




OVER 28,000 MoUs SIGNED AT SUMMIT: RUPANI

P7



'CONGRESS BEST EQUIPPED TO LEAD ALLIANCE VS BJP'

P10



'MPs BREXIT MOVES EXTREMELY CONCERNING'

P12



'DHONI THE BEST FINISHER IN 50-OVER CRICKET'

P16

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Light rain/thundershowers towards evening/night with possibility of isolated hailstorm. Gusty winds likely to prevail. The maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 25 degrees and 10 degrees Celsius, respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 48%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 28.7°C (+7) Min: 7°C (0)

SUN RISES

07:14 hrs 17:51 hrs

MOON RISES

18:07 hrs 08:06 hrs

ASHES TO ASHES



A woman cries after surveying the damage from the fire at Gariahat More in Kolkata that took place in the wee hours on Sunday. At least 15 shops and 40 stalls selling clothing and fashion items were reduced to ashes after a commercial cum residential building in Gariahat was engulfed by a devastating fire.

DILIP DUTTA

'Oppalliance axis of dynasts, corruption'

By questioning EVMs, Opp making excuses for inevitable defeat: PM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY



A day after the Opposition rally in Kolkata, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hit back at the 'Mahagathbandhan', calling it an alliance of corruption, scams, negativity and instability.

"Those who were on the dais in Kolkata were either son or daughter of a big person or who wanted to make his son or daughter big in politics," the Prime Minister said.

"You must have seen that one of the leaders who was sharing the dais recalled the Bofors scam. Truth cannot be kept hidden. The Opposition's mahagathbandhan is an alliance of capitalists, corruption, scams, negativity and instability... The Opposition has 'dhan-shakti' (money power), we have 'janshakti' (people's power)," he said.

Modi's remarks came in the course of his interaction with the BJP's booth level workers in Kolhapur, Hatkanangle, Madha and Satara in Maharashtra and

South Goa on Sunday through the ModiApp.

He said as against 'money power' of the opposition the BJP had the 'people's power' behind it.

The Prime Minister said the opposition was caught napping when the government came out with the bill to grant 10 per cent reservation to the economically weaker sections among the upper castes.

He said the move had come in the wake of detailed research of the Constitution of India and was giving the opposition sleepless nights.

"If our decision had no strength, then these people would not have had sleepless nights. They have to get down in the field to spread lies and rumours. This

We get worried when some groups take people for granted. They think people are fools. That is why they don't leave any stone unturned to change their colour... This is a dangerous game for the country.

NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER

means we have done right work and worked for the country," Modi said, justifying the measure to grant 10 per cent reservation through a constitutional amendment.

He called the move 'historic' and said it was in conformity with his government's objective of 'sabkasath sab ka vikas' and throw open gates of opportunities.

"With (the new) 10 per cent reservation, new opportunities have been opened up," he said.

Modi said the opposition parties were now demanding replacement of EVMs with ballot papers as they were staring at a defeat in the coming Lok Sabha elections. He said the opposition was bent upon giving a bad

name to EVMs as they were looking for some alibis ahead of their impending defeat in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

He said people who targeted the ruling NDA from the dais on Saturday were the ones who never believed in democracy within their out parties. He charged that the opposition parties were taking the common people for granted and had no faith in any institutions.

"We get worried when some groups take people for granted. They think people are fools. That is why they don't leave any stone unturned to change their colour... I would like to repeat, this is a dangerous game for the country and a thing to worry about," Modi said.

"While on one hand they are busy saving or nurturing their own families, we are busy developing a nation. Our country is our family... Those who start violence against the person contesting against them even at panchayat level, are now singing songs of protecting democracy," the Prime Minister added.

THUMBNAILED

Shah discharged from AIIMS: BJP president Amit Shah, who was undergoing treatment for swine flu at All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, was discharged on Sunday. Shah tweeted later saying he was completely healthy and thanked people for their good wishes. "By the grace of god, I am completely healthy now and today reached home after being discharged from hospital. I am grateful for your good wishes for regaining health," Shah tweeted in Hindi.

CBI director selection panel: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led high-powered panel on CBI chief will meet on Thursday and discuss probable names for the post. The panel meeting will be attended by Chief Justice of India Rajan Gogoi or his nominee and Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, officials said. Among the officers whose name would be discussed at the meeting are J K Sharma and Parminder Rai from the 1982 IPS batch, the senior most but lacking experience in the CBI.

K'taka Cong MLAs brawl; notice sent to CLP meet absentees

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, 20 JANUARY

The Congress in Karnataka found itself in an embarrassing position after two of its MLAs got into a fight last night at the resort in which the party has herded them to keep them from being poached by the BJP.

The party, meanwhile, issued show cause notices to four of its legislators asking them to explain as to why they did not attend the party's specially convened meeting on Friday.

The legislators' conference, which was attended by all but four of the MLAs, was called to put up a show of strength as the BJP was trying to destabilise the seven month old government run by the JDS-Congress combine. The fight at the Eagleton resort involved MLAs from Ballari, namely, Anand Singh

and JN Ganesh. That the outcome was serious could be gauged from the fact that Anand Singh had to be admitted to a private hospital this morning, where he remains till the time of writing.

While Congress leaders continued to deny reports of a fight between the two legislators all day, in the evening one of its ministers, Zameer Ahmed, admitted that all was not well. But he told newsmen that it was a minor fight between friends and nothing much should be read into it.

None of the Congress leaders, however, could explain why Anand Singh continued to be in hospital if he was not injured. Especially as speculation was rife that he had been hit on the head in addition to sporting a black eye.

In the morning senior Con-

gress leader, D K Shivkumar, insisted that Singh had gone to attend a marriage. His brother and MP, D K Suresh, came up with a different version later in the day.

According to him Anand Singh had complained of chest pain in the morning for which he had been admitted in the hospital for a check up.

Anand's wife, Lakshmi, meanwhile, expressed concern over the developments, saying that she had no idea about her husband's condition as she could not reach him.

Meanwhile, the Congress sent the notices seeking explanation for their absence at Friday's meeting to Ramesh Jarkiholi, B Nagendra, Umesh Jadhav, and Mahesh. While their absence did not prove serious for the party, it did cause acute embarrassment.

Car trouble for Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, 20 JANUARY

Former Karnataka chief minister and senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah found himself in a fresh controversy after media reports emerged that he had been "gifted" a Mercedes-Benz car by his party legislator.

The car, said to be worth over Rs 1.5 crore, was allegedly "gifted" by Byrathi Suresh, one of the richest politicians in Karnataka.

As Siddaramaiah came under attack from the BJP, the Congress claimed that he had not been gifted the car by Suresh, but 'given' it for his travel purposes. PTI

Global public opinion rejects populism, favours openness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAVOS, 20 JANUARY

As the world faces huge economic risks from growing trade disputes and inward looking policies, a global survey Sunday said public opinion is overwhelmingly against populism and favours openness.

The global public overwhelmingly favours multilateral cooperation, is open to immigration and rejects the notion that countries' best interests are achieved at the expense of others, according to the survey published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) a day before the opening of its high-profile annual meeting on this resort town on the Swiss Alps.

The majority of the respondents also said they believe upward mobility is too elusive and that governments are not doing enough to provide people with opportunity.

The WEF said a majority of people in all regions of the world say they believe cooperation between nations is either ex-



remely or very important.

It also found that a large majority rejects the notion that national improvement is a zero-sum game, and that most people feel that immigrants are mostly good for their adopted country.

The research, covering a sample size of over 10,000 people from every region of the world, was commissioned ahead of this week's WEF Annual Meeting, where more than 3,000 leaders from across the globe would discuss imminent issues before the world in nearly 350 sessions over five days.

The WEF said the survey findings underline the key principles of the multilateral system and also roundly debunks the negative notion of immigrants that has raced to the top of the news agenda across Europe, the USA and elsewhere.

While a global majority of respondents - 57 per cent - said they believe that immigrants are "mostly good" for their new country, only 40 per cent of those living in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and 46 per cent of respondents in

Western Europe subscribe to the opinion.

North Americans trailed only South Asians in their approval of immigrants, with 66 per cent saying they believe immigrants are mostly good.

One finding showed that while most people still believe in the power of international cooperation, they share a much less positive view of their own country when it comes to social progress. This despondency at the lack of upward mobility was felt most acutely in Western Europe, where only 20 per cent of respondents said they feel it is either extremely common or somewhat common for someone to be born poor and become rich through hard work.

Respondents in the US, where the ideal of the American Dream is deeply rooted in the national consciousness, were only a little more positive, with 34 per cent saying they believe the statement to be either extremely or very common.

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Those who have left AAP were not worthy of staying in the party. They were opportunists and were greedy for tickets and posts

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Have nothing to do with WCD Ministry, says ICCW

IANS NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

President of the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW), which selects children for the National Bravery Awards every year, on Sunday said the NGO has nothing to do with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD).



Children awarded for bravery in 2017

than Rs30,914,051 for the years (2014-16).

"I don't know on what grounds WCD has filed an FIR. They have never communicated with us related to unutilised funds. Even our awards have nothing to do with

the Ministry," president Gita Siddhartha told IANS.

"We don't have the FIR, neither have we seen it. We have not even been called to the police station. Unless we see the copy of the FIR, we cannot comment on how we will

proceed with the case," she added.

Earlier, following a writ petition in the Delhi High Court which alleged that ICCW had been violating the rules for utilising government funds, a three-member committee under the WCD Ministry was formed to determine if the funds were "siphoned off or misutilised".

The Ministry observed "that there has been a systemic failure as far as checks and balances regarding utilization of the funds provided by the government is concerned".

Following this, the court ordered that it would consider if further investigation was necessary or any other proceedings are required to be initiated against the ICCW.

Following the petition, the Centre dissociated itself from the ICCW. In 2018, bravery was included as an additional component in the Pradhan Mantri National Children Awards.

"The kids selected by us deserve to be awarded for their bravery. They are at no fault so we will give away the award if the government does not," Siddhartha said.

Following the FIR, Delhi Governor Anil Bajjal cancelled a function regarding felicitation of the children by the ICCW which was scheduled on 18 January.

"We were given no reason for cancelling the event. Nobody informed us properly that the event was getting cancelled," Siddhartha stated.

Irregularities in Delhi zoo: CZA hits out at ministry

PTI NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA), the statutory authority to regulate zoos across the country, has blamed the Environment Ministry for not acting on those responsible for "shocking" irregularities in Delhi zoo, according to official documents.

In an affidavit filed on January 8 before the Delhi High Court, it said that certain officers of the zoo, who had pointed out the irregularities, appear to have been harassed as they were dragged as accused in the said irregularities raised by them only.

"The recent happenings in the national zoological park (also known as Delhi zoo), as has come to the knowledge of the Central Zoo Authority, is shocking and it is not imaginable and acceptable in any zoo in the country, not to think of it in wild dream, also it should be happening in the national zoo of the country, which is identified as national centre of excellence," CZA said in the affidavit.

The affidavit was filed in response to a public interest litigation moved by green activist Ajay Dubey, seeking a probe either by the Central Bureau of Investigation or any other competent agency on alleged illegalities in the Delhi zoo pointed out by him.

Acting on Dubey's complaint, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had in August 2017 constituted a committee to look into the matter.

The CZA submitted that the probe panel did not get the cooperation from the zoo officers and employees.



File photo of the last Delhi zoo ostrich which died in 2016

"Rather, the attitude of defiance and non-cooperation observed on the part of the officers and employees was shocking and they did not cooperate..." it said in the affidavit.

Somehow, the inquiry was conducted and its findings were submitted to the ministry in April last year, the affidavit said.

The inquiry found that monitor lizards were illegally caught (from outside) and released in the cell of the animal (inside the zoo).

"Based on the documentary evidence, it has been found that the death of many animals in the zoo was suppressed by the national zoological park authorities. The dead animals have been subsequently replaced with illegally captured animals," the CZA said.

It said eight tortoises (unidentified species) and three red sand boa snakes were missing from the zoo.

"The records pertaining to captive animals of the zoo have been manipulated," the inquiry report had said, according to the affidavit.

The Central Zoo Authority, based on records available

and complaints filed time to time, observed irregularities in the national zoological park, it said.

The same were brought to the knowledge of the authorities in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, government of India through series of letters, the affidavit said.

The CZA conveyed these findings to the ministry for appropriate action.

"However, no corrective action appears to be taken against the responsible for irregularities observed in the National Zoological Park, it said, adding that the court may pass further orders as it may seem fit in the given circumstances of the case.

The habitats of wildlife are under severe pressure and therefore the zoos have not only to sustain their own populations but also augment the depleting populations of endangered species in the wild, the CZA suggesting that the zoos need to do more to add to wildlife.

"There is a need for the central government to take immediate corrective step to check irregularities in Delhi zoo," Dubey said.

Delhi govt hospitals paralysed by doctors' shortage

IANS NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Delhi government-run hospitals, which serve not only the local population but also the neighbouring states, are struggling with a chronic shortage of doctors and are making recruitments on contract or ad-hoc basis to tackle the crunch.

While in Centre-run hospitals like AIIMS, Safdarjung and Ram Manohar Lohia, doctors have the benefit of practising till the age of 70, under extension of service and on a contractual basis after retirement, no such scheme is yet to be implemented in the hospitals run by the Delhi government which face about a 30 per cent shortage of doc-

tors, officials said. "Out of the total sanctioned posts of 4,644 doctors, about 1,400 posts are vacant," an official of the Delhi Health Department told IANS on the condition of anonymity.

The official admitted that the services are being affected due to this shortage.

"The functioning is obviously being affected. If we have more doctors, the work can be done in a better and effective way. The posts are filled up by the Central Government through UPSC and through this procedure, recruitment of about 350 doctors is underway," the official said. The procedure of appointing doctors, which is done

through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), is complex and takes a lot of time. The doctors first have to clear the test conducted by the UPSC followed by an interview.

"The test results are published after six to nine months. Then comes the interview part and the whole process takes around a year to complete," a senior official in the Delhi government's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told IANS.

Explaining the reasons for the shortage, the official said many doctors, after completing their MBBS, opt for further studies or prefer joining the private healthcare sector due to its higher pay scale.

"All this is affecting the

doctor-patient ratio in Delhi hospitals," the DGHS official said adding, however, hospitals themselves can hire certain categories of doctors on an ad-hoc and contractual basis.

Speaking about the requirements, another Health official said the system is complex. "Some doctors are General Duties Medical Officers, some are non-teaching specialists, some are teaching specialists. The process of recruitment is on and we will have these people in place soon."

"There are 37 hospitals under the Delhi government, some of them are operated by societies. The hospitals running by societies function in a different manner. They hire

doctors for themselves. They have done that in past years, they will do it again, as and when required," the official added.

Will the contractual system of hiring be extended to the Delhi government hospitals?

