, Okhla Vihar, Okhla, New Delhi, South Delhi, 110025, India. Petitioner

Notice is hereby given that the above named petitioner Company propose to file a petition under Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 before the Regional Director, Northern Region, Noida seeking confirmation to the proposed alteration to cause II (Situation Clause) of its Memorandum of Association so as to change its Registered Office from the 'NCT of Delhi' to the State of 'Maharashtra' in the terms of Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on Monday 24th December, 2018 at its Registered Office.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company may deliver a cause to be delivered or send by registered post his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of objection to the Regional Director, Northern Region, P.O. Bhawan, Ground Floor, A-16, Sector-15, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice and also to the petitioner Company at its Registered office at the address mentioned above.

For AL Shrin Tours and Travels Private Limited (Director) Date: 24-12-2018 Place: New Delhi

MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one male Namely: Ramniwas, S/o: Sh. Ramnarayan, R/o: Gali No. 13/1230A, Govindpuri, New Delhi, has been missing since 03.11.2018 from the Sehgal Market-1, E Block, GK-II, New Delhi. In this regard, a Case Vide DD No. 06-A, Dated 24.11.2018, has been lodged at P.S. C.R. Park, New Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:



Ramniwas

Name: Ramniwas, S/o: Sh. Ramnarayan, R/o: Gali No. 13/1230A, Govindpuri, New Delhi, Age: 42 years, Height: 5'6" Feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Black Pant, White Colour Shirt and Black Shoes in Feet. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped male, then please inform P.S. C.R. Park, New Delhi.

email: cbc@cbi.gov.in Fax: No.011-24368639 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi DP/5173/SD/18.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Chandra @ Deepa D/o Nandan Singh R/o F IIInd 268, Madangir New Delhi Aged - 17 Years has been reported missing since 27.11.2018 vide FIR No. 594/2 Dated 06.12.2018 registered at Police Station Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under- Complexion: Fair, Height: 160 cm, Face: Oval, Hair: Normal Black Long, Eyes: Black, Clothing: Black coloured kurta and light yellow coloured salwar.



Chandra @ Deepa

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Sd/- Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi. FAX No. : 11-24368639 Tel.: 011-29052304-1917 DP/5160/SD/18 Mob.: 8750870934

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP200TSCG025867/2358, Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabbar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwaral Road, Dehradun, Tel. No. 0135-276372-75; Fax No. 0135-2760289; website: www.uktenders.gov.in

CORRIDGEMENT TO E-TENDER NOTICE

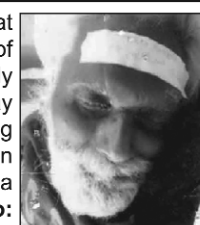
This office e-tender specification No. CCP-II/21/2018-2019 invited previously for three phase (10-60A) meter with box are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs. of 07.01.2019. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 08.01.2019 at 16:00 hrs.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in. Superintendent Engineer Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

No. 679/EE (CM)/UP/CL/A-2/Date 27.12.2018 'SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION' use L.E.D. bulb save electricity. Toll Free No. 1912 'Pay Electricity' toll online 24x7 from www.uce.org 'For information on Electricity theft, Informant may report to Toll Free No. 18001804185/185' Fax No. 0135-2760911

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 70 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown, was admitted in Sanjay Gandhi Hospital on 17/12/2018 during treatment he was declared dead on 18.12.2018 at 10:00 a.m. In this regard a vide has been registered with DD No: 18-B, dated 18.12.2018 at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under: Sex: Male, Age: About 70 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Unknown. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Mangolpuri, Delhi.



SHO P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi Ph.: 011-27921168, 27922186

DP/1756/OD/18

Pompeo to meet Netanyahu in Brazil after Syria decision

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet next week in Brazil with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as Washington prepares to withdraw troops from Syria, the State Department said on Thursday.

Pompeo and Netanyahu will meet in Brasilia where both will be attending the New Year's Day inauguration of president-elect Jair Bolsonaro, a right-wing firebrand who has vowed to move Brazil closer to Israel and US President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu has met frequently with Pompeo and enjoys a warm relationship with Trump, happy about his withdrawal from a denuclearization deal with Iran and his landmark shift of the US embassy to Jerusalem.

But Netanyahu has for the first time found himself at odds with Trump after the US

leader's sudden announcement last week that he will bring home all 2,000 American troops from war-ravaged Syria, where Israel saw Washington's presence as a bulwark against Iran and counterweight to the influence of Russia.

Israel has been measured in its public response, saying it respects Trump's decision, which led to the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria that it says are targeting Iranian forces and their Hezbollah allies. Trump has said that US troops were solely focused on fighting the Islamic State jihadist group, which he has declared to be "largely defeated."

Pompeo will also meet in Brazil with Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra and afterward fly to Cartagena to hold talks with Colombian President Ivan Duque.

Cohen dismisses report of Prague meeting with Russians

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

Michael Cohen, Donald Trump's former attorney, denied Thursday that he had ever visited Prague, shooting down a report that he had a meeting with Russian officials there during the 2016 presidential election campaign.

"I hear #Prague #CzechRepublic is beautiful in the summertime," Cohen tweeted. "I wouldn't know as I have never been."

"#Mueller knows everything!" he added in a reference to Special Counsel Robert Mueller, the former FBI director who is investigating whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia to get him elected to the White House.

Details of Cohen's cooperation with the Mueller probe have not been publicly revealed and Trump vehemently denies any collusion with Russia. The purported meeting between Cohen and Russian government officials in Prague was first reported in a document with compromising material on Trump compiled by former British spy Christopher Steele.

According to what has become known as the "Steele dossier," Cohen had a clandestine meeting with Kremlin officials in Prague in August 2016 to discuss hiding links between members of the Trump campaign and Russia. McClatchy, publisher of the Miami Herald and other

newspapers, said a mobile phone traced to Cohen had briefly sent signals off cell towers in the Prague area in late summer 2016.

"The brief activation from Cohen's phone near Prague sent beacons that left a traceable electronic signature," it said.

Citing "four people with knowledge of the matter," McClatchy said that the electronic record supports "claims that Cohen met secretly there with Russian officials."

"During the same period of late August or early September (2016), electronic eavesdropping by an Eastern European intelligence agency picked up a conversation among Russians, one of whom remarked that Cohen was in Prague," McClatchy cited "two people familiar with the incident" as saying.

"The new information regarding the recovery of Cohen's cell phone location doesn't explain why he was apparently there or who he was meeting with, if anyone," McClatchy said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

It is publically informed that, one male namely Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age 55 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Wheatish, Wearing blue colour Check Shirt, black colour Pajama and black colour Shoes in feet, he was found dead at Gate No. 1, Roshanara Club, Roop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a D.D. No. 07-A, Dated 20.12.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-23844632, 23849120 DP/9498/N/18

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Khushi, S/o Shri Satrugan Singh, R/o H.No. C-64, Veena Enclave, Nangloi, Delhi, Age 13 years, Height 5'1", Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Identification Mark A old mark on right elbow, Wearing Black colour suit & salwar and fancy brown sandal in feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Nangloi, Delhi since 19.05.18. In this regard a case FIR No. 172/18 dated 20.05.18 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Nangloi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in SHO Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Nangloi, Delhi Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 25947225, 25949470 DP/1736/OD/18

Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this lady Named : Unknown, D/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown Age : 65 Years, Sex : Female, Height : 5 Ft. 2 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing : Cream Colour Saree, has been found dead on 25.12.2018 at 03:15 pm Dr. BSA Hospital, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 66-A Date 25.12.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi Ph.: 011-27821047, 8750870322 DP/2389/RD/18.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a female Age: 25-35 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, ID Mark: Decomposed body, was found dead on 15.12.2018 at Munak Nahar haweli Jhall, Bawana. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 25-A dated 15.12.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased female may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO P.S. Bawana, Delhi Ph.No.: 011-27752534 Mob.: 8750870321 DP/2385/RD/18

# BUMRAH PUTS INDIA ON FRONTFOOT

Jasprit picks six to help India bowl out Australia for 151 runs in first innings

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah had Australia's batsmen tied up in knots with his immaculate line and length, giving India the decisive advantage that withstood a second innings batting collapse in the third Test here on Friday.

Called a "genius" on air by Australia's former captain Michael Clarke, Bumrah's career-best figures of 6/33 in 15.5 overs also made him the first bowler from the subcontinent to take a five-for or more in South Africa, England and Australia in the same year.

At the end of day three, India, after bowling out Australia for 151 in response to their first innings total of 443/7 declared, took a 346-run lead. The visitors were struggling at 54/5 in 27 overs in their second essay but had the upper-hand.

Debutant Mayank Agarwal (28 batting), who scored an impressive 76 in the first innings, and Rishabh Pant (6) were at the crease after 15 wickets fell in all on an exciting day.

In their second innings, India were jolted by Pat Cummins (4-10), who took four wickets for two runs in the space of 19 balls, including Virat Kohli (0) and Ajinkya Rahane (1) caught off successive balls.

Rohit Sharma (5) prevented his hat-trick, but fell before end of play. This was after Bumrah's outstanding effort handed India a 292-run lead.

Bumrah returned second-best figures for an Indian bowler in Australia after Kapil Dev's 8-106 at Adelaide in 1985. But he surpassed B Chandrasekhar's twin hauls of 6-52 in each innings at this ground in 1977.

Post tea, Australia's innings lasted for only four overs as Bumrah quickly cleaned up the worrisome tail. First he got rid of Tim Paine (22) caught behind, and then trapped Nathan Lyon (0) lbw.

Three balls later, he bowled Josh Hazlewood (0) as India took a hefty lead. Kohli though decided not to enforce the follow-on and the Indian mini-collapse followed thereafter.

Cummins bounced out Hanuma Vihari (13) for the second time in this Test, while Cheteshwar Pujara (0) was caught at short square leg for a duck following his hundred in the first innings. India were reduced to 32-4 with a double break against Kohli and Rahane. Rohit Sharma was caught at slip off Josh Hazlewood (1-13) as India finished five-down but still in control of the

**AT THE END OF DAY THREE, INDIA, AFTER BOWLING OUT AUSTRALIA FOR 151 IN RESPONSE TO THEIR FIRST INNINGS TOTAL OF 443/7 DECLARED, TOOK A 346-RUN LEAD. THE VISITORS WERE STRUGGLING AT 54/5 IN 27 OVERS IN THEIR SECOND ESSAY BUT HAD THE UPPER-HAND**



Jasprit Bumrah, left, celebrates after getting Shaun Marsh, right, out lbw in Melbourne



Rishabh Pant, center left, and Mayank Agarwal, center right, walk off the field at the end of play in front of the The Australian Cricket Team in Melbourne

game. Earlier, Australia sunk to 145-7 at tea. Post lunch, it took only four overs for Bumrah to strike again as he bowled Travis Head (20), playing on in the 37th over. Australia were in dire straits at 92-5 and things didn't improve when Ravindra Jadeja (2-45) struck for a second time against Mitchell Marsh (9). The batsman tried an exaggerated outside flick, but ended up edging to slip as the ball exploded off the pitch.

The hosts managed to cross 100 in the 41st over, but were struggling at 102-6. The next pair then batted with more patience and cut down on attacking strokes for the next hour.

In doing so, Paine and Pat Cummins (17) added 36 runs for the seventh wicket and added some respectability to the total amid the ruins. To India's credit, they never relented the bowling pressure and executed their plans to near perfection.

It could have been different, but Cummins was dropped on 2 by keeper Rishabh Pant off Hanuma Vihari in the 50th over.

Just when it appeared that Australia might avoid another dismissal, Mohammed Shami (1-27) got into the attack and bowled him to give India the advantage again.

The visitors struck four blows in the morning session as Australia were reduced to 89-4 at lunch.

Starting from overnight 8-0, Australia were under the pump early on as Ishant Sharma (1-41) and Bumrah gave them no room for manoeuvring.

Ishant struck in the fifth over of the morning as Mayank Agarwal scooped up a sharp catch at short mid-wicket to send back Aaron Finch (8). The fielder was stationed there for any aerial shot and the plan worked to get an early break-through.

Four overs later, Marcus Harris (22) went for an uncontrolled pull and found the fine leg fielder as Bumrah celebrated his first wicket of the day.

India used the scoreboard pressure to good effect as Jadeja came on to bowl with close-in fielders all around the bat. Usman Khawaja (21) fell to this ploy, caught at short leg, as Australia slipped further to 53-3 in the 20th over.

Shaun Marsh (19) and Head then added 36 runs for the fourth wicket and brought some semblance of stability to the Australian innings. They used good footwork against Jadeja to smother the possibility of turn from the rough.

But Bumrah came up with an inspirational yorker at the stroke of lunch, and the slow dipping delivery caught Shaun Marsh plumb in front of the wicket, as Australia's top-order was completely blown away on this third morning.



Indian players celebrate after Jasprit Bumrah dismisses Shaun Marsh

## Ranji experience helped me to reverse swing: Bumrah

MELBOURNE: Jasprit Bumrah said his experience of getting reverse swing on slower pitches in first class cricket helped him get the best out of a docile MCG track after his six-wicket haul put India in command in the third Test here.

Bumrah's produced a career-best effort of 6/33 in 15.5 overs, becoming the first bowler from the subcontinent to take a five-for or more in South Africa, England and Australia in the same year.

"When I was bowling there, the wicket had become really slow and the ball had become soft... I tried to bowl a slower one, a fuller slow ball. Maybe it will dip or go to short cover. It worked because the ball had started reversing," Bumrah said on Friday.

"When we play on similar wickets back home, the ball

reverses. So you try to make the most of it. We were trying to use our experience in First-Class cricket where we have bowled with reverse-swinging balls. That was the plan," he added. Bumrah's exploits helped India bowl out Australia for a meagre 151 in the first innings on the third day of the Boxing Day Test.

In fact, the pacer returned with 45 wickets in nine Tests this year and Bumrah said he isn't surprised by his rich vein of form in his maiden season in Test cricket.

"I am not surprised. If I say I don't believe in myself, who else will? I just try to back myself in any situation that I go. Yes the start has been good and I have played in England, South Africa and here - three different kinds of conditions," said Bumrah. PTI

## Need to bat like Pujara in 2nd innings: Cummins

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Bundled out for a paltry 151 in the first innings, pacer Pat Cummins on Friday said Australian batsmen need to learn a lot from India captain Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara on how to pace their knocks on this MCG pitch.

Pujara and Kohli had put on 170 runs in the first innings to help India declare at a mammoth 443 for seven and Cummins said the Australian batsmen need to take a cue from the visiting duo's temperament.

"It was obviously not ideal. We turned up thinking of a good first innings score and be right in the game. We wanted to take this result away from them. This is a young batting group and they are working hard. They are trying their best, but it is just one of those things. Today it didn't come off," Cummins said after the day's play.

"What we saw from India's first innings, we saw temperament of Pujara and Virat and how they pace their innings. They absorb pressure because on this kind of wicket, it is hard to score runs.

"You have to face a lot of balls to get big scores and it is probably one of those wickets where you do the hard work early. Keep absorbing pressure and score later, but evidently it did not work for us today," he added.

## Tom, Henry add to NZ advantage

AFF ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Centuries from Tom Latham and Henry Nicholls put New Zealand in line for a defining victory over Sri Lanka Friday in the second Test with a 659-run second innings lead and the tourists losing early wickets in their record chase.

New Zealand, who lead by 74 on the first innings, declared their second innings on day three in Christchurch at 585 for four with Latham scoring 176 to go with his unbeaten 264 in the drawn first Test.

Nicholls was not out on a career best 162 with healthy contributions from Jeet Raval (74) and Colin de Grandhomme (71 not out).

Sri Lanka at stumps were 24 for two with Dinesh Chandimal on 14 and Kusal Menis on six.