"The hiring of doctors on a contractual basis was approved last year in the Centre-run hospitals. However, the states are not obliged to follow it since they have their different process of hiring," said a senior official in the Central Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

The Delhi health official informed that, unlike the Centre, nothing has been made official on similar lines in Delhi to deal with the doctor crisis.

BJP to bag 27 LS seats in MP, says Chouhan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan claimed that the BJP will win at least 27 out of the 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state. He asserted that 'mama' has not become weak.

Chouhan, who lost power in the recent Assembly elections, was speaking at 'Yuva Vijay Sankalp

Maharally' of Delhi BJP's Yuva Morcha.

He said the Congress may have formed government in the state but it could fall "anytime as it lacks majority."

"Don't think mama has become weak. I promise you that we will win at least 27 seats, as we did in 2014, out of the 29 Lok Sabha seats, in the coming elections," said the senior BJP leader. Hitting out at the Con-

gress government in Madhya Pradesh, Chouhan claimed the BJP could also have formed a "lame" government but it decided it would do so only with a grand majority.

Chouhan also mocked at the gathering of opposition leaders on Saturday's Kolkata rally as "bhanumati ka kunaba" (marriage of convenience), saying there was no unanimity over a common leader

among the parties planning the 'mahagathbandhan'.

"It's like a wedding without a groom. On the other hand, we have a leader in the form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to lead us in the battle ground," he said.

The 'Yuva Vijay Sankalp Maharally' was the fifth of a series of big rallies held by the Delhi BJP in the last two months, ahead of the

Lok Sabha polls.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP Yuva Morcha president Sunil Yadav claimed the event was attended by over 20,000 persons.

The rally was attended by many senior BJP leaders, including Union minister Vijay Goel, who attacked Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, alleging that the AAP government in Delhi has "destroyed" the city.

3 suspected thieves arrested

PTI NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Three men, including a dancer and his student, were arrested for allegedly stealing motorcycles from Southeast and South Delhi areas, police said Sunday.

The accused were identified as Shubham (22), a resident of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Suraj alias Yuvi (20), a resident of Kanauj in UP and Deepak Kashyap alias Bunty (26), a resident of Meerut, they added.

Acting on a tip-off, police laid a trap on Tuesday on MB Road, Pul Prahladpur. At around 5.15 pm, two persons were apprehended when they were coming on a motorcycle. Chinmoy Biswal, Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast), said.

During interrogation, the accused disclosed that they, along with their associate Kashyap, used to steal motorcycles from the area of Southeast and South Delhi. On their instance, Kashyap was arrested from Ghaziabad,

Biswal said.

Shubham was the mastermind of the gang. Around three-four years ago, he came to Delhi to learn dancing. Around one-year ago, he opened his own academy in Pul Prahladpur area, he added.

Shubham met Kashyap who was earlier arrested for auto-lifting. Kashyap allured him to join him in stealing motorcycles. In order to earn quick money, Shubham started stealing bikes with Kashyap and they used to sell them at Meerut, the DCP said.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF SH. H.S. JAGGI ADJ South-West-02 Court No. 310, 3rd Floor, District Court Complex, Dwarka, New Delhi. PC No. 53/2018.

Ms. Mayanka Sharma and Others - Petitioners Versus The State & Anr. - Respondents

CITATION UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

Whereas an application under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for Grant of Probate/Letters of Administration to the estate of Late Sh. Krishan Raj Sharma, s/o Late Sh. Kanishi Ram, who died on 2-6-2018 has been made by Ms. Mayanka Sharma, d/o Smt. Rita Sharma, w/o Shri Agampreet Saini, r/o House No. EH-26, Street No. 1, Near Cargo Motor Bocky Industry, Lado Wali Road, Jalandhar, Punjab-144001, Shri Kailash Chander, s/o Late Shri Krishan Raj Sharma, r/o 55, Cochrane CIR Methuen MA 01844 through his Attorney Ms. Mayanka Sharma and Shri Anil Sharma, s/o Late Shri Krishan Raj Sharma, r/o 4755, Templeton Street, Unit 2103, Los Angeles, California-91801, USA through his Attorney Ms. Mayanka Sharma, Shri Kailash Chander and Shri Sharma to the extent of 1/3rd share each.

Whereas the 26-2-2019 has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the Administration of the Estate of the said deceased may if he/she desires to appear in this court on the said 26-2-2019 and see the proceedings before the Grant of Probate (or for Letters of Administration). Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this the 10th day of January, 2019. ADJ South-West-02 District Court Complex, Dwarka, New Delhi. Seal of the Court xyz-3212

COURT NOTICE IN THE COURT OF SH. PARDEEP CHOUHRY Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Addl. Civil Judge Senior Division Gurugram.

Case No. 102. CIS No. : SU02/107/2018. CNR No. HRC02-004128-2018.

Date of Institution : 22-2-2018. Date of Hearing : 12-2-2019.

1. Mehboob aged 60 years, s/o Sh. Avaj.

2. Aarif, aged 24 years, s/o Sh. Deena, s/o Sh. Avaj.

3. Saripaan, aged 63 years, w/o Sh. Deena, s/o Sh. Avaj.

4. Rahisan, aged 34 years, d/o Sh. Deena, s/o Sh. Avaj, (Nephew of Amrudi and cousin brother of Jubedil @ Juber, all residents of Village Tirowada, Tehsil Punhana, District Mewat.

- Petitioners Versus General Public.

- Respondent PETITION FOR GRANT OF SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 372 OF THE INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT.

To, General Public. Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the above said respondent could not be served through ordinary way of service therefore above respondent/General Public is being informed through this publication, if any person has any interest in the said property/amount, he/she can file objections in the Court on or before 12-2-2019 at 10-00 a.m., personally or through some authorized Agent/Pleader/Advocate, failing which w.x.parte proceedings shall be taken in the case according to the law.

For details logon to https://www.highcourtcd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=gurgaon

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this the 10th day of January, 2019. Addl. Civil Judge Senior Division Gurugram.

Versus Plaintiff Sarabjit Kaur -Defendant xyz-3211

IN THE COURT OF SH. GAJENDER SINGH NAGAR Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Addl. Rent Controller (Central)

Room No. 323, 3rd Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi. Petition No. SC/2/2019. Date of Hearing : 22-3-2019.

Nishant Mehndiratta, s/o Late Sh. Bhupender Kumar @ Bhupender @ Deepak, r/o 10015/2, Mutiani Dhandia, Swami Ram Tirath Nagar, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055.

- Petitioner Versus The State and Ors. - Respondents

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925.

To, All Concerned. Whereas in the abovesent Petition the applicant/Petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debts and securities amount of Rs. xxx. as per record to be standing in the name of Bhupender Kumar @ Bhupender @ Deepak, the deceased.

Whereas the 22-3-2019 at 10-00 O'clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing of the application notice is hereby given to this concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this the 17th day of January, 2019. Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Addl. Rent Controller (Central)

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi. Seal of the Court xyz-3213

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) In the Court of Sh. H. S. Jaggi ADJ South West-02 Court No. 310, 3rd Floor, District Court Complex, Dwarka, New Delhi.

PUBLICATION NOTICE DEFENDANT Suit No. CS No. 517394/2016. Pratap Singh - Plaintiff

Versus Sarabjit Kaur -Defendant xyz-3211

NOTICE P.L.A.No. 320 of 2018 IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction President of the Union of India

Petition for Probate In the goods of: Samir Gupta, son of Late Nripendra Chandra Gupta @ Goopla. Lately residing at CA-48, Sector - 1, 1st Floor, Saltlake City, Kolkata - 700064 outside the Original Jurisdiction, a Hindu Inhabitant deceased.

All persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the abovesent deceased are hereby cited to come within 2 (Two) weeks from the date of the publication and affixation of the citation and see the proceedings, if they think fit, before the grant of probate in the above goods.

You are hereby informed that free legal services from the High Court Legal Services Committee are available to you and in case you are eligible and desire to avail of the free legal services, you may contact the above Legal Services Committee.

Witness Mr. Debasis Kar Gupta, Chief Justice at Calcutta aforesaid, the 20th day of December in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen, Sd./

14.01.2019 For Registrar Abhishek Singh Advocate 6, Old Post Office Street Room No. 7 (North Basement) Kolkata-700001

Versus Plaintiff Gulvir Singh -Defendants

SUMMONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES

To, Gulvir Singh, s/o Sh. Jagvir Singh, r/o C-2/48, Vinod Puri, Vijay Enclave, New Delhi-110045.

Whereas Plaintiff has instituted the above Suit for recovery of an amount of Rs. 7,08,730/- against Defendants. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in per-

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION (Order 5, Rule 20 of the CPC) SUMMONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES

In the Court of Sh. Kanwaljeet Arora Addl. District Judge-01 Court No. 205, 2nd Floor, South West District, Dwarka Court, New Delhi-110075. CS No. 1439/2017. V. S. Vidhyarthi -Plaintiff

Versus Rajesh Negi - Defendant

To, Rajesh Negi, s/o Sh. G. S. Negi, r/o Flat No. 22, Pink Apartments, Sector 18-B, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

Also at : RZ-254-A, Raj Nagar Part-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045.

Whereas Plaintiff has instituted that above Suit for Recovery of an amount of Rs. 10,00,000/- against Defendant. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on the 21st day of February, 2019 at 10-00 O'clock to answer the same, failing which the Suit will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this the 5th day of January, 2019. Addl. District Judge-01 South West District, Dwarka Court, New Delhi-110075. Seal of the Court xyz-3215

IN THE COURT OF SH. KANWALJEET ARORA Additional District Judge-01 Court No. 205, 2nd Floor South West District, Dwarka Courts New Delhi-110075 CS No. 1683/2018 MRK Marketing -Plaintiff

Versus Gulvir Singh -Defendants

SUMMONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES

To, Gulvir Singh, s/o Sh. Jagvir Singh, r/o C-2/48, Vinod Puri, Vijay Enclave, New Delhi-110045.

Whereas Plaintiff has instituted the above Suit for recovery of an amount of Rs. 7,08,730/- against Defendants. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in per-

son or by a pleader on the 23rd day of January, 2019, at 10 O'clock, to answer the same, failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 22nd day of December, 2018. Additional District Judge-01, South West District, Dwarka Courts New Delhi Seal of the Court xyz-3216

LOST & FOUND

IT is notified for the information that my Original Examination Certificate of main Senior Secondary Examination of Year 1999 and Roll No. 5238309, issued by CBSE, has been actually lost. Name of Candidate Babita Sharma, Address : Flat No. 214, Vartalok, Sector 4-C, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad-201012. xyz-3218

CHANGE OF NAMES

I, NEENA Bassi, w/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar Bassi, r/o 1449/129, Street No. 2, Duragapuri, Delhi-110093 inform that my name has been wrongly written as Neena, w/o Rakesh Kumar in my Passport No. L-8621540, the correct name of mine is Neena Bassi, w/o Rakesh Kumar Bassi. xyz-3219

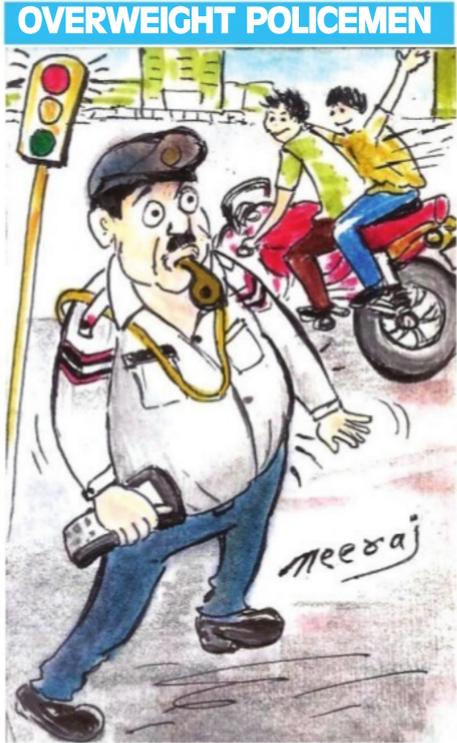
PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Certificate(s) for the undersigned Equity Shares of the company have been lost and the holder(s) purchases(s) of the said Equity Shares have applied to the company to issue Duplicate

share Certificate(s). Any person who has a claim in respect of the said Shares should lodge the same with company at its Registered office within 60 days from this date else the company will proceed to issue Duplicate Certificate(s) to the aforesaid applicants without any further intimation.

Folio No. : 033835 Name of Share Holder Munish Bansal No. of Shares : 200 Distinctive Nos. : 597221-597420 Certificate Nos. : 2193 Precision Wires India Limited Link Intime India Private Limited C-101, 247 park, L.B.S. Marg, Vikhroli (West) Mumbai-400083. xyz-3217

The Statesman advertisement containing contact information for Kolkata, Siliguri, Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Ranchi, along with a Tenders section.



There have been very few drives to put policemen in shape. Even these drives may have been done in a half-hearted manner. The results can be seen everywhere. Most policemen, especially those of Uttar Pradesh, are overweight, having pot bellies. When they join the police force, they have to meet certain physical standards and pass a physical test. But most of them will fail the physical test by the time they turn 40. The only way out is to make physical tests mandatory after they join service as well. And anybody found to be overweight should be given a show-cause notice. Disciplinary action will be a lesson for them. But this is not done as the cops presume that they have got a government job and nobody can sack them.

Being in shape is needed for them as they may have to do some sprinting to catch someone. There are instances when an agile culprit outsmarts a burly cop. Being in shape is especially needed while manning the traffic at signal lights. Because one never knows when one will jump the light and only a cop who is slim and trim will be able to chase and nab the law-breaker. Recently, when a three-wheeler broke a traffic rule at Kashmere Gate, an overweight policeman tried to chase it down. But no sooner than he had started he gave up as he was too heavy to run. In another instance, three men riding a pillion escaped, leaving behind a traffic cop who tried desperately to catch them. Surely, being in shape should be the top-most priority of cops, especially the traffic cops.

BIG FAT WEDDINGS



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's government has put the lid on extravagant spending in weddings in the most prosperous and populous Punjab province. Wedding celebrations are stipulated to be conducted between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. with all lights out positively thereafter. Besides tandoori naan and roti, just two dishes may be served as accompaniment.

Members of divided families returning from weddings in Pakistan report these measures are primarily intended to prevent food waste and excessive loads on the stressed electricity supply network during the current wedding season. The government is attempting to enforce this austerity in Punjab to curb obscene spending on weddings that create a visible divide between the rich and people of moderate means.

In this context, India's Supreme Court direction on 12 December to the Delhi Administration to come up by end January 2019, with a policy framework to curb lavish weddings in the National Capital Region, has come as a great relief to parents of moderate means, in this current marriage season that extends till May.