Victory for New Zealand would give them a fourth consecutive series win for the first time after wins over the West Indies, England and Pakistan in the past year.

With more than two days left, Sri Lanka had reason for patience but lost both openers — Dimuth Karunaratne without scoring and Danushka Gunathilaka (four) — in the first two overs.

No team has ever scored more than 418 in a successful fourth innings run chase and the pitch continues to offer some assistance to the New Zealand bowlers.

Sri Lanka, however, were less effective with the ball and de Grandhomme in particular was scoring freely when Kane Williamson declared midway through the final session.

De Grandhomme, who had six fours and two sixes in his whirlwind innings, passed the 50 mark in a New Zealand record 28 deliveries, one better than the previous best by Tim Southee against England 10 years ago.

New Zealand resumed Friday at 231 for two and Latham, whose unbeaten 264 in the drawn first Test is the top score in all Test cricket this year, continued his purple patch with grim determination through 370 deliveries.

For the most part, it was a near faultless innings, although he



H Nicholls plays a shot during innings

was dropped by Dushmantha Chameera on 32 and survived an lbw review on 75. But, on the stroke of tea, Chameera made the breakthrough when he had Latham caught behind off a faint legside edge.

The only reward with the new ball in the morning session came when Lahiru Kumara trapped Ross Taylor in front to claim the senior batsman's wicket for 40. Latham and Nicholls put on 214 for the fourth wicket with Latham achieving his eighth century and Nicholls his fourth.

Only three times in cricket history has the winning side scored more than 400 in the fourth innings, while the current record held by the West Indies is 418 for seven against Australia 15 years ago in Antigua.

The highest fourth innings score in the modern era is New Zealand's 451 against England in 2002, while England scored 654 for five after being set a target of 696 by South Africa in 1939.

## AMLA, ELGAR PUT SOUTH AFRICA 1-0 UP

AFF ■ CENTURION

Dean Elgar and Hashim Amla hit half-centuries as South Africa beat Pakistan by six wickets inside three days in the first Test at SuperSport Park on Friday.

The pair survived some early scares and put on 119 for the second wicket before Elgar was caught behind off part-time medium-pacer Shan Masood for 50, one ball after reaching his half-century.

Amla finished a year in which he found top form by making 63 not out. The value of the partnership between Elgar and Amla was shown as Theunis de Bruyn and captain Faf du Plessis both fell cheaply before Temba Bavuma swept Yasir Shah for four to take South Africa past their target of 149 shortly before tea on the third day.

Both captains, Du Plessis and Pakistan's Sarfraz Ahmed, made 'pairs' by being dismissed without scoring in both innings.

Pakistan made an ideal start when Hasan Ali trapped Aiden Markram leg before wicket before a run had been scored.

Hasan and Mohammad Amir did not concede a run off the bat until Amla clipped Hasan for four in the sixth over.

There were two crucial incidents with the total on 16, either of which could have swung the game in Pakistan's favour.



Dean Elgar plays a shot during his innings against Pakistan in the third day of first Test at Centurion Park in Pretoria

Amla, on eight, was dropped by Fakhar Zaman at third slip off Hasan when he slashed hard at the ball, which flew at chest height to the fielder. In the next over, Elgar, on four, edged new bowler Shaheen Shah

Afridi low to first slip where Azhar Ali appeared to take a diving catch.

On-field umpires Bruce Oxenford and Sundaram Ravi conferred before referring to television umpire Joel Wilson with a 'soft' sig-

nal of out, indicating they thought it was a clean catch.

After looking at several replays, including super-slow close-ups, Wilson ruled the ball had bounced and Elgar was reprieved.

The decision clearly astonished the Pakistan players and coach Mickey Arthur was seen leaving his place on the players' balcony and going to the adjacent office of match referee David Boon.

Television commentator Michael Holding criticised his fellow West Indian Wilson.

"I'm convinced he was out," said Holding. "I think the third umpire made a mistake. The protocol says you have got to be 100 percent sure the decision was wrong to change it."

In a similar situation, Indian captain Virat Kohli was given out in the recent second Test against Australia in Perth when television umpire Nigel Llong found no conclusive evidence to overturn a 'soft' signal from the on-field umpires.

Elgar and Amla survived some testing bowling from the Pakistan seamers and gradually began to lift the scoring rate on a pitch which favoured bowlers throughout.

South African fast bowler Duanne Olivier was named man of the match for his match return of 11-96.

The second Test begins in Cape Town on January 3.

## WE DO NOT FEAR TOP-RANKED TEAMS ANYMORE: RANI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's success against top-ranked nations this year has instilled a new self-belief and helped the women's hockey team shed its underdog tag, feels skipper Rani Rampal.

Indian women's hockey team won a historic Silver at the 18th Asian Games and another Silver at the Asian Champions Trophy this year. They also finished at the quarter-finals at the World Cup in London and ended at the fourth place at the Commonwealth Games.

"Though we would have preferred to win Gold medal at the 18th Asian Games Jakarta-Palembang as well as the Asian Champions Trophy, I believe overall, we had a good outing in 2018," Rani said.

"Beating England 2-1 at the Commonwealth Games, a 1-1 draw against them at their



Rani Rampal poses for photograph with Glenn Turner

home turf during the Women's World Cup in London and a 0-1 loss to Australia in the semi-final at Gold Coast has given the team tremendous confidence

and a self-belief. "We can give top teams a run for their money in big-ticket tournaments. We are no longer considered an underdog team by our opponents and that's our biggest take-away from 2018."

Speaking of the year ahead, Rani said the team's ultimate goal will be to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

"We will be reporting to the National Camp in the first week of January and begin our preparations in this crucial Olympic cycle where we will be playing Olympic Qualifiers," Rani said.

"Though personally I still regret not winning the Gold Medal at the Asian Games which would have earned us direct qualification, I believe the result has only motivated and instilled a fighting spirit in us."

## 'I'M INTERESTED IN PLAYER'S ABILITIES'

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Chief coach Stephen Constantine on Friday made it clear that he believes in the ability of his players and not their ages, saying he can foresee a team which can serve Indian football for the next 10 years.

India is fielding the second youngest side with an average age of 25 in the forthcoming AFC Asian Cup in UAE slated to begin from January 5.

"I never differentiate between seniors and juniors. They are all playing for India. I'm not interested in their ages, but their abilities. Our average age is about 25. The situation is fantastic for Indian Football where we can foresee a team for the next 10 years," Constantine said, the morning after India played a goalless draw against Oman in an international friendly.

"After this tournament, we'll have a young Indian squad with an experience of playing in an Asian Cup," he added.

Referring to the goalless draw against Oman, Constantine said he was pleased with the efforts of his side.

"It was a very good game for us. Oman were a very difficult opponent and have been unbeat-



Stephen Constantine listens to Sunil Chhetri before match

en in the last 12 months. The boys worked very hard and I'm very pleased with the positive result," he said.

"It was phenomenal from the work-rate perspective. The numbers are exceptional. We were superb physically."

Oman headed into the match with a 12-match-unbeaten-run which included victories against the likes of Kuwait, Palestine, Bahrain and even world-cuppers Saudi Arabia.

# vivacity

I URGE THE YOUTH TO VOTE:  
JASSIE GILL  
- P14



# HEALTHY BREAKFAST GIVES GOOD PUSH



You can eat anything throughout the day according to mood but starting your day with a healthy diet keeps you steady and energised, says **TEAM VIVA**

Eating a healthy breakfast helps us feel more focused for the coming day, whether we are at work or simply getting on with our daily routines. There's nothing worse than being constantly aware that you are hungry and counting the minutes until lunchtime. Eating food in the morning not only fuels us until lunchtime but actually gives our brains the essential energy to function and focus better on tasks throughout the day.

It's quite a simple equation - if you don't eat, you won't feel so great! Well this especially applies to your first meal of the day. The next time you wake up, think about the last time you ate - it might be anything up to ten hours so why make yourself wait longer? Our bodies need energy to function, and that energy comes from food. As soon as we start eating in the morning, we kickstart our body chemistry which gets us feeling energised and ready for the day.