The Supreme Court said such wastage is "unacceptable" in a city that is witnessing

water crisis and has recently seen three siblings starve to death. The Apex Court had sought the help of the Delhi Administration to curb extravagance. Chief Secretary Vijay Dev, who appeared before a bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur, Deepak Gupta and Hemant Gupta, said the Delhi government shared the Court's concern.

In mid-February 2018 a Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha seeking to limit expenditure on lavish weddings. It proposed that hosts with Rs 5 lakh and more budget contribute to a welfare fund. It also empowered the government to specify guest numbers or items served to avoid food wastage. Jammu and Kashmir government promptly followed up with an announcement curbing guest numbers and dishes at weddings in the State from April. The idea of avoiding food waste was first enforced countrywide from October 1965 by a Guest Control Order by Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in remembrance of the August-September 1965 India-Pakistan war dead - and an austerity measure to stop wastage of cereals. The number of wedding guests was restricted to 25. Wedding invitations cards carried an apologetic bottom line that the Guest Control Order would be complied with. The Delhi Guest Control Order (third amendment) 1977 raised the number of guests at ordinary parties to 50 and for weddings and funerals to 100.

Novel schemes

Seaplanes to connect the newly-renamed Andaman Islands and a Waterways service on the same lines to link Delhi and Agra were two novel schemes reported last week. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, supervising the Cleaner Ganga scheme, said plans to link the two cities of the Golden Triangle (constituted with Jaipur) via the Yamuna were being considered but the low volume of water in the river was a big handicap. A similar scheme was proposed in the 1970s during Indira Gandhi's time. The idea then was to link Delhi with Agra by a hovercraft service. It was shelved because the Yamuna, which goes meandering to Agra, is too narrow at places and there are several low bridges over the river, which is almost dry in the summer months. If the new scheme could be implemented at some future date (when the volume of water is suitably raised) it will certainly be something to boast about with Delhi's reach-

ing the city of the Taj in less time than the Taj Express takes to cover the 190-odd-km distance, minus all the hassles of crowded train travel. But it will be only the rich, who will benefit initially because of the high roller-coaster conveyance charges.

A Bourbon link

The Indian branch of the Bourbons, descended from Jean Philippe de Bourbon, cousin of Henry IV of France, who had sought refuge in Emperor Akbar's court after killing a kinsman in a duel, have some significant achievements to their credit. After leaving Agra they came to Delhi during Mohd Shah's reign but feeling insecure about their women following the sack of Delhi by Nadir Shah, took refuge with the Raja of Narwar. But for some unexplained reason one night almost all the 500 Bourbons were massacred by the Raja's men and only Salvador Bourbon, his mother and a few others escaped. Then they found shelter

in Bhopal state, where one of them, Balthazar Massih became Prime Minister. Among their outstanding achievements was the designing of Shaukat Mahal (also the title of Bahadur Shah Zafar's daughter-in-law). The mahal was built in the 1830s as a wedding gift to Sikandar Jahan Begum, the first woman ruler of Bhopal. This palace became ramshackle by 2015, where 20-odd families still stayed then. But it is hoped that it would be renovated like the local Taj Mahal Palace, because of the keen interest shown by Sharmila Tagore, actress-turned begum after her marriage to the Nawab of Pataudi, Mansoor Ali Khan, inheritor also of the Bhopal estate. The last of the surviving Bourbons there, Balthazar Napoleon Bonaparte IV (felicited by King Juan Carlos de Bourbon of Spain) is, however, not an architect but a school owner-cum-manager and so would not be able to help with the building plans, but is naturally interested in the restoration partly being considered in New Pataudi House, Delhi, where

Sharmila Tagore a.k.a. Ayesha Begum spends time when not staying at her Pataudi estate after the death of her husband.

Mobile addiction

The mobile phone has today become a must-have for everyone. It has penetrated our lives so much that it is impossible to imagine being without a mobile phone. One has forgotten that not so long ago one managed very well without it. But the way people have become dependent on the mobile phones, it seems they have been part and parcel of one's life for ages. The other day a colleague came across one such "mobile addicted" friend in the Metro. Travelling home from Noida, he luckily got a seat in peak hour. He settled down with his phone, but soon found the battery of his mobile was about to die out. It was like a panic situation for the young man. Although he did not have any important thing to do with his phone, he

was getting agitated. After some time, when he couldn't take it any longer, he left his seat in a crowded Metro and went to the charging port, with a lot of effort, pushing and shoving through a sea of people. Finally, he managed to charge his phone and became visibly relaxed. When our colleague asked why he was taking so much pain to charge, whether he was expecting anything important, the friend replied in the negative. It was just that he could not see his phone "dying out" on him!

Tailpiece

By harping on firewood and garbage burning as the culprits for the Capital's rising pollution, authorities may well be missing the wood for the trees.

Contributed by: RV Smith, Samir Pal, Abhijeet Anand, Rakesh Kumar and Asha Ramachandran

हिमाचल प्रदेश के माननीय मुख्यमंत्री श्री जय राम ठाकुर के कुशल नेतृत्व में

- एशियन विकास बैंक से पर्यटन विकास के दूसरे चरण के लिए 1892 करोड़ रुपये की सहायता को सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति
- चिन्तापूर्णी मंदिर को पर्यटन की दृष्टि से विकसित करने के लिए की 50 करोड़ रुपये की योजना को सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति
- 100 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से धार्मिक पर्यटन सर्किट बनाने का निर्णय
- शिमला-चण्डीगढ़ के मध्य हेली सेवा बनी वरदान, घण्टों का सफर अब मिनटों में
- मनाली-रोहतांग-मनाली के मध्य जॉय राइड सुविधा आरम्भ

ईमानदार प्रयास का एक साल विकास का

खिल रही वादियाँ बढ़ रही मूलभूत सुविधायें लग रहे पर्यटन को पंख

नई राहें - नई मंजिलें योजना आरम्भ

- जंजैहली में बना रहा टूरिस्ट कल्चरल सेंटर • स्की हब बनेगा चांशल
- बीड़ बिलिंग में बनेगा पैराग्लाइडिंग संस्थान • वॉटर स्पोर्ट्स के लिए विकसित होगा पोंग डैम

सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश द्वारा जारी





Our country was once known as Vishwa Guru and the tradition of guru-shishya was acclaimed by one and all but it is unfortunate that this tradition is slowly vanishing

JAI RAM THAKUR
HIMACHAL CHIEF MINISTER



Makeover of 1st AC coaches of 7 trains decided

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

After the success of Project Utkrisht (best) and Operation Swarn (gold) to provide more premium feeling to the passengers travelling in the national transport, railways has decided to facelift the first-class air-conditioned coaches of seven mail and express trains, a Railway Ministry official said on Sunday.

"The first train with the new plush interiors has been taken up in the Kashi Vishwanath Express," said a senior railway ministry official, adding the new renovated coach has been added to the train departing from New Delhi on Sunday.

The new features in the coach include new anti-graffiti vinyl wrapping interiors, new curtains, properly worked out bathroom even with the option of taking a shower, he said.

The official said that the PVC flooring has been changed. He said the compressed berth cushions have been replaced and fire extinguishers installed in the coach for enhanced safety.

The new features in the coach include new anti-graffiti vinyl wrapping interiors, new curtains, properly worked out bathroom even with the option of taking a shower

Good quality curtains too have been provided in the coach.

The official said the stairs of the first-class coaches have also been worked to provide more comfort to passengers.

He said the bathroom has been fitted with high-gloss mica having the marble design on long journeys.

However, the official refused to share the name of the other trains which are set to get the upgrade under this major facelift programme.

Last year, the railways took up the work of upgrading its existing fleet of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express under operation Swarn.

Operation Swarn was undertaken by railways with focus on 10 key areas --

punctuality, cleanliness, coach interiors, toilets, catering, staff behaviour, security, entertainment, house-keeping and regular feed-back.

Under this, the Railways has planned to spend Rs 50 lakh on each train. The Rs 25-crore venture covers 30 trains in total - 15 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi Express trains.

Under Project Utkrisht, the railways planned to upgrade about 140 rakes of the trains in the first phase that would be completed by March 2019.

The railways has planned to upgrade about 500 rakes on the trains that still runs on the old Integral Coach Factory design in the second phase.

Under Project Utkrisht, railways has granted Rs 60 lakh per rake to upgrade its interiors and exteriors.

The dustbin of the coaches would be provided with the garbage bag coach and toilets, PVC flooring will be changed in case it is damaged, and faded coach panels will be replaced. The roof of the coach will also be repaired wherever required.

'Fearing encounters, terrorists switch over to grenade attacks'

SP SHARMA
JAMMU, 20 JANUARY

Following elimination of several top commanders of various terror organisations in encounters with security forces, the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir have switched over to the strategy of tossing grenades at security forces, observers have said.

A series of grenade attacks have been reported in the Kashmir valley during the past one week. Terrorists have been tossing grenades towards security forces and their camps and escaping from there instead of getting involved in encounters.

More than 252 terrorists, including top A++ category terrorists were eliminated in encounters last year as a result of which the spine of the terror organizations has been broken. Fresh infiltration of trained terrorists from Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) has also become difficult because of the heightened vigil of the Army and the BSF.

Intelligence sources say that the grenade attacks ahead of the Republic Day were an attempt of terrorists and their mentors sitting in Pakistan to keep the pot boiling and show their strength in the valley.

The current spate of grenade attacks began last month with one being tossed



in the busy general bus stand in Jammu. Thereafter, several grenade attacks have been reported in various parts of the valley. Terrorists were also using under barrel grenade launchers (UBGL) to lob grenades from a distance.

A grenade attack at a CRPF picket in Srinagar's busy Lal Chowk on Friday last created a panic. This was the second such attack within 20 hours after the one near the Zero Bridge where three policemen were injured.

Soon after that another grenade attack was reported at a camp of the Special Operations Group (SOG) in the Gagran area of Shopian in South Kashmir.

Terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has claimed responsibility of these grenade attacks.

The police station at Yariyura in the kulgam district of South Kashmir was attacked with grenades yesterday night. However, no damage was reported.

One person was yesterday injured in a blast near a

school on the KP Road in Anantnag.

South Kashmir, which has emerged as the virtual breeding ground of terrorism, on Friday witnessed a grenade blast inside the police station compound at Pulwama.

The police during a search at a barrier in Kupwara arrested a person identified as Mohammad Aslam and seized a grenade from his possession. During initial interrogation, he told the police that he was motivated to turn towards terrorism by a Pakistan based social media group.

The security forces recently arrested a woman in the outskirts of Srinagar where she was carrying a cache of 20 hand grenades and ammunition. The woman travelling in a car was found to be an Over Ground Worker (OGW) of terrorists and was coming from Baramulla in north Kashmir to deliver the consignment to terrorists.

The security forces during recent raids on hideouts of terrorists in the Kashmir valley and the Poonch and Kishtwar districts of Jammu had recovered cache of grenades and other ammunition. Warlike stores, including one AK-56 rifle, 14 grenades, 273 rounds of AK-47, 97 rounds of AK-56 and other ammunition was recovered from one of the hideouts in Poonch.

BRISK BUSINESS



A street vendor sells national flags ahead of the Republic Day celebrations in Bhopal on Sunday. AFP

Social media helps landless family

SHIMLA, 20 JANUARY

Soon, 67-year-old Madho Ram and his wife would be able to beat the winter blues as finally the government had taken notice of their plight. All this happened due to social media platform, Facebook. A native of Chhatu village in remote Salooni development block of Chamba, Madho Ram used to live in his one room kutcha house which was in dilapidated condition since the last many years. But someone in his neighbourhood took notice of his plight and shared it on Facebook which soon gained attention of general public as well as the government. All possible relief to the family will be given. PTI

J&K imports trout seed from Denmark

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 20 JANUARY

In a first in India, J&K state imported genetically modified Rainbow Trout Seed from Denmark after 119 years to boost annual production from 500 to 5000 tonnes over next five years.

Fisheries Department principal secretary Asghar Hassan Samoon shared the information after inaugurating the hatchery meant for rearing of genetically improved Rainbow Trout Fish on Sunday here at Beerwah Budgam.

On the occasion, Dr Samoon said that the seed will be reared up to brood in the facility and then it will be distributed among fish farmers and other hatcheries of the department.

"We can now produce table size fishes of this variety within 12 to 14 months in comparison to 24 months earlier. It will boost the production and revenue of farmers. J&K state is blessed with abundant fresh water resources which is favorable for rainbow trout fish. It is our endeavor to tap the local potential for lessening the import bill of state on food products," he said.

He added that genetically modified rainbow trout



will have more muscle mass and will increase efficiency of aquaculture in the state. A consignment of 2.25 lakh Eyed Ova Rainbow Trout imported from Billud in Denmark Rever Roheamger were successfully put in for production of brood stock in the state, he said.

He also said that he is hopeful that with the introduction of Rainbow Trout fish, more and more entrepreneurs will get attracted towards the fish farming due to its high returns.

Dr Samoon also directed the officials to create awareness regarding the high returns of fish farming among the youth.

"We will provide the marketing support to the aspiring entrepreneurs, besides providing them subsidy on seed and feed so that they can successfully run fish rearing ventures," he said.

Tibetans protest China's dictat to prostrate before Xi's picture

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 20 JANUARY

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has come out against Chinese government's dictat to display and prostrate before the picture of President Xi Jinping.

Sonam Norbu Dagpo, the official spokesperson of CTA, said it's just the beginning of 2019 and the year is already

bespeaking the Chinese government's ever-intensifying grip on Tibet and its repressive policies against the Tibetan people.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising of 1959 which forced Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama and thousands of Tibetans to escape into exile.

And China seems to be

accelerating the curb on religious expression and activities, as recent reports from Tibet reveal, he said.

Dagpo said Tibetans in Serta County, incorporated into China's Sichuan province, are forced to remove portraits of Dalai Lama from their altars.

"They are compelled to display pictures of Chinese leaders including Xi Jinping and to prostrate and make

offerings instead. Prostration in Tibetan Buddhism is a traditional practice, a religious gesture of reverence reserved to the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha," he added.

"Tibetans prostrate only to the three Jewels of Tibetan Buddhism," he said.

The Communist Party of China claims to be an atheist government and China an atheist country.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Spoil (3)
3 Very small (Informal) (5)
8 Extemporise (2-3)
9 Displeasure (7)
10 Well placed (Informal) (7,6)
11 Almost (6)
13 Musical piece (6)
16 Australian state (3,5,5)
19 Outside or upper layer (7)
20 Stadium (5)
21 Animal skins (5)
22 Headwear item (3)

DOWN
1 Body of citizen soldiers (7)
2 Jewish leader (5)
3 Walk wearily (6)
4 Trade stoppage (7)
5 Leavening agent (5)
6 Part of a cooked fowl (7,4)
7 January 1 (3,5,3)
12 Panther (7)
14 Illness (7)
15 Emphasis (6)
17 Value (5)
18 Angry indignation (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

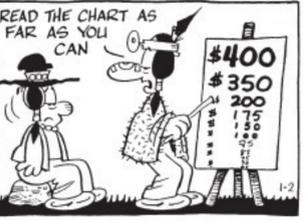
ACROSS
1 Whale, 4 Eve (Wayleave), 7 Allotted, 8 Coal, 9 Forget-me-not, 11 Temple, 13 Prefec, 14 Arthur's Seat, 18 Rags, 19 Hogmanay, 20 Pal, 21 Nudge, 22 Separate,

DOWN
2 Parasol, 5 Wallaged, 15 Ha-ha, 16 Scald, 17 Damp, 19 Separate, 21 Nudge, 22 Separate,

BEEBLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS
• AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
• Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
• Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
• Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
• Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
• Guru Tegh Bahadur 22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY
General Inquiry 139
• Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
• SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY
• ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
• Haryana Roadways 23861262
• Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320

• Punjab Roadways 23867842, 23860626
• Rajasthan Roadways 23864470
• U.P. Roadways 23868709

FLIGHT INQUIRY
• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
• INDI GO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air port 011-25671580; Terminal B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838
• JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111
• EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377
• Air Canada Flight Inquiry 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181
• Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)
• Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE BRAND

AGTMRIN
RYIRS OH
TYS EHU
TTNPLEA
FXVOUEA

TRIPLE WORD SCORE
SACK 1
SACK 2
SACK 3
SACK 4
SACK 5

PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

Directions Make a 2 to 4 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. letter words get 30-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OWS Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). Judd's solution tomorrow.

SUDOKU Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

5	7		8					4
6		3				8		
	8		4	3	5		6	
		6	5			9		
4	7					2		1
	1			2	5			
		5				1		2
9			5				3	7

Difficulty Level ★

Answer to previous puzzle

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

THUMBNAILS



National Akali Dal organised a Kranti March demanding Martyr status to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Rajguru and Sukhdave at the Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Sunday. **RITIK JAIN**

TN fishermen: Over 4,000 Tamil Nadu fishermen were allegedly chased away by Sri Lanka Navy personnel when they were fishing near Neeluntheevu in the island nation's waters, a fishermen association leader said in Rameswaram (TN) on Sunday. **PTI**

Smuggled gold seized: Smuggled gold weighing nearly 2 kg and valued at Rs 66.27 lakh was seized from a passenger at the international airport in Hyderabad on Sunday, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence said. **PT**

Arunachal, Mizoram join TMC's Mahagathbandhan against BJP

Call people to unite against Centre's policy of dividing people on the basis of religion, caste & creed

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 20 JANUARY

Both former chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh and Opposition leader of Mizoram spoke against the BJP government at the Centre and said they have come to join the Mahagathbandhan organised by Mamata Banerjee to give a message to the people of North East to unite against the "autocrat" BJP leaders at the centre.

Gegong Apang, former chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh who left BJP recently, said "I have been the chief minister and worked with Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh, but the last four years were a testing period for the people of India. A former CM of Arunachal Pradesh committed suicide and one of the ministers died under mysterious circumstances. CBI was turned into a puppet in the hands of the Centre. I appeal to all people to be united as the government in Delhi are dividing the people of India ethnically, on the basis of religion, caste, creed and even in food habits."

"Let this Brigade rally bring a new chapter in the political history of India and I have come here to strengthen Mamata's move" said Apang. Mr Lakduhawma, who is the Opposition leader in Mizoram, said "We have come here with a purpose. The whole region of North East India is burning like wild fire due to the introduction of National Citizenship Bill.

Due to the introduction of this Bill, the feeling of belonging towards this country is fast fading away. We have a feel-

'Few B'deshis to be benefitted from Citizenship Bill'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Only a small number Bangladeshi nationals are likely to be benefitted from the Citizenship Amendment Bill, as less than 200 people from the neighbouring country have so far availed the Long Term Visa (LTV) regime introduced in 2015, a senior Home Ministry official said.

The majority of those who are likely to apply for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Bill will be from Pakistan, as nearly 35,000 of such people have got LTVs so far.

"The number of LTVs issued by the Union Home Ministry to Bangladeshi nationals from 2011 to 8 January, 2019, is just 187, while total LTVs issued to Pakistani nationals during the same period is 34,817," the official said.

Those who will apply for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Bill



must fulfil similar criteria of LTVs.

Of the 187 LTVs granted to Bangladeshi nationals, only two were given in 2018, three in 2017, 50 LTVs were given in 2016, 26 LTVs were issued in 2015, 74 in 2014, 27 in 2012 and four in 2011.

No LTV was issued to any Bangladeshi national in 2013.

Of the total Pakistani nationals given LTVs between 1 January, 2015 and 14 January, 2019, as many as 15,107 have been living in Rajasthan, 1,560 are living in Gujarat, 1,444 are living in Madhya Pradesh, 599 are staying in

Maharashtra, 581 in Delhi, 342 in Chhattisgarh and 101 in Uttar Pradesh.

According to the Citizenship Amendment Bill this year, Indian nationality will be given to persecuted persons belonging to minority communities, namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who have been living in the country for six years instead of current 11 years. This is applicable to those who have come to India till 31 December, 2014.

The eligibility criteria for

LTVs include: People belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhism, Jain, Parsi and Christian from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan coming to India on short-term visa, provide a copy of passport, a copy of visa and residential permit, photograph and indemnity bond from the Indian guarantor, besides others.

A large section of people and organisations in the Northeast have opposed the Bill, saying it will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord of 1985, which fixed March 24, 1971 as the cut-off date for deportation of all illegal immigrants irrespective of religion.

There have been sporadic protests against the Bill in the region ever since it was introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha on 8 January. Home Minister Rajnath Singh had already said the Bill will apply to all the states and the Union Territories and the beneficiaries can reside anywhere in the country.

ing that India is no longer a suitable place for the North-East people."

"The BJP, RSS and Bajrang Dal are rewriting the history and geography of the country in their own style. They are interfering with our food habits and religion, which will not be tolerated. We are looking forward to see a new secular government. All the regional parties in the North east should unite together against the BJP and should sever their ties with BJP and

its allied parties. We should together fight for united India and hope that new India will revoke this Bill."

Shotgun says rally aimed at saving democracy: Firing a fresh salvo at the BJP leadership and the Modi government at the Centre, disgruntled party leader Shatrughan Sinha on Sunday said the rally at Kolkata where he shared the stage with a host of Opposition leaders was aimed at "saving Indian democracy from being ruined."

The actor-turned-politician and Patna Sahib MP, who had rankled the party by his presence at the rally and speaking about "tanashahi" (dictatorship) prevailing under the leadership of Modi and Amit Shah as against "lokshahi" (democracy) that characterized the Atal-Advani era, sought to twist the knife with a couple of tweets.

"What an amazing gathering and what a mammoth audience that came together in Bengal in lakhs to listen

to and support this spontaneous show of solidarity in favour of a change parivartan!" exclaimed Sinha in his first tweet about the public meet which was organized by West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee.

Leaders of 22 opposition parties came together at a mega rally on Saturday and declared they will put up a united front to oust the Narendra Modi government which has "passed its expiry date".

Capt trashes Khaira claims on Doval hand in Pb DGP extension

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 20 JANUARY

With Punjab Ekta Party (PEP) president Sukhpal Singh Khaira questioning the third extension to Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Suresh Kumar Arora, Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday said the rebel Aam Aadmi Party leader was resorting to falsehoods to remain in news ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Trashing Sukhpal Singh Khaira's statement accusing him of toeing the Centre's line, the CM lashed out at the former leader of the Opposition over his senseless and reckless allegations, which smacked of total disregard for political ethics and morality.

"Having been unceremoniously thrown out of the AAP, Khaira was now indulging in all kinds of fabrications and tricks to remain in public limelight," he said. The CM said Khaira has always been in the habit of talking out of the hat, without any respect for the veracity of his statements.

He challenged Khaira to prove even a single allegation made by the former AAP leader against his government or him personally, or else quit the political stage for good. This was evident from



Khaira's statement on the functioning of the Punjab Police, pointed out the CM, adding that contrary to what the former AAP leader was projecting, DGP Suresh Arora had already ruled out extension and the state had sent its panel of suggestions for the new head of the state police.

Where, then, was the question of Arora being given extension at the behest of NSA chief Ajit Doval, asked Amarinder.

Khaira obviously had no clue about the functioning of the police department, or for that matter of any democratically elected government, said the CM asking the PEP leader to refrain from attempting to deceive the people of Punjab with his irresponsible statements.

The people were too intelligent to believe his blatantly misleading statement that the state police was functioning under the Centre's control, or that the latter was in any way manipulating the state government, said the CM.

Delhi HC grants police protection to J&K rape victim

NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

An alleged rape victim and her husband, who have temporarily shifted here from Jammu and Kashmir apprehending threat to their lives, have been given protection by the Delhi High Court.

The high court was informed by the couple that personal circumstances forced them to leave their native place and made serious allegations against some police officials and political workers.

The couple claimed the woman was allegedly physically assaulted and raped and the man was kept in detention for several days by Jammu and Kashmir police and now he was out on bail.

The court directed the concerned DCP of Delhi Police to look into the matter and forthwith provide protection to the couple and that their address shall not be disclosed except the government counsel.

The couple had approached the Jammu and Kashmir high court in September 2018 seeking protection but no protection was accorded to them and they apprehend a grave threat to their life, limb and liberty and were constrained to temporarily shift to Delhi. **PTI**

'Modi, Shah need to be defeated in LS polls'



Aam Aadmi Party leader and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal addressing a rally in Barnala town in Punjab. **SNS**

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 20 JANUARY

Aam Aadmi Party leader and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said the Bharatiya Janata Party needs to be defeated in the coming Lok Sabha elections as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah will break up the country if they return to power in the 2019 general elections.

"Amit Shah and Modi have ruined the country. They have poisoned the hearts of the people. If they come to power again they will divide the country. They will not let the Constitution survive," Kejriwal said

while speaking to reporters at the Sangrur railway station in Punjab ahead of addressing a rally in the state.

The AAP supremo said: "The country is fed up with the five-year rule of Modi and Amit Shah. The country wants to defeat them. Leaders of all parties have got together and urged people to defeat them (BJP) in the elections."

He said people of Punjab are unhappy and disillusioned with the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Congress and that they want a change. "These two parties have not fulfilled any of their promises," he said. Kejriwal announced that

AAP will contest all 13 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. "We will announce the names of our candidates in 10-12 days and will win maximum seats," he said.

On the split in AAP Punjab which saw seven party legislators form a separate group and several others leaving the party, Kejriwal said greedy people had left the party. "There have been attempts at breaking up the AAP. I must tell you that AAP is as strong as ever. Only the dirty people have left the party."

The AAP is united and strong," Kejriwal told a rally in Barnala town in Punjab. Kejriwal attacked chief

minister Amarinder Singh-led Congress government for not fulfilling promises made to people before the Assembly elections of February 2017. "Tell me, have the loans of all farmers been waived? Have the youth got smartphones? Has every family in Punjab got a job as promised?"

The Amarinder Singh government has let people down," he said. Kejriwal said the AAP government in Delhi had radically transformed the schools and health facilities.

Meanwhile, AAP announced the candidature of former member of Parliament Harman Dhawan from Chandigarh Lok Sabha seat.

Prez to confer Spiti monk with National Child Welfare award



SHIMLA, 20 JANUARY

A tiny, sleepy hamlet Rangrik in the tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh has reasons to cheer, as their social crusader, a Buddhist monk, working for the upliftment of the underprivileged is all set to get recognition.

Fighting all odds in the six-month snow-bound Spiti area, Tashi Namgyal (photo) founder of the Rinchen Zangpo Society (RZS) has been working for the upliftment of the underprivileged for the last more than two decades.

Contributing to the educational needs of the weaker section of the society in the area, he is being conferred with the National Child Welfare Award by the President of India on 22 January at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The award has been instituted by the department of Women and Child Development, Government of India for exceptional achievement to give recognition to children and outstanding caliber in different fields such as academics, arts, culture and sports.

"It is honour to receive this award, which can also be seen as a motivation to deliver my best to the society," Tashi Namgyal told the Statesman. "The credit also goes to my supports and well wishers who believed in the educational programme under the Rinchen Zangpo Society," he added.

A native of Morang village in Spiti, Namgyal an epitome of compassion, was overcome with the need for supporting the disadvantaged children from the remote areas with emphasis in the right to access to education. It is a matter of great pride to the entire Spiti natives, said Kadak Dorje.

In 2009 Namgyal received the USA Unsung Heroes of Compassion award. The society is running three schools in Spiti. **BHAWANI NEGI**

Resistance: Women demand better living condition in prisons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Sukalo spent 45 days in jail sleeping on the bathroom floor but, she says, that was not the worst pain she endured in prison.

A member of the Gond tribe, largely found in central India, she had to eat food infested with insects, drink contaminated water and share space with other women she did not know. Sukalo had to suffer the trauma daily for one-and-a-half months because she was against an irrigation project in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

The Kanhar irrigation project was conceived more than 30 years ago, and was taken up in 2014. It, however, soon

landed in trouble. In April 2015, there were violent protests by villagers who feared displacement and contamination of their source of water. "We were targeted because we spoke against powerful people. I knew I was in jail because of this movement (against the project)," said Sukalo, now 51.

Recalling her days in prison, she said, "The food was infested with insects. Our drinking water was dirty; I survived by eating an apple every day."

She said the inhuman treatment meted out to her in Mirzapur jail changed her as a person. On Friday, she was among several women who gathered in the national capital to demand better living condition in prisons for

The food was infested with insects. Our drinking water was dirty; I survived by eating an apple every day... We were targeted because we spoke against powerful people. I knew I was in jail because of this movement (against the project)

SUKALO
MEMBER, GONG TRIBE

women.

Soni Sori, a teacher, who became the symbol of resistance against brutal custodial torture, also attended the gathering in Delhi. Sori, who was arrested in 2011 and charged with acting as a Maoist conduit, accused police of often subjecting her to elec-

tric shocks to extract a confession. "I wonder what gave me the endurance to bear it all," she said. "Most inmates were ill and received little medical care. The food in the jail was infested with worms and insects. We resolved to go on hunger strike and threatened to produce the food in court. Only then were many of us made to oversee the kitchen"

SONI SORI
TEACHER

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strike and threatened to produce the food in court. Only then were many of us made to oversee the kitchen," Sori said. She said the situation in women prison was worse.

"We were made to clean common toilets daily. Under-trials going through such things in jail is illegal. Adivasi prisoners are almost always the most vulnerable," she said.

Anjum Zamarud Habib, an activist from Kashmir, was jailed and booked under POTA in 2003. Habib said she was verbally stripped by police and had to face hostile attitude. "Getting a paper and pen was a struggle. Jail culture has rules and regulations of its own. There are customs one needs to follow and if you resist you are brutally abused," she said.