Well, hopefully we have convinced a few of you to get up a little earlier and eat yourselves a lovely, healthy in the breakfast in the morning. Trust us, you'll feel better for it. Going for a breakfast that is high in carbohydrates like oatmeal can drastically improve your mood

in the morning. When you sleep for eight hours or more, your body loses nutrients and we can become irritable when we wake up. When you supply your body with the energy it needs, you feel more satisfied and happy throughout the day. You're supplied with the essential nutrients that kick start your mind so you can start your day with a good attitude.

Eating a healthy breakfast of essential nutrients can help you improve your overall health, well-being, and even help you do better in school or work. It's worth it to get up a few minutes earlier and throw together a quick breakfast. You'll be provided with the energy to start your day off right.

People's energy needs vary depending on activity levels and life stage but typically men require more energy than women. Growing children require a lot of energy, as an example boys aged 7-10yrs should consume approx. 1970 kcals per day, and girls aged 7-10yrs should consume approx. 1740 kcals. For adults, men require approx. 2500 kcals and women approx. 2000 kcals per day.

Breakfast is an excellent occasion to eat together as a family when possible. Establishing good breakfast habits in childhood and maintaining them throughout adolescence may be an important factor in



**IT'S QUITE A SIMPLE EQUATION - IF YOU DON'T EAT, YOU WON'T FEEL SO GREAT! WELL THIS ESPECIALLY APPLIES TO YOUR FIRST MEAL OF THE DAY**

reducing the prevalence of breakfast skipping and developing good eating habits that last a lifetime.

Those that are calorie-conscious could be forgiven for thinking that skipping out a meal will help them lose weight, but in fact the opposite

may happen instead. If you don't eat breakfast, you're way more likely to end up snacking throughout the morning, which could pile up the unhealthy calories! Stay away from overly-refined snacks with added sugar.

It's quite a simple equation - if you don't eat, you won't feel so great! Well this especially applies to your first meal of the day. The next time you wake up, think about the last time you ate - it might be anything up to ten hours so why make yourself wait longer? Our bodies need energy to function, and that energy comes from food. As soon as we start eating in the morning, we kick start our body chemistry which gets us feeling energized and ready for the day.

Protein in the morning will jump-start your metabolism and make you feel fuller longer helping to avoid those mid morning temptations and cravings.

Fiber from fruits, vegetables and whole grains is important for digestion. Men should consume 38 grams per day and women should get 25 grams, including soluble and insoluble fiber. Three grams of soluble fiber in the diet can have cholesterol-lowering effects.

Many breakfasts are full of carbohydrates, so this is the perfect time to make those whole-grain choices. Whole grains are rich in the B vitamins thiamine, riboflavin and niacin, which provide energy. To keep you marching through your day.

Probably the most appealing benefit is that breakfast jumpstarts

your metabolism and, thus, helps you burn more calories throughout the day.

When you eat breakfast you're telling your body that there are plenty of calories to be had for the day. When you skip breakfast the message your body gets is that it needs to conserve rather than burn any incoming calories.

Breakfast helps you reach your daily recommended servings of fruit and vegetables. Those who eat breakfast also tend to consume more milk and whole grains than those who skip the meal. And as you probably know, milk offers up important calcium for your body.

Breakfast also fills your stomach, helping you to avoid overeating and snacking later in the day.

Breakfast balances blood sugar levels. Eating in the morning helps your body better break down glucose, also called blood sugar. In fact, you can avoid glucose fluctuations throughout the day by eating fruit, grains, and lean protein within two hours of waking.

Breakfast kickstarts your metabolism. Breakfast jump-starts your metabolism in the morning. Getting your metabolism working early helps burn calories throughout the day. Skipping breakfast tells your body to conserve, rather than burn,

extra calories.

Energy; breakfast gives your brain and body the fuel to start functioning properly.

Brain booster; if you and kids are having a healthy and enriched breakfast you will be improving your memory and your ability to concentrate.

Better mood; the energy gained from a healthy breakfast, will let you experience an improved mood and lower stress levels. Enhanced digestion; the consumption of yoghurt and fiber rich foods help you keep regular and reduce the risk of colon cancer.

Stronger bones; breakfast gives you the chance to consume food rich in calcium, vitamin D and protein.

Healthier heart; breakfast eaters usually go for a variety of healthy choices low in cholesterol and saturated fat. Thus they will be protected from many chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease. Better endurance; you definitely need fuel for your morning workouts.

Nutrition benefits; breakfast is a great opportunity to consume nutritious and light foods. It can be a good source of many vitamins and minerals if you pick healthy ideas, like whole grains, fruits, skimmed dairy products and vegetables.

SHORT CIRCUITS



**JASSIE GILL**

India is a country that comprises a vast population of youngsters and it's crucial for them to realise the power they hold in their hands. To bring about a positive change in the country and with the forthcoming general elections, I urge the youth of India to vote and express themselves with #PowerOf18.



**ABHIJIT PANSE**

Every year, more than 52 films are made. So, every Friday, either one or two or three films release. The public knows everything and will see *Manikarnika*, *Cheat India* and as well as my film *Thackeray*. If the film is good, it will work. But yes, as a director, I want all the films to work.



**VIVEK SHARMA**

My forthcoming film, *Ram Singh Phillip* will be a cinematic milestone. It is an international subject dealing with innocence and dilemma of tribals; beautifully depicted with various emotions. While auditioning, actress Jinal Joshi portrayed both the vulnerable and the sensuous parts of the character.



**VANESSA HUDGENS**

Paparazzi were everywhere. I remember filming a scene under a bridge. I was having a really beautiful moment with Jennifer Lopez, until I looked away and was staring down the barrel of a paparazzi's lens. It threw me, but it also made the whole experience much more exciting.

**EMMA STONE**

I got gloomy for about a week after turning 30. But I realised the interesting part about becoming an adult is most things become bittersweet. I'm still finding my voice. And it's okay if not everybody likes you, that doesn't make it more appealing to convince them of why you are likeable.



WOMEN IN ART 30 MINUTES

**THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS**

Actress LUSHIN DUBEY believes that theatre has become more fearless over the years when it comes to breaking norms

Actress and theatre veteran Lushin Dubey feels that theatre has become more fearless over the years in terms of breaking the norms. She also calls the medium the father of films and stresses that it's best to participate in both and not treat either like a poor cousin of the other.

"I think theatre has become more fearless over the years in terms of scripts, direction, music, costumes, breaking of norms and ideas. I do believe that having conviction in a project is more than 50 per cent success," Lushin said.

"Theatre is the father of films. For those who believe that success in the arts field is not measured by just monies and it's makings, they will attest that theatre is a towering medium of expression, more powerful than most other mediums because it demands so much from an individual like expression, voice, physique and so many other skills," Lushin said when asked about the changes that she has seen in the people's mindset towards theatre over the years.

The Indian stage actor and director has directed, acted in and scripted many drama productions over 20 years. She is known for her solo plays *Untitled* and *Pinkie Virani's Bitter Chocolate* with theatre director Arvind Gaur.

She acted in films *Partition* and *Perfect Husband* in 2007 and *Murder Unveiled* in 2005 — for which she won the 2006 Gemini Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series.

Now she is back with yet another theatre production reinventing the popular story of *The Sleeping Beauty* along with Bubbles Sabharwal.



"Kids World (her production company) has written and directed innumerable productions over the years and this one is a classic re-written. Importance is linked not just to the classic replaying (albeit an improvised version) but to all these factors that interplay in the kids presentation of their acting prowess on stage. Each environment offers a podium for fearlessness to grow and confidence to grow," she said.

However when asked if theatre is facing challenges

when it comes to attracting youth, she said that most youth are there in it.

"Some are immersed and some are impatient, wanting to make it quickly in the big world of films. It's not that simple. Filmline and a successful

entry into it may or may not happen. So it's best to participate in both and not treat either like a poor cousin of the other. I strongly believe that working in both the mediums is important," she said.

Lushin calls theatre her baby as is Kids World. "It belongs to us I am not dependent on anyone for its operation or its movement forward. It belongs to us and our children. Not to be dependent on anyone gives us a liberated feeling. Besides, a film is a director's medium and theatre is an actor's medium. Even in my adult acting and solo performances, I am dependent on no one but myself," she said.

Does she feel that senior actors are not getting enough roles in Bollywood films now? "In India, age defines a lot on screen. There are a huge number of films being made. Mumbai is congested with actors wanting to make it — young, middle aged and older ones. There is no dearth of actors. Whatever has come my way has come through with no pushing from my side," she said.

"I don't even live in Mumbai. Also, I live partly in the US, so I do films because films have sought me, not the other way round," she added.

Asked about her plans, Lushin said that her next piece is for adults.

"I plan to direct (the piece), but cannot disclose much about it right now. I like to soak off life. To never stop. To keep going with new thoughts, new ideas and beginnings. I like the fact that I am restless and live in a world of imagination and dreams. Though I dream and plan I always surprise myself too. According to me that is the essence of joy, to not have everything predicted for you," she said.

and Kunti with all hues of human emotions trapped in moral dilemmas. On the other hand, *The Bhagwad's* theme centred around the pessimistic thoughts of mind that pollute the environment through our actions as human weaknesses have constantly been exhibited ages after ages, be it in the period of Mahabharata as well. Set in five acts, it explores the practice of virtues of abstention from greed, non-egoism, of eschewing pride, anger and desire for revenge, for they spell disaster in the long run as has been exhorted in the Holy

This year, on a professional note, has been a very satisfying one. It began with performances at international festivals in Hungary and Germany and went on to several other workshops during the summer, encompassing various countries of Europe and Turkey. It was a series of whirlwind performing tours at several national festivals in various cities and towns.

However, one thing that remained common in all the international and national workshops was that the participants showed a tremendous interest in the Indian classical dance form, Kathak. It dates back to over two and half thousand years, pre-dating the Natyashastra. I was simply bowled over by the questions asked by the students and members of such meets and workshops, be it abroad or in Indian cities.

This drove some innovation in performances. Two of the most challenging acts that the year welcomed were the ballet productions based on Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's *Rashmirathi* and on the select verses of the Bhagwad Gita, with lesser-known episodes of the Mahabharata titled *The Bhagwad: Ma Ganga Dhiyayati*.

Dinkar's celebrated work *Rashmirathi*, centering around the sorrowful life of Karna, Kunti's first-born child whom she had abandoned as he was born before her marriage, presented the poignancy of Karna

Lookback 2018



**It's just the beginning**

Kathak exponent SHOVANA NARAYAN says that the year welcomed a range of national as well as international performances

and Kunti with all hues of human emotions trapped in moral dilemmas. On the other hand, *The Bhagwad's* theme centred around the pessimistic thoughts of mind that pollute the environment through our actions as human weaknesses have constantly been exhibited ages after ages, be it in the period of Mahabharata as well. Set in five acts, it explores the practice of virtues of abstention from greed, non-egoism, of eschewing pride, anger and desire for revenge, for they spell disaster in the long run as has been exhorted in the Holy

**'IT WAS HEARTENING TO SEE SUCH DEDICATION TO A CLASSICAL DANCE FORM IN THE POP CULTURE ENVIRONMENT OF TODAY'**

Bhagwad Gita.

There were more wonderful performances, in which I was involved as well — Kalidasa's poetic work *Shakuntala*. The performance saw music composed by the early 19th century famous Austrian composer Franz Schubert. The performance, staged at packed houses in three cities, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai, was played live by

the Austrian Chamber Orchestra and sung by the members of Shillong Choir.

Another challenging assignment that I was involved with was acting in a feature film that is scheduled for release some time in 2019. I am looking forward to it as it's an eternal story of dilemmas and uncertainties that each individual in all professions go through and is an attempt at diversifying my artistic expression. As a guru, it was most heartening to see my disciples Shivani Varma, Mrinalini, Ragini Madan and Kristina Dolinina (Lithuanian) winning great accolades from artists and connoisseurs alike.

On the academic front, my new book *Illuminating Classical Dance through Yoga* was launched at the International Festival on Health and Yoga under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH at Goa. The ongoing research on Kathaks of *kathak* villages (villages named after the community of story-tellers), sprung several surprises that led to awareness of a living tradition of the *kathaks* in the temples of Ayodhya and such other holy places.

On the artistic scene, the year has seen creativity at various levels from artists of several genres bursting forth non-stop despite challenging circumstances, especially in the field of Kathak. It was heartening to see such dedication to a classical dance form in the pop culture environment of today.

Lookback 2018

The year bore witness to a plethora of new material from various metal artists. As they — old and new, the famous and the underground — decided on innovations and new ideas, it energised a whole genre.

At the same time, rock charts showed little or no creativity by most of the alternative and indie bands that dominate, rehashing the sound of their past. That, however, does not mean that rock is dead. There were still bands putting out some really cool stuff.

Here's a look at the top metal and rock offerings which made a difference during the year.

10. Metal: *Pal* by Kalmah. The Finnish melodic death metal legends returned with yet another brilliant album after five years. While no means groundbreaking, *Pal* features amazing arrangements, melodies and death metal aggression and technical dexterity precision.

Rock: *Eat The Elephant* by A Perfect Circle. American rock band's fourth studio album was worth its 14-year wait. This record is more of an atmospheric art rock record and lacks the band's previous heavier alternative metal sound. But nonetheless, it's a great piece.

9. Metal: *Cobra Speed Venom* by The Crown. The Swedish melodic death and thrash metallers have come back with added energy. There is a lot of violent fervour, growls, heavy thrash riffs, melodic leads and powerful drumming. It is a combination of thrash or death metal LP.

Rock: *Prequelle* by Ghost. While definitely not a straight-up pop rock album as it does contain plenty of heavy elements, this is far removed from metal, though it does have a lot going on: Hard rock, pop rock, and for the first time arena rock. Most songs have the element of catchiness due to the openly pop influences here such as ABBA.

8. Metal: *The Wake* by Voivod. One of the most underrated and creative bands,

**Punk's not dead**

Here's a look at the top metal and rock offerings which made a difference during the year



the Canadian progressive thrash metal veterans have released one of the greatest albums of their career. It manages to rival their original classics like *Killing Technology* and *Dimension Hatross* while combining modern production.

Rock: *Stone Temple Pilots* by Stone Temple Pilots. The self-titled album of the San Diego legends brings their trademark sound of distortion-filled heavy hard rock

riffs, marked by a psychedelic but also grooving melodic atmosphere. New lead singer Jeff Gutt does a splendid job.

7. Metal: *Electric Messiah* by High on Fire. You can always count on Matt Pike if you want something barbaric. This is definitely one of High On Fire's best. This album descends upon you with a plethora of monstrosity heavy riffs and is just straightforward metal.

Rock: *Still Cyco Punk After All These Years* by Suicidal Tendencies. While essentially a near complete re-recording of frontman Mike Muir's 96 solo album *Lost My Brain*, it is still fully energetic, raw, fast, hard and fun.

6. Metal: *Rainier Fog* by Alice in Chains. The band is renowned for their dark and heavy sound and bleak subject matter. *Rainier* sounds a bit closer to their

older stuff while nonetheless having the sensibilities of their newer sound. Another truly brilliant record by AIC.

Rock: *Living the Dream* by Slash Ft. Myles Kennedy and Conspirators. When making a rock'n roll record with heaviness and attitude one can never truly go wrong with the guitar legend Slash and vocalist Myles Kennedy. Bluesy hard rock riffs and passionate soaring vocals, grooving drums and strong bass make this record yet another strong hard rock piece.