Another issue flagged by these women was over-crowding. Sori said over 600 women reside in a prison with a capacity for 250. "Due to a lack of space, many of us would just have space to sit and not even to lie down," she said.

Roma Malik, an activist fighting for the rights of women living in prisons, said there is a kind of hierarchy one has to follow in jail. "These women are fighting on many fronts. The irony is: they are invisible to most people, and that is why not enough attention is paid to their suffering," she said. Prominent lawyer Vrinda Grover said there is a need for a movement to improve jail conditions and focus should be given to political prisoners. "Special attention needs

to be given to those women who are targeted because of their human rights activism."

Human rights activist Uma Chakravorty echoed Grover, saying the movement would need participation from all sectors and not just civil society.

Human rights organisation Amnesty International has expressed concern on the condition of political prisoners in the country. Its report showed India has the maximum acceptance of torture as a means of interrogation.

Despite being a signatory to the UN Convention Against Torture, 1997, India has not ratified the convention so far, since ratification required an enabling legislation to reflect the definition and punishment for 'torture'.



The cries for help are the cries of millions of unemployed youth; of farmers in distress; of oppressed Dalits & Adivasis; of persecuted minorities; of small businessmen in ruin; begging to be freed from your tyranny & incompetence. In 100 days they will be free

RAHUL GANDHI
CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Mamata's rally was aimed at saving democracy: Shatru

Patna Sahib MP said in Kolkata on Saturday that 'dictatorship' is prevailing under Modi's leadership

PTI
PATNA, 20 JANUARY

Firing a fresh salvo at the BJP leadership and the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, disgruntled party leader Shatrughan Sinha on Sunday said the rally at Kolkata where he shared the stage with a host of opposition leaders was aimed at "saving Indian democracy from being ruined".

The actor-turned-politician and Patna Sahib MP, who had rankled the party by his presence at the rally and speaking about "tanashahi" (dictatorship) prevailing under the leadership of Modi and Amit Shah as against "lokshahi" (democracy) that characterized the Atal-Advani era, sought to twist the knife with a couple of tweets.

"What an amazing gath-



ering and what a mammoth audience that came together in Bengal in lakhsto listen to and support this spontaneous show of solidarity in favour of a change parivartan!" exclaimed Sinha in his first tweet about the public meet which was organized

by West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee.

Leaders of 22 opposition parties came together at a mega rally on Saturday and declared they will put up a united fight to oust the Naren-

dra Modi government which has "passed its expiry date".

"Kudos to our sister, the great lady of Bengal, the fiery Mamata di, who needs to be roundly complimented for bringing together one of the largest congregations of the strongest and most influential political minds and leaders from all corners of the country on the same stage under a common cause of saving the Indian democracy from being ruined," Sinha said in the second tweet.

Top leaders of anti-NDA parties in addition to former Union ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie attacked the Modi government on issues like demonetization, faulty implementation of GST and the controversy surrounding the Rafale deal at the rally.

At a press conference in

the national capital, BJP national spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy said the party has taken "cognizance" of Sinha's presence at the opposition meet.

The actor-turned-politician has been critical of the party leadership for quite some time, terming it as a "one-man show and two-man army" besides sharing the stage with people opposed to the regime on a number of occasions.

Party insiders say the leadership has refrained from taking any disciplinary action against the disgruntled MP - who has slim chances of being recon sidered for a ticket in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls - since it could benefit the outspoken actor-turned-politician, who is known for his gift of the gab.

Dehradun now connected by air to Jammu, Jaipur & Amritsar



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Rawat flagging off the Dehradun-Amritsar air service in Dehradun on Sunday.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 20 JANUARY

Under the regional connectivity scheme 'Udan', direct flights between Dehradun-Jammu, Dehradun-Jaipur and Dehradun-Amritsar routes started from Sunday. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat flagged off the air service between Dehradun to Amritsar on

Sunday from the Jollygrant airport.

SpiceJet is the first Indian carrier to introduce daily direct flights on the Dehradun-Jammu, Dehradun-Jaipur and Dehradun-Amritsar routes. Earlier this month air services for Pantnagar and Pithoragarh were launched from Dehradun. The new flight service is likely to prove a boon for tourists.

CM Rawat took the inaugural Dehradun-Amritsar flight on Sunday. He paid obeisance at the Golden temple in Amritsar.

The Chief Minister said that work to connect several cities of the country with Jolly Grant Airport is being done. SpiceJet has announced an introductory promotional fare for all the three new flights from Dehradun.

UP cop suspended after video of woman falling at his feet goes viral

PTI
LUCKNOW, 20 JANUARY

A UP police inspector was on Sunday suspended after a viral video showed an elderly woman touching his feet, urging him to register an FIR. Brahma Devi (75) had approached Tej Prakash Singh posted at the Gudamba Police Station here to register a case after her 20-year-old grandson, Akash Yadav, was crushed to death at a plywood factory where he worked on January 18. In the 27-second clip, Devi can be seen crying and pleading in front of Singh with folded hands, urging him to register a complaint. She even touches Singh's feet, who is seated comfortably on a chair with his legs crossed.

Czech defence minister to attend Aero India in Bengaluru

PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Czech Republic Prime Minister Andrej Babis has said that his country is ready to step up Indo-Czech cooperation in defence and other sectors, and its defence minister will visit Bengaluru next month to attend Aero India.

Interacting with reporters on the sidelines of an event at the Czech Embassy here Saturday, he also hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "charismatic leader" with a "vision".

Babis was on an official visit to India from January 17-19. He led a Czech delegation at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019, with

Czech car maker Skoda Auto and Volkswagen Group India on Saturday inaugurated a new technology centre at its Chakan manufacturing plant in Pune as part of its 2.0 India project.

Czech Republic as a partner country.

The two leaders also held a bilateral meeting on Friday on the sidelines of the Summit. The entire gamut of bilateral relations including important global and regional issues of mutual interest was discussed during the talks,

officials said.

"We discussed concretely, defence cooperation, Tata (trucks), Skoda, our investments, possibility of a direct airline service between Delhi and Prague, tourism and other areas of cooperation," he said Saturday, when asked what the two prime ministers discussed.

Czech car maker Skoda Auto and Volkswagen Group India on Saturday inaugurated a new technology centre at its Chakan manufacturing plant in Pune as part of its 2.0 India project.

Babis attended the programme and also inaugurated a Center for European Studies at Symbiosis University in Pune.

Western UP lawyers reiterate demand for HC bench

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, 20 JANUARY

Western UP lawyers are again set to press for their long standing demand of a high court bench in western UP.

Lawyers of 22 districts of western UP under the aegis of 'High Court Bench Sthapna Sangharsh Samiti' will carry out protests in order to mount pressure on the government to have a bench of Allahabad High court in western UP.

On January 30 the lawyers of these districts will make all toll barriers free in their area. Further action will be decided and a strategy will be chalked out at a meeting of the Samiti on February 2.

The lawyers demonstrated here on Saturday and carried out a procession which ended at the BJP office. Under the leadership of Samiti president Rajendra Jani and general secretary Devki Nandan Sharma the lawyers handed over a memorandum to BJP city president Mukesh Singhal raising their demand for an HC bench in western UP. Singhal promised to take the issue to the PM. Rajendra Jani said the Samiti would intensify the movement for the HC bench in western UP.

Hospitality of 'Kashi' on full display to greet PBD guests

PTI
VARANASI, 20 JANUARY

The people of the spiritual capital of India Varanasi have not only opened their arms to welcome guests coming for the three-day 'Pravasi Bhartiya Divas' beginning January 21, but also opened their doors to offer the special hospitality of 'Kashi'.

Through "Kashi Ka Atithya" concept, under which locals have been urged to volunteer to provide accommodation to guests, visitors of Indian origin will get a chance to experience the life of residents of the historical city of Varanasi.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is overseeing arrangements for the Pravasi Divas function, has said an elaborate preparations have been made in Varanasi to ensure a memorable stay of the visitors.

Besides hotels and the tent city, several families in Varanasi have expressed their desire to extend hospitality to the guests with the essence of "Atithi Devo Bhava" (Guest is like God). Adityanath has said formalities

The guests will get home-cooked food and homely ambience to relish it. Besides, they will also be able to witness the daily chores of a typical day in Banaras.

to allow the families to host guests have been completed.

Sources in the Varanasi district administration said hundreds of families have been selected to provide accommodation facility, free of cost, to the guests who got themselves registered through the mobile application launched especially for it. These families of Kashi will also be providing food.

Though the authorities had said they will look after the transport facility, the residents have been enthusiastic in offering to pick the guests up from the airport, the sources said.

Visitors, who had got themselves registered online through the MEA website, were asked for their preference for stay and a large number of them have

opted for personalised hospitality of 'Kashi-vasis', sources said.

The guests will get home-cooked food and homely ambience to relish it. Besides, they will also be able to witness the daily chores of a typical day in Banaras.

Pravasi Divas, this year, will be a unique experience with the event coinciding with Kumbh in Prayagraj, and Republic Day functions.

According to the External Affairs Ministry, 5,802 people have got themselves registered for the three-day Divas.

After Pravasi Divas, the guests will be taken for a visit to the Kumbh Mela on January 24 where a tent city has been set up with Swiss cottages. They will also be able to have darshans of Akshayvat, or the indestructible tree, after about 400 years.

A cultural village has been developed in Prayagraj, showing the history from the Indus Valley Civilisation. The pravasis will be taken to New Delhi on the night of January 24 and will have a "Delhi darshan" the next day.

DIGNITARY AT TAJ



Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen during his visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra Sunday.

Priest arrested for 'abetting' girl's suicide

PTI
JHABUA, 20 JANUARY

A catholic priest has been arrested in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 17-year-old girl, the police said Sunday.

The accused was identified as Father Prakash Damor (33).

The suicide note of the girl, who allegedly hanged herself at her house on January 4, stated that Damor was pressuring her to marry him, said inspector Kailash Chauhan of Ranapur police station.

"We arrested him under IPC section 306 (abetment of suicide) and also under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act Tuesday (January 15)," Chauhan said.

The accused had first met the girl at a missionary school where she was studying in Class 11, the police officer said.

Ladakhi tribe struggling to preserve cultural legacy

PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

A tribe of Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region known for its liberal customs and ornate costumes is struggling to keep its vibrant cultural legacy alive and has requested the central government to make serious interventions.

The rich heritage of the Dard Aryans -- believed to be the

original descendants of "pure Aryan race" -- is under threat due to rapid modernisation, migration and religious conversion, experts say.

The Dard Aryans inhabit Dha, Hanu, Beema, Darchik and Garkone villages in Leh and Kargil districts. The villages are together called the Aryan valley.

The people of this region are completely different from

those in other parts of Ladakh. They have unique physical features, social life, ethnic culture, and language. They consume the milk and meat of goat and sheep only and follow the solar calendar for festivals and agricultural activities, the experts say.

Many researchers believe that the "Aryans of Ladakh" or the "Brokpas" were part of Alexander's army

and had come to the region over 2,000 years ago, an official of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) says.

The tribe is considered "threatened" due to their depleting numbers, which, at present, is around 4,000. They are mainly dependent on agriculture and are "educationally and economically backward", he says.

'Kulhads' at Rly stations to make comeback

PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Having been elbowed out by the more utilitarian plastic and paper cups over the years at railway stations, 'kulhads' which were introduced by former railway minister Lalu Prasad 15 years ago are all set to make a comeback at catering units.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has instructed caterers at Varanasi and Rae Bareilly stations to use terracotta-made 'kulhads', glasses and plates, according to a circular issued by the board to the chief commercial managers of Northern Railway and the North Eastern Railway.

The move will not only give passengers a refreshing experience but also provide a huge market for local potters who are struggling to make ends meet, officials said.

"Zonal railways and the IRCTC are advised to take necessary action to ensure



use of locally produced, environmentally savvy terracotta products like 'kulhads', glasses and plates for serving items to passengers through all static units at Varanasi and Rae Bareilly railway stations with immediate effect so that local terracotta product manufacturers could easily market their products," the circular stated.

The proposal had come in December last year from

the chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) who had written a letter to Goyal, suggesting that these two stations be used to generate employment for potters around the area.

"We have been giving potters electric wheels which have increased their productivity from making 100 cups to around 600 cups a day. It was important to give them a market to sell their wares and generate income. With the rail-

ways agreeing to our proposal, lakhs of potters have now got a readymade market," KVIC Chairman V K Saxena told PTI.

"It's a win for all. The entire community is thankful to the railways and hopefully we can do this across its network eventually," he said, adding that he is expecting the daily production of pottery to reach 2.5 lakh to meet the demands of these two stations.

Under the Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Yojana, the government has been distributing electric wheels to potters to increase their productivity.

In Varanasi, the prime minister's parliamentary constituency, around 300 such wheels have been distributed with 1,000 more in the pipeline.

In Rae Bareilly, the parliamentary constituency of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, 100 have been distributed with 700 more to be given out.

Over all, the KVIC will distribute around 6,000 electric

wheels across the country this year, Saxena said.

In 2004, Lalu Prasad had introduced 'kulhads' to boost the dying pottery industry and also give passengers a taste of eco-friendly cups. He had made it clear that hot beverages should be served only in 'kulhads'.

Though no specific allocation was made for 'kulhads' in the rail budget, railway officials said it was included in the target of sundry other earnings, placed at Rs 1,072 crore.

However, efforts of the railways did not get much traction from both passengers and vendors who complained about the poor quality of earthen cups.

At most stations, paper and plastic cups are used to serve beverages. But with the present government batting for the green and eco-friendly 'Made in India' produce, 'kulhads' could have a longer innings this time, the officials said.

Resistance: Women demand better prison conditions

PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Sukalo spent 45 days in jail sleeping on the bathroom floor but, she says, that was not the worst pain she endured in prison.

A member of the Gond tribe, largely found in central India, she had to eat food infested with insects, drink contaminated water and share space with other women she did not know.

Sukalo had to suffer the trauma daily for one and a half months because she was against an irrigation project in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

The Kanhar irrigation project was conceived more than 30 years ago, and was taken up in 2014. It, however, soon landed in trouble. In April 2015, there were violent protests by villagers who feared dis-

placement and contamination of their source of water.

"We were targeted because we spoke against powerful people. I knew I was in jail because of this movement (against the project)," said Sukalo, now 51.

Recalling her days in prison, she said, "The food was infested with insects. Our drinking water was dirty; I survived by eating an apple every day."

She said the inhuman treatment meted out to her in Mirzapur jail changed her as a person. On Friday, she was among several women who gathered in the national capital to demand better living condition in prisons for women.

Soni Sori, a teacher, who became the symbol of resistance against brutal custodial torture, also attended the gathering in Delhi. Sori, who

was arrested in 2011 and charged with acting as a Maoist conduit, accused police of often subjecting her to electric shocks to extract a confession.