5. Metal: *Devouring Radiant Light* by Skeletonwitch. Rather underrated, Skeletonwitch is an American band which plays blackened melodic thrash metal. In *Devouring*, there is a change in vocalists and the style is different. The black metal tendencies are less and the music packs progressive tendencies and a powerful atmospheric element.

Rock: *Time and Space* by Turnstile. American punk band's second album is an instant classic for the hardcore scene. It has pretty much everything you want — raw, loud, aggressive, heavy, short and does not mess around with any experimental tendencies.

4. Metal: *Automata Part I and II* by Between the Buried and Me. A double-part concept album, about a man whose dreams are broadcasted worldwide as a form of entertainment. While the second part of this record is superior, the first is no slouch either. The band beautifully balances their progressive elements with a refined melodic technical death metal sound.

Rock: *Ember* by Breaking Benjamin. Rarely has a band sounded so consistent and yet not managed to grow dull. It has hard heavy metallic riffs, melodic choruses with clean singing and raw screams packed with a dark emotional atmosphere. Nothing different and yet everything sounds fresh and original.

3. Metal: *Thunderbolt* by Saxon. One of the most legendary bands in heavy metal

history, Saxon were part of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal. Anyone who thought that Saxon's quality may have dropped as a result of their age is in for a severe shock. This album has everything. Just listen and be transported to Valhalla.

Rock: *Book of Bad Decisions* by Clutch. Full of hard, raw gritty engaging songs, with southern rock and blues influences. And it packs a punch.

2. Metal: *Firepower* by Judas Priest. One of the first metal bands in history. It is just full-on energy packed, no messing around, straight-up melodic metal. Another masterpiece by *The Metal God*.

Rock: *Vaxis Act 1: The Unholy* by Coheed And Cambria. Having influences in hard rock, alternative rock, progressive rock, metal and punk, it is a continuation of the concept based on frontman Claudio Sanchez's comic book series *The Armory Wars*. Engaging to say the least.

1. Metal: *Queen of Time* by Amorphis. It is one of the greatest Finnish metal bands. While their style has changed, Amorphis have come out as an evolved animal, their sound being a unique mix of melodic death metal, heavy metal, folk metal and progressive metal. Everything about it speaks perfection.

Rock: *Lost on the Road to Eternity* by Magnum. What is astounding about the British progressive rock veterans is how inspired Bob Catlin and Tom Clarkin, the creative core of Magnum, manage to sound in their 70s. It is all you can want — melodic, catchy, progressive and full of pomp.

Honourable mentions: Metal: *Love In Shadow* by Sumac; A *New Kind Of Horror* by Anaal Nathrakh; *The Science* by Sleep; *Our Raw Heart* by YOBB; *Diluvium* by Obscura; and *Sunshine Dust* by Skyharbor.

Rock: *Vicious* by Halestorm; *Resistance Is Futile* by Manic Street Preachers and *Joy As An Act Of Resistance* by Idles. —IANS

IMMERSIVE 60 MINUTES



# MAN BEHIND THE MAGICIAN

GEORGE HARDEEN, the great-nephew of magician HARRY HOUDINI, delves into the history of his uncle in a new series

Growing up, George Hardeen never thought too much about being related to arguably the most famous magician of all time, whose name is synonymous with great escape.

But at 66, the Arizona man is delving into the history of his great-uncle Harry Houdini in a journey at the heart of a new series on the Science Channel.

"We spoke to many collectors and historians. These guys live Houdini all the time," Hardeen said. "They know more about Houdini than I will ever be able to."

*Houdini's Last Secrets*, which begins airing on January 6, follows Hardeen as he and escape artist Lee Terbosic explore the engineering behind some of Houdini's most legendary feats.

The Hungarian-born illusionist, who came to the U.S. as a child, generated headlines in the early 1900s for escaping from handcuffs, straitjackets and even a milk can.

Each of the four episodes focuses on a different stunt, including being buried alive and the water torture cell, in which Houdini was lowered upside down into a water tank with his feet locked in stocks. A stunt builder constructs the props, and Terbosic reenacts the stunts.

"No one knows how Houdini did the tricks. So, we pondered it and came up with our own methodology so that Lee could perform the trick," Hardeen said.

Wyatt Channell, a Science Channel executive producer, said Houdini knew how to create a persona and hold people's interest but the programme tries to look at him from a different perspective.

"Everybody thinks of him as an escape artist, illusionist and magician. But there was a ton of engineering behind what he was doing," Channell said.

The production company approached Hardeen about a year ago. "I think, in many ways, the show is George's journey," Channell said. "George is really the one, as the everyman, asking the questions we all are wondering — How Houdini did these things?"

It also touches on other questions, such as whether Houdini could have been recruited to be a spy. For that, Hardeen interviewed John McLaughlin, former acting director of the CIA and a lifelong magician and Houdini fan.

Hardeen's grandfather Theo Hardeen was Houdini's younger brother and an illusionist in his own right. George Hardeen's father didn't tell his son about his magical lineage

**'THE HUNGARIAN-BORN ILLUSIONIST, WHO CAME TO THE US AS A CHILD, GENERATED HEADLINES IN THE EARLY 1900s FOR ESCAPING FROM HANDCUFFS, STRAITJACKETS AND EVEN A MILK CAN. NO ONE KNOWS HOW HE DID THE TRICKS'**

until he was about 10.

"My sister found a piece of mail that came addressed to my dad, Harry Houdini Hardeen. He always went by Harry H. Hardeen," Hardeen said. "That's when he basically told us."

The show has helped Hardeen learn more about the man behind the magician.

Houdini, who died on Halloween 1926 at 52, and other family members had an incredible work ethic and aimed to be the best, Hardeen said. Houdini ran 10 miles (16 kilometers) a day to keep his body in peak shape but also was a hoarder with a compulsive side, he said.

"It jibes with stuff my dad told me," said Hardeen, a communication consultant for an Arizona utility.

The show brought him to the House of Houdini, a museum in his ancestral home of Budapest, Hungary, where he hopes to take his three children.

His youngest daughter, Shonie Hardeen, said she would love that opportunity. The 24-year-old from the Arizona mountain town of Flagstaff said the show has increased her interest in her dad's family and Houdini.

"Some people are from Europe, and they can't pinpoint it. I guess it's easier for my family to figure out stuff because he's been written about for so long," Shonie Hardeen said. —AP

CONVERSATION 25 MINUTES

# And the hard work pays off...

Indian Idol winner SALMAN ALI talks about how social media is becoming an easier platform for budding artists to showcase their talent. By CHAHAK MITTAL



When Salman Ali sang *Karu Main Tera Sajda* for the first time on the stage of *Indian Idol* season 10 as he auditioned for the talent hunt show, there were three speechless judges and applause all around to commend his voice that had limitless capacities. Who knew he would survive a fierce 25-week competition emerging as the winner?

Well, it hasn't been easy even for someone who began singing at the age of seven, or so he believes. Salman, who hails from a family of professional singers, said that struggle is a part of everyone's life and the only way out is to put your heart and soul into whatever one's passion is.

The singer believed that everyone's aim while entering such a show is to win. "So was mine. To win. Even though I never expected that it might come true for me, but I did all my efforts into it to make it happen. I also thank all the viewers and audience who voted for me," he said.

When asked what has been one of the most memorable experiences while being a contestant on the reality TV show? He revealed that it was meeting the two Khans — Shah Rukh and Salman — and singing with the veteran singer Kumar Sanu that he "will cherish all his life. They joined me in my performance, liked it and wished me luck. What better a thing than that?"

While there have been numerous debates on how reality TV shows work in the real scenario and that do they even help the young aspiring artists battling to win?

Salman, who has also been a part of the reality TV show, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs* during his childhood, said, "It does mount to a tough competition where you feel that you might lose or someone else is better than what you have

to offer. But the biggest thing is your resistance and determination throughout the period of struggle."

However, reality TV talent hunt shows do help the budding artists to a bit come closer to their dreams, he felt. "It is not just about appearing on national TV and that so many people are able to watch you. It is also about how you as a person evolve. Honestly, Neha Kakkar (mum) and all the mentors have been really helpful to make me grow as a person as well as a singer."

He talked about the rehearsals and the rigorous routine that they have to follow. "We have to rehearse over and over for one song. It's a tough schedule but important to follow," said he.

As more and more people are engaging themselves on social media and targeting it as a platform to showcase their talents, which medium is the easier one? Salman answered, "Definitely, it's social media. People today have online channels to showcase their dancing, singing, and even magic talents. They don't have to wait for a particular show on TV to showcase what they have. Though, yes it takes time to get noticed there. The competition has risen."

The 20-year-old singer, who has been awarded with ₹25 lakh cash prize, and a Datsun car, said that he will use the amount particularly to boost his singing career. "I am looking forward to collaborate with Vishal Dadlani (sir) as he promised one to me on the show. I want to try out my luck in singing for Bollywood films as a playback singer," he said.

However, he will also try out "acting" in Bollywood now that he is "done with his singing," he laughed.

DIALOGUE 30 MINUTES

# 'Hear me roar'

Actor JARED PADALECKI aka Sam says that he feels weird to talk about the end of the show, *Supernatural*

The exhilarating and terrifying journey of the Winchester brothers continues as *Supernatural* enters its 14th thrilling season. Jared Padalecki as Sam and Jensen Ackles as Dean have spent their lives on the road, battling every kind of supernatural threat. Over the years, after countless adventures, they have faced vampires, ghosts, demons, shapeshifters, angels and fallen gods — but what will the brothers encounter next? Lets catch up with Jared Padalecki to find out...

After 13 seasons of *Supernatural*, how much do you enjoy playing the role of Sam Winchester?

I enjoy Sam Winchester, no doubt in that. Selfishly, I learn a lot about Jared by playing Sam. Plus, I enjoy the hell out of the people I work with. It's no secret that me and Ackles are dear friends. I met the mother of my kids on the show, and I enjoy Misha [Collins, who plays Castiel]. I think people sense the fact that we all legitimately enjoy each other. There's no bad apple here. I enjoy telling the journey. I love being a storyteller, and I can't think of another TV show or movie that I'd rather be on as an actor. I get to do everything in this show. I get to do comedy, play different characters. I

get to die and then come back. I even get to be in Scooby-Doo. I'm really happy to do it.

How would you describe Sam's role at the start of season 14? Does he have more leadership responsibilities than before?

It's different to when he led hunters against the British Men of Letters. There he was like, "Okay, we can do this. I need to lead this faction." Now he's the de facto leader. It's like, "Oh God... I guess it's all on me now. Okay, what do I do? But I'm worried about my brother, and this and that." He has people from a different universe living in the Men of Letters bunker. These people want to kill Michael. It's a tricky situation. Sam's goal is to save Dean and kill Michael. Michael destroyed their planet. They don't care about Dean, but they obviously want to exact vengeance on this archangel who destroyed everybody they knew, so Sam has to calm the waters. It's something I think that Sam is good at.

How much do you enjoy exploring the new side to the character of Sam?

I enjoy the parts of Sam where he goes, "I am lion. Hear me roar!" But I also enjoy the almost commanding general part of Sam bet-



ter; the behind-the-scenes thing. Sam knows he's got brawn, but I think he also knows that his power lies in his brain. The powerful Sam is cool and fun, but I prefer the more measured approach from him. I enjoy the thoughtful, pensive, academic, and research-driven Sam.

How does it feel to have Jensen Ackles play the big bad in?

It's fun. We approached it a little bit before when he was demon — but this is different. There have been times where Dean and Sam have been at odds; where Dean's been in the wrong or Sam's been in the wrong, but that's always fun to

**'I learn a lot about myself by playing Sam. Plus, it's no secret that me and Ackles are dear friends. I even met the mother of my kids on this show. I can't think of any other TV series or movie that I'd rather be on as an actor'**

explore. This is a totally new dynamic, but it's going to be interesting to see how it all pans out.

At Comic-Con in San Diego, you made a joke about the discussions on whether or not you could have facial hair in *Supernatural*. Was there really a big debate?

For me, it wasn't as much of an issue. I think Jensen wanted facial hair, but they were like, "No." I was allowed facial hair, but there's some reasoning behind it. When the new season starts, it's a couple months after the finale. I enjoy the fact that there was a passage of time. At that point in time, I figured there's a lot

going on with Sam. There are the hunters in the Men of Letters bunker. Sam is trying to find Michael and Dean. He's also trying to help Jack [played by Alexander Calvert] who's now human. At the start of the season, I feel like Sam is at the point where he's a little too distracted to eat. Everything's on the go. He's aware of the ticking clock. He has more important things to think about than tweezing his eyebrows and lathering up his face to take care of some facial hair.

Did you have to ask permission to have facial hair?

Yes, but it wasn't too much a

debate. When we started shooting, I had a beard. I was very proud of my beard, but it was too much. I reached out [to the show's executive producers] to find out their thoughts on the matter. I was like, "Hey Bob. Hey Andrew. I read the first few episodes. What do you think about a little bit of facial hair?" I talked about a few other things in the script, too. They said, "Yeah, let's go with full stubble." They wouldn't say the word 'beard' but they said 'full stubble.' We trimmed it down.

Let's talk about the future of the show, Jared. When *Supernatural* finally comes to an end, what would you like to see happen? Would you like the story to end violently or to see Sam and Dean ride off happily into the sunset?

It feels weird to talk about the end of *Supernatural*. Believe me, I've thought about it before, but I don't like it. We have talked and thought about it. As a fan of storytelling and books, I think the boys have to die. Why? Because I think that's what needs to happen. If the boys are alive, they will continue to hunt. And if they're hunting, I want to see them. For that reason, I think one or both the boys has to go. I know it would be difficult, but those are my thoughts on the matter. I'm not a writer. I don't get my say. If they keep it open, I would love to keep on going — but that's what I think.

After 13 seasons of *Supernatural*, each of the characters in the show have incredibly developed. There are defining traits in everyone. If you could borrow one trait from another character that could then be explored more for Sam, what would it be?

I enjoy the quirkiness of Charlie [played by Felicia Day]. I enjoy that she gets to read the fantasy books. Sam reads and he's aware of what's going on, but he doesn't get to nerd out over stuff that he likes as much as I wish he did. I'd love to see more of that in the show. That would be fun.

# PERFECT FRENCH CUT

Le Blues end 20-year drought of winning World Cup trophy by beating Croatia 4-2 in the World Cup final showdown in the tournament at Russia that saw the rise of next generation of football superstars. **PIONEER SPORTS** take a look back at some of the major headlines that gained highlights in 2018



French players celebrate with the World Cup trophy after beating Croatia 4-2 in the World Cup final in Moscow

## HAT TRICK OF TITLES

Two times defending champion Real Madrid thrashed Liverpool 3-1 in the final played at Kiev to win record third consecutive UEFA Champions League title. After an evenly poised goalless first half and their star striker Mohamed Salah back into the dugout after getting injured during a clash with Real Madrid's captain Sergio Ramos. Karim Benzema opened the scoring for Spanish giants in the 51st minute of the game after a goal-keeping error by Loris Karius. Benzema deflected a throw by Karius back into the Liverpool's net to put his side ahead in the big final. However Real's advantage was very short lived as Sadio Mane scored the

equalizer for the Merseyside club just four minutes after Benzema's opener to bring match back on the level terms. In the 61st minute, Real substituted Gareth Bale in place of Isco and within two minutes of his arrival the Welshmen scored using an acrobatic bicycle kick to finish cross by Marcelo. And then in the 83rd minute another mistake by Karius helps Bale to net his second of the night. This time a long range shot by Bale went through his (Karius) hands into the net. Real's star forward Cristiano Ronaldo wasn't able to make into the score sheet but he was the chief architect to Real's triumph to glory.