"I wonder what gave me the endurance to bear it all," she said.

"Most inmates were ill and received little medical care. The food in the jail was infested with worms and insects. We resolved to go on hunger strike and threatened to produce the food in court. Only then were many of us made to oversee the kitchen," Sori said.

She said the situation in women prison was worse. "We were made to clean the common toilets daily. Under-trials going through such things in jail is illegal. Adivasi prisoners are almost always the most vulnerable," she said.



The response from the local industry to this defence corridor has been amazing.

DEFENCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
AT THE INAUGURATION OF TAMIL NADU DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR

THUMBNAILS



Actor Tara Sharma during the Tata Mumbai Marathon in Mumbai on Sunday. AFP

Prison death: An under-trial prisoner died after being found unconscious in his cell in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district, the police said. The family of Yogesh Rathod (29), the deceased, alleged that he was tortured by police which led to his death. PTI

Man held with 50 kg beef: A 26-year-old man was arrested with nearly 50 kg of beef in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan on Sunday, police said. The accused, Eeshvu Kasai, had brought the beef from Haryana to sell in Bhauri village. PTI

Naidu calls for united efforts to fight terror & corruption

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the ninth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GANDHINAGAR, 20 JANUARY

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday urged the world community to come together to address the "pressing issues" of terrorism, climate change and corruption.

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the ninth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit here, VP Naidu said these issues need to be addressed for ensuring peace, prosperity and the partnership of individuals in the inclusive growth story.

"The entire world must be peaceful. Peace is the prerequisite for progress. I would like to tell the entire world community from this forum of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit that three important challenges are there before the humanity, before the world... One of them is terror. Terror has no religion. It is the enemy of humanity. It has to be rooted out totally by all



countries coming together. That is the need of the hour," he said. The vice president also urged the world community to work together to ensure that the effect of climate change is minimised.

"We must all come together, work together to take care, to see that the climate change effect is minimised, and we all take proactive steps to face the challenge of climate change," he said and praised the "solar alliance" initiative.

International Solar Alliance is an alliance of more than 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine

countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Speaking on corruption, VP Naidu said that that practice "eats" into the vitals of our system, and is a big challenge world-wide.

He also appealed to the world community to come together "to exchange information about illegal bank accounts of different countries and have treaties on economic fugitives who loot and cheat the countries".

"If the world has to be peaceful, prosperous, and see inclusive growth of every-

body becoming the partner in the development stories, they must all come together on these three major issues. And I hope everybody concerned should apply their mind and give a serious thought to these three things," he said. VP Naidu said India's growth in the last 15 years is not limited to industry alone, but was also witnessed in the fields of agriculture, infrastructure, rural development, and IT services.

He said India was trying to go beyond the trade and investment and hoping to develop "long-lasting bonds between nations that will cement the seeds of trust and cooperation".

"This will be paramount to identifying solutions to issues in the economic, social and cultural sphere, especially in today's world which is much heterogeneous," he said, adding that initiatives like the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit are endeavours in the same direction.

India's growth is supported by "progressive and long-term reforms, sound financial acumen and the impetus given to building a robust infrastructure", the VP said.

Devotees throng Allahabad for second major 'snan'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALLAHABAD, 20 JANUARY

A day before Paus Purnima, the second auspicious bathing day during the Kumbh, all roads led virtually to the 'Sangam' the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati as devotees from across the country thronged the city.

Security personnel from the UP police department and central para-military forces kept a tight vigil at Prayagraj railway station, civil lines bus station and other areas frequented by the visitors.

"Our main focus is to ensure absolutely a safe and secure Kumbh, and we will leave no stone unturned," Uttar Pradesh Additional DG (Law and Order) Anand Kumar said. An estimated 20 lakh devotees are likely to take the bath Monday. Prior to Paus Purnima, devotees had taken the first dip in this

Paush Purnima also marks the beginning of Kalpwas, the period of austerity

year's Kumbh on Makar Sankranti. Kumar said steps have been taken to ensure a peaceful and organised Kumbh Mela.

"This includes deployment of forces and use of technology. We will ensure that everyone coming to the Kumbh is taken care of. We are making efforts to ensure that Kumbh 2019 is the safest Kumbh ever," he said.

Paush Purnima also marks the beginning of Kalpwas, the period of austerity.

"Paush Purnima is a significant day for Hindus and falls during full moon in the month of Paus according to the Hindu calendar. On this day, devotees from different parts of the country assemble at Sangam to take a holy dip," said Swami Adhokshjanand Deo Tirth.

BJP leader killed in MP, party cries foul

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 20 JANUARY

A Bharatiya Janata Party leader was allegedly bludgeoned to death by unidentified miscreants in the Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday morning. The death of Manoj Thakre (48) came to light three days after another BJP leader was shot dead in Mandsaur, prompting the party to claim that its leaders were being targeted.

The police have formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to be headed by an Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) to solve today's murder.

The police said that Thakre's body was found lying in an agricultural field, some distance away from the road at around 6.40 AM. He had left his house at around 5 am, for his routine morning walk. "The body had injury marks on the face and around the neck," said district Superintendent of Police Y D Bhutia.

"He had gone out for morning walk in hazy weather. Local police got the infor-

mation around 6.40 am that a body had been spotted, and within two minutes they reached the spot," the SP said. Police also found a bloodstained stone near the body, which prima facie indicated to Thakre being murdered by bludgeoning with the stone.

Barwani is the home district of new Congress state government home minister Bala Bachchan. The deceased Thakre was close to former BJP minister Antar Singh Arya. Arya's son Vikas told reporters that the killing was fall-out of a "political rivalry", but did not elaborate.

The BJP continued its attack on the Congress government, alleging that BJP leaders were being targeted and killed ever since the Congress formed the government in MP about a month ago. Former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan tweeted on January 20 that it was a matter of grave concern that BJP leaders were being killed. "Congress is taking it lightly and seeking to make a cruel joke of the incidents," Chouhan

said. He averred that the BJP would be forced to take to the streets if the criminals were not caught immediately. On Saturday, the BJP had submitted petitions to officials in every district seeking improvement in the law and order situation, claiming it had deteriorated under the newly-elected Congress government.

On 17 January, BJP leader and chairman of Mandsaur Municipal Council, Prahlad Bandhwar (50) was shot dead from almost point blank range in full public view.

A day after the sensational broad daylight murder, Manish Bairangi, a BJP worker arrested from Rajasthan in connection with the killing.

According to the police, Manish Bairangi allegedly shot dead Prahlad Bandhwar over a financial dispute. MP BJP state president Rakesh Singh said that the BJP workers would burn effigies of the Congress state government at all district headquarters of MP on 21 January in protest of the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Sabarimala temple closes after annual pilgrimage season

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 20 JANUARY

The doors of the Sabarimala temple closed on Sunday morning after the annual two-month-long Mandalam-Makaravilaku festival, which was marked by raging protests and violent clashes.

The temple was closed on Sunday at 6.45 am after the Pandalam Palace representative P. Raghava Varma offered prayers at the shrine. The palace representative descended the 18 steps to escort the Thiruvabharanam back to the Pandalam Palace in a ceremonial procession.

Sunday's darshan was exclusively for the palace representative. Darshan for pilgrims ended on Saturday evening after the Guruti ritual at Malikappuram.

The temple had opened for the pilgrimage season on 15 November, 2018. The government, through the Pathanamthitta district collectorate, had imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the IPC, in and around Sabarimala hill ever since 14 November, and extended it every three to four days until after the Makaravilaku puja on 14 January, 2019. For the first time in the history of the temple, lathi-wielding police patrolled the temple premises and several persons, including BJP state general secretary K Surendran, had been arrested from Sabarimala for violating prohibitory orders issued there over the two-month period.

The two-month Mandalam-Makaravilaku pilgrimage season saw several failed and successful attempts by women below the age of 50 years to enter the shrine, most notably by Bindu and Kanakadurga, who offered prayers on 2 January, 2019. This attempt led to the call for a statewide hartal in Kerala by Sabarimala Karma samithy and BJP on 3 January, which saw widespread violence across the state.

Because of the tense situation, there was a dip in number of pilgrims during this pilgrimage season. This has affected the revenue of the Travancore Devaswom Board, which decreased by 98.35 crore, compared to the previous year.

TN woman says her age incorrect: A Tamil Nadu woman, Chandira Sundaram, whose name figured in Kerala government's list of 51 women of menstrual age who visited the Sabarimala shrine, on Sunday said she was 62 and not 48, as mentioned in the affidavit submitted before the Supreme Court. PTI

In this connection, the BJP had called a relay hunger strike outside the government Secretariat here, to protest against the imposition of prohibitory orders at Sabarimala and also against the alleged arbitrary arrests of its workers. The party has called off the strike on Sunday morning. To mark the culmination of the strike, Gandhian-Gopinathan Nair gave lemon juice to BJP national executive committee member PK Krishnadas who was holding hunger strike at the protest venue. While chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan alleged that the Sabarimala protests are led by those who uphold casteism.

Meanwhile, the Sabarimala Karma Samithi has organised an 'Ayyappa Bhakta Sangamam' (meeting of Ayyappa devotees), at Puthirikandam Maidani for protecting the customs and rituals at shrine. Spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi inaugurated the Sangamam. Amritanandamayi underlined the necessity to protect the temple traditions.

Def Min inaugurates Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, 20 JANUARY

Taking a step forward to boost indigenous production, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor on Sunday.

Total investments worth over Rs 3,038 crore in this defence corridor were announced during the inauguration. A majority of the investments would come from PSUs as Ordnance Factory Board, Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited committed to invest Rs 2,305 crore, Rs 140.5 crore and Rs 150 crore, respectively. Private companies TVS, Data Patterns and Alpha Designs would make investments of Rs 50 crore, Rs 75 crore and Rs 100 crore, respectively.

Lockheed Martin, one of the global security giants, also announced its intention to invest in the corridor. The Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor also called the Tamil Nadu Defence Production Quad as the nodal cities form a quadrilateral with one of them at the centre includes Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli as nodes.

"The response from the local industry to this defence corridor has been amazing. They even wanted to extend this corridor up to Palakkad but we had to tell them that it would currently consist of these five nodes

Total investments worth over Rs 3,038 crore in this defence corridor were announced during the inauguration.

(cities) only," Sitharaman said.

The minister said development of these defence corridors will facilitate a well-planned and efficient industrial base that will lead to increased defence production in the country.

The idea behind setting up defence industrial corridors is to ensure connectivity among various defence industrial units.

The five nodal cities have existing defence ecosystem in the form of ordnance factory boards, vendors working with defence PSUs, and other allied industries.

The Sunday meeting in Tiruchirappalli was attended by over 500 industry representatives. Several ministers and senior officials of the Tamil Nadu government, senior Defence Ministry officials and executives from defence PSUs were present at the event.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in his Budget speech on February 2 last year, had announced that two defence industrial production corridors will be set up in the country to promote domestic industry base.

The government has envisaged building corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

NCW questions BJP MLA's remark on Maya

SNS/PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

The National Commission for Women has questioned the objectionable statement reportedly made by BJP MLA Sadhana Singh on BSP supreme Mayawati and will be sending a notice to Sadhana Singh tomorrow," NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma said.

Reports said Singh had slammed Mayawati for forging an alliance with Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh, saying the BSP chief had "sold her dignity" for power and comfort and "is a blot on woman-kind" and cannot say if she can be counted among men or women, she is worse than a transgender person.

Condemning her remarks, Union minister and Repub-

lican Party of India president Ramdas Athawale told a presser in Lucknow on Sunday that such personal comments should not be made.

BSP leader S C Misra said on Twitter BJP leaders have "lost their mental balance after the BSP-SP tie-up" which, he said, threatened to rock the ruling party's boat. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav also denounced the BJP MLA for using derogatory remarks against Mayawati. Reacting to the remarks, Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi said the words used by the BJP MLA were "absolutely condemnable" and shameful. "I believe she owes the women of the nation an apology besides apologising to Mayawati Ji," she said.

Over 28k MoUs signed this year in Vibrant Gujarat Summit: Rupani

PTI
GANDHINAGAR, 20 JANUARY

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani Sunday said 28,360 Memorandums of Understanding were signed during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 and it was expected to generate over 21 lakh jobs.

Rupani, however, did not specify the amount of investment that would come into the state by way of these MoUs.

Speaking at the concluding session of the ninth edition of the three-day Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019, Rupani said the event had seen the realisation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision as "several big ticket investments (were) placed and committed, which will bring in jobs."

"Gujarat has become the gateway to the world and it has become an ideal platform for everyone. The summit has also become a platform for social upliftment rather than only for business and trade," he said.

"A total of 28,360 MoUs were signed which will bring in over 21 lakh employment to the state," Rupani said.

He said Gujarat has become a preferred investment destination after 2003 when Narendra Modi as the state CM decided to organise the Vibrant Gujarat Summit every two years. "Not many business houses participated in the first summit in 2003. The PM's vision has been fully realised in this 9th summit. This event has also become an ideal platform for knowledge sharing and net-

working," Rupani said in his address. He claimed the summit gave MSMEs a platform to be globally competitive.

Gujarat Deputy CM Nitin Patel, addressing the media later, said out of total 28,360 MoUs signed, maximum number of 21,889 were connected to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

He informed that 408 MoUs were signed in agro and food processing, 548 in power and gas, 1,516 in urban development, 977 in mineral based projects, 197 in engineering and auto and the remaining in other sectors.

Patel also said these MoUs would generate 21 lakh jobs in Gujarat but refused to reveal the quantum of investment they would attract.

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

O.A.NO.638/2018
UCO BANK Applicant
Versus
DEV JUNEJA & ORS. Defendants

To,
1. DEV JUNEJA, S/o. Subhash Juneja, R/o. H. No. 949, Sector-31, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.
2. MRS. NEHA JUNEJA, W/o. Dev Juneja, R/o. H.No.949, Sec.-31, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.
3. M/s. Shubhkarma Buildtech Pvt. Ltd. [Through Its Director] Having its Office at: Maharaja Agrasen Marg, Sector-2, P Block, Pocket-1, Sector-18, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs.66,34,990/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 01.03.2019 at 10:30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 09th Day of January, 2019.

By Order of this Tribunal For Registrar

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

O.A.NO.676/2018
UCO BANK Applicant
Versus
Purushottam Kumar & Ors. Defendants

To,
1. Purushottam Kumar, S/o. Brij Bilas Yadav, Ph. 9210277418
2. Mrs. Anupama Kumari, D/o. Dayanand Singh, Both are Residents of HR-88, 3rd Floor, Gali No.5, Pulprahladpur, Delhi-110044.
3. M/s. Bulland Buildtech Pvt. Ltd. [Through Its Directors] having its Office at: A-22nd Floor, Devil Road, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs.47,20,199/- (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Twenty Thousand One Hundred Ninety Nine Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 01.03.2019 at 10:30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 03rd Day of January, 2019.

By Order of this Tribunal For Registrar

The Statesman

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Mudra to NPA

The rather credible leaks from the finance ministry suggesting that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has red-flagged the sharp increase in non-performing assets (NPAs) under the government's flagship scheme to support micro enterprises in the country - the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) - is more than a little worrisome. India's micro units, in particular, have a critical role to play in keeping the country going, employing millions and literally providing the backbone to what is the world's sixth-largest economy (nominal GDP). The Mudra (Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency) loans were supposed to finance non-corporate, non-farm sector income generating activities of micro and small enterprises with credit needs under Rs 10 lakh. However, the suspected delinquency - another report by Cibil and Sidbi says that risky loans worth Rs1.2 lakh crore to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in the system could potentially create NPAs of Rs 16,000 crore by March 2019 - puts paid to hopes of a vibrant MSME space through Mudra. Yet, it is essential that this sector does well and moves up the value chain through technological sophistication and productivity growth and Mudra, which came with a credit guarantee fund trust that makes collateral-free credit to micro and small enterprises, was a part of a scheme to enhance credit flows to them under the supervision of competent bankers. That over a three-year period the scheme has returned as a threat - the RBI reportedly assesses bad loans under PMMY at Rs 11,000 crore - bears testimony to how such schemes are planned and executed. There is little doubt that the seeds of failure were contained either in the scheme or the political motivation behind it, because sound economic motivation would not have driven mission Mudra to such dire straits so quickly.

The basic problem may have been an over-reach to achieve pre-set targets within a limited span of time, forgetting that sound banking should have demanded that the sanctioning officers be allowed to do their job in terms of assessing needs and the ability of enterprises to repay after having put the loans to productive use. It would be wrong to accuse banks of not having used their commercial judgment when they were to be judged on a target achievement criterion. Indeed, overall NPAs from the MSME sector were 14 per cent for public sector banks against four per cent for private sector banks in 2018, indicating poor governance issues. Statements in Parliament suggest a very fast pace of increase in Mudra loans, which precludes careful financial assessments in circumstances obtaining in India that would have led to a reality check on the markets that these enterprises were addressing. It is no secret that there has been an economic deceleration in India, driven by a frail rural economy leading to headwinds in the macroeconomic environment that they would face. This would have merited great caution instead of disbursing credit in a loan mela kind of environment unless that was the real intent.

Especially Odisha

Having ruled out joining a pre-election alliance - either with the BJP or with the amorphous Opposition - Odisha's Chief Minister, Mr Naveen Patnaik, has yet again flagged the demand for according special category status to the state. From LK Advani, then the Deputy Prime Minister, to Narendra Modi, the demand has been turned down consistently. It was even turned down when the Biju Janata Dal was a partner of the NDA coalition, helmed by Atal Behari Vajpayee. So too has Niti Aayog, obviously assuming that other states might raise similar demands. Mr Patnaik has lobbied the ball again to Centre court, so to speak. The timing is critical - on the eve of the elections to both the Lok Sabha and the Odisha Assembly. The Chief Minister has in effect raised a profoundly local issue, one that has a bearing on the state's geo-climatic conditions. Hence the emphasis on the state's vulnerability to natural calamities in the letter that Mr Patnaik sent to Mr Modi on Friday. He is spot on when he claims that the BJP has reneged on its promise that was made in the 2014 election manifesto. Odisha is vulnerable to occasionally devastating geo-climatic conditions, notably the "super cyclone" in December 1999, not to forget the multiple and recurrent natural disasters. It has been an awesome distinction for Odisha, battered as it has been by 35 per cent of all the severe cyclonic storms that have crossed the eastern coast. The Chief Minister has alerted the Prime Minister that more than 80 per cent of the geographical area and nearly 90 per cent of population are vulnerable to one or more disasters. Given the current trend of the climatic change, the coastal areas are likely to be more vulnerable to extreme climatic events and severe cyclonic disturbances. There is little doubt that Mr Patnaik's letter is embedded in undisputed geographical reality, and it will be unfortunate if the renewed pitch is accorded a federal spin. Yet a firm decision cannot be expected before the state goes to the polls. Not that the Centre hasn't advanced assistance in the wake of floods and drought. But the funding has been generally inadequate. Mr Patnaik has clearly utilised the opportunity to underline Odisha's contribution to the economic health of the nation - natural resources such as iron ore and minerals, coal and energy security, tele-density, rail and road connectivity, and the banking network. Over the past six years, the Gross State Domestic Product of Odisha has registered a 50 per cent increase. The Chief Minister has clothed his demand for special category status with gains in the economic segment, despite the odds. He does have a point. So too has the Centre as it is a pregnant issue. Delhi must reflect; so too must Bhubaneswar.

Withering Heights

Development and production of films, pharmaceuticals, seeds, chemicals, textiles, beverages etc. are not activities mandated for a state in a liberalised economy. No wonder these companies have not served any useful purpose, and most have accumulated huge losses



Jawaharlal Nehru hailed the public sector undertakings (PSU) as "Temples of modern India" and wanted them to seize the "commanding heights of the Indian economy", a phrase that was coined in 1922 by Vladimir Lenin. Later, Yevgeni Preobrazhensky, a Russian revolutionary economist who championed rapid industrialisation of peasant-dominated Russia through state-owned heavy industries, fervently advocated complete state control over the "commanding heights of the economy" to promote "primitive socialist accumulation". He was executed during Stalin's Great Purge in 1937, but the idea continued to inspire the leaders of the newly-independent third world nations, which inherited poverty, deindustrialisation and an undeveloped agrarian economy from their colonial masters. To Nehru, the only way to overcome the endemic poverty and food crisis in post-independence India was through overwhelming State control over the means of production and distribution in the Soviet style, to serve broad macro-economic objectives of achieving higher economic growth, self-sufficiency in production, import substitution and long-term equilibrium in foreign trade, besides meeting other socio-economic obligations.

It cannot be denied that PSUs had indeed helped the independent nation in its formative years. Save a handful of companies, the private sector, inherently averse to risk, was almost non-existent then, and could not be expected to invest in infrastructure and heavy industries that entailed long gestation periods, more so in an insular economy in the post-independence days. PSUs have grown luxuriantly since then, from only five Central PSUs (CPSUs) with total investment of Rs 29 crore during the First Plan, to as many as 444 in 2016-17, with total investment of Rs 16 lakh crore. There are also 192 companies controlled by the Government indirectly, in association with state governments. But the philosophy behind them has undergone a sea-change since then, with a redefinition of the State's role as a catalyst and facilitator rather than a producer. Today most of our PSUs, especially those owned by the state governments, remain haplessly trapped in the vast no-man's land between the state and market.

As regards performance, 212 of the 444 CPSUs earned a net profit of Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2016-17, while 157 incurred net losses of Rs 30,700 crore. SAIL (loss of 3187 crore) and MTNL (Rs 2941 crore) led the pack of loss-making entities. No less than 188 CPSUs have accumulated losses exceeding Rs 1.23 lakh crore over the years, and the net worth of 77 companies has completely been eroded by their

accumulated losses. The Government earned Rs 46,000 crore from selling a part of its stakes in 25 CPSUs during 2016-17. Forty-six CPSUs are listed in the stock exchange. Of the seven Indian companies that made it to the coveted Fortune 500 list in 2018, four were PSUs: Oil India (ranked 137), ONGC (197), SBI (216) and Bharat Petroleum (314), the others being Reliance Industries, Tata Motors and Rajesh Exports. As many as 57 CPSUs were either defunct or under liquidation or did not prepare their accounts, so their operational results remained indeterminate. During 2016-17, CPSUs contributed Rs 3.86 lakh crore to the public exchequer in taxes, cess and dividends, earned forex worth Rs 87,616 crore through exports while paying Rs 4.59 lakh crore on imports on royalty, technical knowhow, interest, etc. They provided regular employment to 11.31 lakh people.

If that is a mixed bag of performance for the CPSUs, the performance of the State PSUs (SPSUs) is indeed dismal. As of March 2017, there were 1136 SPSUs, with total public investment of Rs 14.6 lakh crore, with 78 per cent of investment only in power sector companies alone. SPSUs collectively incurred net loss of Rs 84,000 crore during 2016-17, while 531 of them earned total net profit of Rs 18,000 crore. The accumulated losses of these SPSUs amounted to a whopping Rs 4.65 lakh crore over the years, from Rs 11000 crore in 1990-91. No fewer than 117 of them paid a total dividend of Rs 117 crore, at an average of only Rs 9.3 lakh during 2016-17. There are 292 SPSUs with negative net worth, besides 319 non-working SPSUs, many remaining dysfunctional for more than a quarter century. SPSUs employed 17.3 lakh people in 2016-17.

Power and transport sectors have always been sick, the former being forced to absorb the losses due to government largesse to farmers and others, besides their own inefficiency. Their finances have not improved even after their unbundling into separate generation, transmission and distribution companies (DISCOMs) and despite the Government taking over 75 per cent of the DISCOMs' loans through the UDAY scheme. The transport sector is sick due to heavy overheads, uneconomical pricing and widespread inefficiency.

The scenario turns really bizarre when one examines the activities. Many of the SPSUs have been created by defying all logic and making them permanent losing concerns. A large number of SPSUs were established in the so-called promo-

tional and welfare sectors, e.g. UP has 103 SPSUs (38 being non-functional) which includes: Finance and Development Corporation for Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes, Development Corporation for almost everything from fisheries, poultry, piggery, livestock, sugarcane and seed to police housing and small industries, welfare corporations for women and ex-Servicemen, etc. Bihar's 74 PSUs (40 non-functional) also include corporations for film development and finance, panchayati raj finance, medical services and infrastructure, development of fruit and vegetables, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, beverages, textiles etc. Kerala's 130 PSUs (15 dysfunctional) includes development corporations for the welfare of almost every conceivable segment of the populace - Christian converts from Scheduled Castes and Recommended Communities, school teachers, non-teaching staff, handicapped persons, artisans, Women, backward classes, minorities, Scheduled Tribes, and even Forward Communities.

It reminds one of Ronald Reagan's remark, comparing the government with "a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other".

Needless to say, no state has the necessary expertise or resources to manage these ethereal range of activities. Poultry, pig-gery, fishery etc. are better left to individual entrepreneurs or firms that know how to make these profitable. Financial and welfare needs of specific sectors can be addressed much more efficiently by banks and financial institutions. There are government ministries and departments to take care of the welfare of backward classes and minorities. The Welfare SPSUs only provide loans to members of various communities which are refinanced or reimbursed by the Government; this can easily be done through the existing banking networks or government subsidy schemes. Development and production of films, pharmaceuticals, seeds, chemicals, textiles, beverages etc. are not activities mandated for a state in a liberalised economy. No wonder these companies have not served any useful purpose, and most have accumulated huge losses. Actually these corporations exist only to provide parking places for senior bureaucrats or MLAs and powerful politicians as Chairman and Managing Directors so that state largesse can be extended to them through cars, perks and privileges which add to the losses at the cost of the taxpayers.

These is the apparatus of appeasement of potential trouble makers.

Section 270 of the Companies Act 2013 prescribes two modes of winding up of a company and its liquidation: voluntarily, by passing a special resolution which is simpler but used rarely, or by a tribunal through the appointment of an official liquidator who will liquidate its assets to pay off the liabilities. Many of the SPSUs have never prepared their accounts since inception for 30-50 years, so it is impossible to determine their assets and liabilities, without which it is virtually impossible to liquidate them through tribunals. Liquidation proceedings have been initiated against 124 non-working SPSUs leading nowhere, with proceedings against many companies continuing for over 30 years. Obviously, for Governments, this is not a priority.

A total of 1136 PSUs is a huge number for 29 states to manage. For revitalising them, it is imperative first to identify the sectors the government must withdraw from, and then revamp the structure and management of the remaining ones. The essential prerequisite is to depoliticise them, professionalise their management by appointing experienced managers rather than politicians or bureaucrats in their boards and changing their holding structure. Wherever feasible and where synergies exist, Central PSUs may be persuaded to manage the SPSUs which otherwise are likely to remain unviable. Many countries have insulated their ailing PSUs from politicians and bureaucrats, like Sweden and Thailand. They have created a Directors' Pool from where all Board members including CMDs are appointed. The holding structure of PSUs also needs to be reworked, and there are judicious practices available, like Singapore's Temasek Model. Post-independence in 1965, Singapore had pursued economic growth by taking stakes in many companies. A decade later, in 1974, it incorporated the holding company Temasek to manage their assets commercially. Some PSUs were corporatised and expanded, while others were privatised. Many of these grew and became global brands. Malaysia had created a watchdog body, Minority Shareholders Watching Group - a think-tank without politicians to monitor breaches and to ensure better corporate governance.

Unfortunately in the narrow vision of our leaders, political expediency gets the better of genuine institutional reforms, and PSUs are unnecessarily dragged into politics like HAL in recent times, rather than depoliticizing them. SPSUs, if not reformed, shall wither away; for the economy, the impact will be anything but anodyne.



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

The writer is a commentator. Opinions expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Teachers enticing the taught

SIR, Bivash Chakraborty in his article, 'Classroom, not tuition, must meet the needs of education' (13 January) has blamed teachers for private tuition and has thus overlooked the cardinal issues. Why do guardians send their wards to teachers for private tuition? The racket will end if parents do not encourage them to go to private tutors. Do the teachers entice the taught to come to them? It is an age of cut-throat competition and every guardian is well aware that to survive in the competition, it is essential to score high marks in exams.



Merely attending school classes is not enough. Hence the need for private coaching. In government-run schools, the classrooms are overflowing. It is virtually impossible to provide individual attention. The pupils

have no option but to go to private tutors. Many students are first-generation learners who find nobody at home to help them clear doubts. Before totally doing away with private tuition, the government

needs to reflect.

Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal, Siliguri, 13 January.

FLOUTING THE BAN

SIR, This refers to Bivash Chakraborty's article, elucidating different aspects of private tuition. In fact, in the absence of any punitive measures, school teachers engaged in private tuition are flouting the Government's ban on the practice. Unlike in the past, teachers are suitably paid nowadays; yet many of them feel tempted to earn more. They are more interested in earning - with or without paying income-tax - than honestly engaging in a noble profession. They are not serious

A HOUSE, A NOVEL, AND A SONG

SIR, Apropos the news item about the composition of our national song, *Vandemataram* (12 January), Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote the novel *Anandamath* while he was posted as the Deputy Collector of Hooghly at Chinsurah. He stayed in Chinsurah for nearly five years and wrote several novels. The house where he lived was named as "Vandemataram Bhavan". The building presently is under the jurisdiction of Hooghly Chinsurah Municipality. It is a historical fact that Bankim Chandra composed *Vandemataram* in this house. This building ought to be preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Yours, etc., Kallol Debnath, Hooghly, 13 January.

enough to teach in the classrooms. Intensive lectures in the class will militate against the need for private tuition. It boils down to a question of teachers' morality and accountability to society.