France are the champions of the world once again. Twenty years after Didier Deschamps lifted the trophy with the likes of Zinedine Zidane, Patrick Viera and Thierry Henry by his side, he did so again, this time with the rest of his coaching staff beside him. He was not wearing the French blue but a three-piece suit that got drenched in the rain in Moscow. He was the first French captain to lead his team to a World Cup title in 1998 and on 15th July he became the third man to win the title as captain and manager with the same team.



This was the World Cup in which strength on paper was diminished to a useless statistic, Germany ended the first round as wooden spooners of their group, Spain, Argentina and Brazil fell in the knockouts. France themselves ensured the ouster of Belgium. Out of all the teams that were deemed favourites before the World Cup started, Les Bleus were the only side that looked on course to proving that tag right.

Over the years, World Cup finals have tended to become dreary affairs and there was a danger that a tournament as entertaining as the 2018 edition might be decided by a stinker of a match. How misplaced were those fears? France were put ahead in the 18th minute of the match by an own goal from none other than Mario Mandzukic. He had the dubious honour of becoming the first man to score an own goal in a World Cup final but he would get to make amends later in the match. Exactly 10 minutes later, Ivan

**19-year-old sensation Kylian Mbappe emerged as the star player for the French side as he becomes the first teenager after Pele to score in the World Cup final**

Perisic equalised for Croatia after a deft set-piece routine triggered by the unconquerable Luka Modric. The drama was not to end there. Just over five minutes before half-time, then referee, with assistance from VAR gave France a penalty kick due to an apparent handball by Perisic. The validity of that decision was debatable – replays indicated that Perisic did not move his hands towards the ball – but Antoine Griezmann was in no doubt as to what he wanted to do with it. He calmly rolled the ball past Danijel Subasic into the bottom left-hand corner and France were in the lead at half-time. Therein lay record number 2: France are the first team to go into half-time of a World Cup final in the lead. The second half started with Croatia all over the French defence. Deschamps' men weathered that storm and it was not too long before they extended their lead Paul Pogba sent in a thunderous strike from the edge of the box and extended France's lead to 3-1. Minutes later, Kylian Mbappe scored a similar goal, from outside the box and that marked the third

record of the day – Mbappe became the first teenager to score a goal in the World Cup final since the great Pele. Croatian shoulders slumped at that point but this match was not done yet. France goalkeeper and captain Hugo Lloris has built a reputation of having a sturdy pair of hands and a calm head to go with them in the years in which he has been Tottenham Hotspur and France's No 1 goalkeeper but he chose a very wrong time to make an uncharacteristic blunder. He literally put the ball into the path of Mandzukic who tapped it in to goal. Record No 4 fell with that goal: Mandzukic became the first player since Netherlands' Ernie Brandts in 1978 to score for his team and an own goal in the same game. All those second-half goals were scored within the space of nine minutes and after that, France held on. They kept making attacking moves whenever they could and eventually, the Croatian players' body language said that they knew it was now a lost cause. The final whistle came and tears flowed on both camps, albeit for opposite reasons.

## GOLDEN YEAR

Croatia and Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric ended Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo's dominance in the Ballon d'Or awards by winning the prestigious French football award. It was for the first time in 10 years that neither Messi nor Ronaldo was able to win this award which they have won record five times each in past decade. The midfielder, 33, who helped Croatia reach the men's World Cup final in Russia in the summer, is the first Croatian to win the prestigious prize, which is voted for by journalists. On a historic evening in Paris, the ceremony had a women's category for the first time since its inception in 1956, with



Croatian midfielder Luka Modric kisses Ballon d'Or trophy. Norway's Ada Hegerberg crowned the inaugural women's Ballon d'Or winner. Kylian Mbappe, who dazzled for France as Les Bleus triumphed in Russia in the summer, won the newly-formed Kopa award for the best young player. The 19-year-old finished fourth overall, above Messi in fifth. Ronaldo was second, with France and Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann third and Liverpool and Egypt star Mo Salah sixth.

## SEE YOU, NEXT ?



In the most surprising announcement of the year Arsenal Wenger, who was serving as Arsenal's manager decided to leave the club at the end of 2017-18 season, ending his 22-year career as the longest-serving manager in the Premier League. He won seven FA Cup titles along with three Premier League while at the helm of the north London club, the last of which came as a result of the unbeaten 'Invincibles' season in 2003/04. While a week after winning third UCL in as many attempts, Zinedine Zidane calls it time over his Real Madrid job, he was replaced by former Spain boss Julen Lopetegui but even his spell lasted for only 138 days and was sacked after Real lose against Barcelona 5-1.



clockwise: Jose Mourinho, Julen Lopetegui, Arsene Wenger and Zinedine Zidane

This was a massive setback for Julen as he lost his Spanish national team job for the gaint club and within five month he was out of favour from that also. In the Premier League cycle, Chelsea sack Italian Antonio Conte at the end of 2017-18 season, while Manchester United parted ways with Jose Mourinho after his side lose against Liverpool in the English Premier League game. During the World Cup also after the poor performance by Argentina in the group stage and later their round 16 exit against France, coach Jorge Sampaoli was sacked by the Argentina football Federation.

## NEW DESTINATIONS



In the most unexpected transfer of 2018, Portugal's star Cristiano Ronaldo leaves Real Madrid to join Serie A champions Juventus for 100 million euros. After spending nine seasons at Spanish capital and scoring 450 goals in 438 games, five time Ballon d'Or winner calls it time and move to Turin in search of new challenges. His new deal will see him play for the Old Lady for next four years. However in 2018, Cristiano's transfer wasn't the only major switch but a couple of more superstars left their clubs in search of new life. England's club Liverpool looked to be the biggest gainer via these transfers. The Merseyside club strengthened its side by adding Brazilian goalkeeper Alisson Becker, Dutch defender Virgil Van Dijk, Swiss playmaker Xherdan Shaqiri, Neby Keita and Fabinho and all these five have added strength to the Reds side because of which they are sitting at top of the Premier League table, still unbeaten and six points ahead of second placed Tottenham. Meanwhile, Borussia Dortmund completed signing of Spanish for-



ward Paco Alcacer from Barcelona, who on his loan spell at German Bundesliga created magic on the field for Dortmund by repeatedly making his presence in the score-sheet. In the January transfer market, Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho made his dream come but joining Barcelona for 120 million plus 40 million benefits. Also former Atletico and Chelsea goalkeeper and World Cup golden glove winner Thibaut Courtois landed in spanish capital again but this time to join the other Madrid club. However by the end of his first six months, he didn't have a gala time and faced a lot of criticism. In process of let Belgian go and join Real, Chelsea brought Kepa to London for the record price for any goalkeeper. Manchester City landed Riyad Mahrez from Leicester to add power to the attacking unit. But Alexis Sanchez stint at Old Trafford turned out to be a bad dream for the Chile international as he suffered to find form under Jose Mourinho.

 Paco Alcacer (striker) Barcelona to Dortmund 14 games, 13 goals	 Philippe Coutinho (winger) Liverpool to Barcelona 44 games, 15 goals
 Thibaut Courtois (gk) Chelsea to Real Madrid 19 games, 0 goals	 Xherdan Shaqiri (winger) Stoke City to Liverpool 18 games, 6 goals
 Aubameyang (striker) Dortmund to Arsenal 38 games, 25 goals	 Alexis Sanchez (forward) Arsenal to Man United 34 games, 4 goals
 Virgil Van Dijk (defender) Southampton to Liverpool 46 games, 2 goals	 Riyad Mahrez (winger) Leicester to Man City 27 games, 7 goals
 Arthur Melo (midfielder) Gremio to Barcelona 18 games, 0 goals	 Kepa Arrizabalaga (gk) A Bilbao to Chelsea 25 games, 0 goals

## YOUNG GUNS

Kylian Mbappe, Richarlison, Jordan Sancho, Vinicius Junior, Arthur Melo are some of those names which you will hear in many more years to come. By virtue of their stellar performance in 2018, these stars have shown that why they are considered as the full superstars. While Kylian Mbappe helped France to win the World Cup and is leading the goalscorer list in Ligue 1, Richarlison gained immense spotlight while playing for Everton.