They should change their attitude to ensure a healthy environment in educational institutions.

Yours, etc., Gautam Kumar Mazumder, Basirhat, 18 January.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Moon shouldn't use court ruling to evade commitment with Japan

It should be impermissible to use a domestic judicial judgment to evade obligations based on a state-to-state agreement. South Korean President Moon Jae-in seems to be relinquishing his responsibility to stabilize diplomacy with Japan. In reference to his country's Supreme Court ruling that ordered Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. to pay compensation to its South Korean former wartime requisitioned workers, Moon told a news conference that his government "must respect the ruling based on the separation of the three powers." Expressing a view that Japanese leaders should understand this point, Moon criticized their stance, saying that it is "not a wise attitude to politicize the issue." He stopped short of presenting concrete measures to resolve the issue, only asserting that Japan and South Korea "should exercise wisdom together." His attitude of treating the issue as someone else's problem is unconvincing.

The problem is that he emphasized that the requisitioned labor issue "was not of the South Korean government's making" and called for Japan to "take a humble stance toward the past unfortunate history." Surmounting their differing perspectives on Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, Japan and South Korea normalized their bilateral relationship by concluding the Basic Relations Treaty in 1965. Under an agreement on property and claims and on economic cooperation reached at the same time, the two countries confirmed that problems in regard to claims between the two countries had been "completely

The Japan News

and finally settled." Previous South Korean administrations acknowledged that the claims by former requisitioned workers were included in the agreement. South Korea's top court ignored that background and ruled that the requisitioned labor issue had remained unresolved, thus bringing about political turmoil. It can be said that the problem has plunged into a more serious situation because the past efforts accumulated by the two countries have been disregarded under the Moon administration. Despite Japan's calls for Seoul to take measures to prevent Japanese firms from suffering disadvantages, Seoul has not taken any steps since the ruling was handed down. The property of Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. has been seized. The agreement on claims stipulates that if a conflict arises over such matters as interpretation of the agreement, a solution will be sought through bilateral diplomatic negotiations. Tokyo had every reason to propose holding bilateral consultative talks based on the agreement. If the issue is left unresolved, it is certain that orders for Japanese firms to pay compensation and seizure of their assets will happen in succession in similar lawsuits. Seoul must present measures to get things straight in bilateral talks. Unless the Korean side complies with Japan's request for consultative talks, Tokyo will have no alternative but to call for the establishment of an arbitration panel or look into the possibility of filing a case with the International Court of Justice.

IN MEMORIAM

DEB BISWAS AMITA — On this day in 2018 you have left us for your Heavenly Abode. You are always in our hearts. We remember you every moment. — Bereaved husband, brother, all nephews and nieces, A. R. Deb Biswas.

(BPL2024)

Chronicles we mustn't forget



SAGARI CHHABRA

Emergency Chronicles' is an amazing book that documents the darkest chapter of independent India's history. But first gentle reader, allow me a personal interlude. At midnight on 25 June 1975, I was a high school student and ordinarily it should not have made such a deep impact on my psyche but for two incidents that remain etched in my mind.

My father, Viren Chhabra of 'The Statesman' was having dinner with Kuldip Nayar and his wife, Bharti at their home. They discussed the state of affairs in the country. When he was leaving my father told me, "I saw a policeman pretending to read a newspaper in the dark, he also noted down my car number. I called the next morning to warn them that Kuldip might be arrested. Bharti said, 'Viren, after you left, they came.'"

Later, the police came for my father at his office at 'The Statesman'. He was then responsible for printing the newspaper and director of their publishing house, Nachiketa Publications. He told me, "It was late in the evening when a policeman entered my office; he had a warrant for my arrest. I thought fast knowing that there was no bail during the Emergency. I started showing him the body of work I had printed and published. One of them was a book by staff photographer, Raghu Rai. The policeman left with the book and without me."

Thousands of journalists, trade unionists, teachers and activists were

not so lucky and were incarcerated; the Emergency left a deep impression on my mind and so I devoured 'Emergency Chronicles' by Gyan Prakash, a professor of history at Princeton University.

The book opens with the daylight abduction of a young student, Prabir Purkayastha from Jawaharlal Nehru University and reveals that even though it was a case of mistaken identity - the police was looking for a slim, bespectacled, Devi Prasad Tripathi - he was taken away without so much as a warrant of arrest. While Prabir and his fiancée, Ashoka Lata Jain, the SFI student leader had earlier filed for a civil marriage registration at the court of the ADM, Pradipto Ghosh, he issued a warrant against Prabir as he explained later 'the practise was not to issue detention orders on the basis of subjective satisfaction of a Magistrate, but to issue them on the directions of our superior officers.'

Indeed, in exposing this servile attitude lies the intrinsic value of the book, for it explores through interviews and documents how the Emergency while promulgated by the diktat of Indira Gandhi - who did not exactly share her father, Jawaharlal Nehru's deep faith in the values enshrined in the Constitution - had historical roots and records how we conduct ourselves.

The Emergency also raises the point that unless we work to maintain norms and the roots of democracy, we are in peril. The book has deep implications for the future for as the Shah Commission later revealed,

both sins of commission and of omission were committed, leading to the decline of institutions that continues today.

Gyan Prakash painstakingly reveals that the Emergency and the unbalancing of the Constitutional equilibrium was some time in the making. He describes the rage on the streets and anger at the lack of jobs for youth as something palpable. There are revelations of Jayaprakash Narayan's emergence as a socialist in America and his correspondence with 'Indu' - Indira, for whom he claimed affection. He clearly states he has differences with her domestic policy which he didn't have with 'Bhai' - Nehru.

However, we do not get to understand what went into Indira Gandhi's head and her own motivations, as her papers remain closely guarded by her descendants and are closed to the public. This is strange because private papers of a PM must be available to researchers after so many years to make sense of events. Nevertheless, Prakash searches on with a torchlight into independent India's darkest hour.

There are amazing vignettes. President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed informs his secretary that R.K. Dhawan had come over with a draft Emergency proclamation, which he had signed. Then 'the President had a tranquiliser and promptly went to bed'. If only it had been so easy for the people of India, who lost their sleep with their freedom. But the legalese shows a 'meticulous suspen-

sion of the law by the law', which makes us wonder why we in free India are so adept in obeying the law while flouting its very spirit.

Then the book proceeds to Sanjay Gandhi who is portrayed as a troubled youngster unable to pass his high school exams and when his Prime Ministerial mother sets him up to train at the Rolls Royce institute, he is unable to complete the course there leaving him free to chariot the course of free India.

The Emergency with its 'nasbandi' - forced sterilisations and the glamorous Rukhshana Sultan who presided over this (I remember she came to my high school as a chief guest and urged us innocent young students, to come and see the wonderful family planning work in the Walled City) - all this is documented with a historian's precision.

Prakash also documents the work of artists - photographer Raghubir Singh's book, 'A Way Into India' and documentary filmmaker Sastry's 'I am 20' along with Rahi Masoom Raza's novel on the Emergency. Photographs of the Ambassador car, Sanjay Gandhi and Rukhshana document the era. There is a touching account of Pramila and Madhu Dandavate - Pramila whom I happen to have had the privilege of knowing and who in the 1990s took up the Peoples' Union of Democratic Rights (PUDR) report on custodial rape and got two policemen dismissed - and how they fell on poetry to survive in the prison cell.

However, what I miss is a more detailed account of the control over

media. 'The Statesman' and 'The Indian Express' carried blank editorials. Kuldip Nayar, Sumanta Banerjee, Barun Sengupta and several other journalists were arrested; we would have benefitted from their published accounts. Daily censorship orders were conveyed on the telephone and after the initial rounds of arrest, most newspapers submitted to the censorship of the chief censor, H J D'Penha. However, there was a lot more - control of newsprint and the stoppage of advertisements and so much else that in overt and covert ways still puts immense pressure on the media.

What remains unanswered is why we never learn. Many of the people who were jailed during the Emergency and protested against the suspension of civil liberties and freedom of the press are in power today. The country is now facing an undeclared state of emergency with students being arrested under false charges of sedition - a law that was unleashed by the British - 77 mob lynchings in the name of the cow; the pressure on the media - which is in danger of fast losing its independence - along with the killing of rationalists Kalburgi, Dabholkar, Pansare and the journalist Gauri Lankesh.

The Emergency is an era of darkness that we must learn from, for we face the danger of repeating history.

Let us remember so we never forget.

The writer is an award-winning author and film-director. Her latest book, 'In Search of Freedom' was awarded the National Laadli Media award.

100 YEARS AGO

MINE DANGER AT SEA

Although the coming of peace will relieve the seas from the danger of U-boats, another lingering danger, says the Times, will remain for mariners. We have in home waters today thousands of mines, and until these have been cleared away all ships will have to be handled with due care. The cleaning up of the seas will probably occupy a considerable period. The present large force of mine-sweepers must be retained for this work, and the number of trawlers and drifters available for fishing will be affected accordingly. Some minefields lie over the best fishing grounds. However, the Admiralty are in close touch with the fishing authorities, and fishermen receive the necessary instructions, while fishing vessels employed as mine-sweepers will be released at the earliest possible moment. The menace to merchant shipping will be greatly lessened if masters are careful to follow out Admiralty instructions as to routes to be followed. There is also the danger of mines being washed ashore and handled by careless people. An instance of this happened during the war on the west coast of Ireland, when several inquisitive persons were blown to pieces through tampering with a stranded mine.

THE FIRE ON THE 'TENASSERIM'

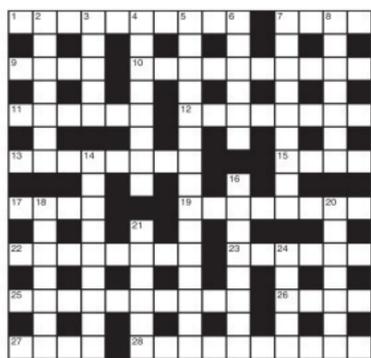
Further details concerning the disastrous fire which broke out on the steamer Tenasserim, of the Patrick Henderson line of steamers, is to the effect that smoke was seen coming out of the stokehold at 5-55 A.M. on the morning of Thursday, while the vessel was lying at Hastings prior to departure for Europe. Great efforts were made by the authorities connected with the vessel, who eventually succeeded at great risk in disposing of all the ammunition on board. Further efforts were made towards keeping the vessel buoyant by not allowing her cargo to give a list on either side, and these also succeeded. Towards Sunday morning, as the result of flooding, the flames which had raged fiercely the previous night died down. Since then they have been burning less and less fiercely. From the aft engine room bulwark the aft deck is intact, but forward the ship is gutted.

BERLIN CONGRESS ON SOVIETS

The Berlin Congress of Soviets has passed a resolution in favour of the disarmament of counter-revolutionaries, the abolition of all orders and badges of honour and nobility, and recommending the appointment of officers by soldiers. This and other decisions of the congress show that the Bolshevik element is stronger than the Berlin Government despatches have hitherto indicated, but the whole proceedings of the congress are apparently chaotic, largely consisting of acrimonious wrangling. Nevertheless it is believed that the excellent organisation of Scheidemann Socialists will secure the passage of the proposal for a National Assembly.

CROSSWORD

NO 27477



ACROSS

- Clever device, note, in Tom Sharpe novel (10)
- Figure on coin (fifty pence piece) (4)
- Circle Line, accordingly, goes around city (4)
- Church official's mischievous, having area coned off outside (10)
- Brief film entertains wife (6)
- Name of bird I refuse to eat (8)
- Forged ahead, mostly, with barn dance (8)
- Slight charge for refreshments - not bad (4)
- In Fall, one dislocated thumb (4)
- Superman's motive, it's said, is philanthropy (8)
- Volley first struck shoulder (8)
- Worry about test for supporting metal framework (6)
- German veterans assembled around old memorial (10)
- Call round for set (4)
- Notice jam stain (4)
- In here, might model meet biggest fan? (4,6)
- Mum's car key could be found in handbag, perhaps (7)
- Large anchor pulled up onto prow of yacht (5)
- Colour match in ink container (3,5)
- Cryptic clue in one newspaper's leader: 'a boom with extremely low frequency' (4,2,1,4,4)
- Journalist quits current affairs? (6)
- Short circuit on board is easily managed (9)
- University official gets a month inside for extortion, essentially (7)
- A fellow, if climbing crane, supplies legal document (9)
- Scrap paper surrounds Steptoe and Son? (8)
- An act of self-importance, say, to put up rent (3,4)
- Yes, six volts is maintained - it's live (7)
- Talk about soldier going north then south in cutter (6)
- Broadcast only new material (5)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

IT CAME TO MIND

Friends stay friends

MANISH NANDY

Seven minutes from where I lived in Haiti, there was a bakery called Boulangerie Christophe in a charming two-story house in Pétionville.

It wasn't a very old house, yet it had an old-world charm. It displayed a large open front on the ground floor, leading to an extended hall, created possibly by joining two or three rooms. That served as the main room of the bakery, with a few tables and chairs on one side where customers could sit, and the sales counter on the other side with a display of the products. There was an extended room at the back where the baking was done and a smaller room on the side where both the raw materials and some additional products were stored.

I got to see all those rooms only because the proprietor, Yolette Carvonis, took me around and explained how a bakery functioned. I had started my life in a tire factory and my inclination was to see it as a manufacturing process. As she described how it all worked, I created a work flow chart in my mind. As she waxed passionate and spoke of the care she took to get the right ingredients, even in the disturbed situation in the country, I began to see something more.

More than the science, there was an art to the business of baking. You have to love what you are doing. You have to believe that quality matters. It did not matter that only a small number of people in a poor country could

afford to buy your products. What mattered was how they enjoyed what you made. What mattered even more how much you enjoyed making them. Yolette loved making her bread, cakes, pastries and assorted cookies. She showed me her designs and the French design books from which she took her inspiration. She thought of herself as an artist and I agreed with her. Nobody in his right mind would think of her as anything else.

It took me a while to strike friendship with her. I thought of a bakery as a place where you bought a few things and got out quickly. Yolette's husband, Michel, changed that. The third Sunday I visited Boulangerie Christophe, he appraised me with a curious eye as he packed my purchases.

"You were here last Sunday?" he asked with a smile.

"And the Sunday before that," I replied.

It was an early hour and there wasn't a crowd yet. He finished packing and said, "Why don't we have some coffee?"

We repaired to a corner table and he graciously pulled out a chair for me.

"You are new to Haiti?"

"Is it that obvious?" I laughed and said, "I just came a month back. I am still finding my feet. A friend recommended your bakery."

"I am glad to hear that."

"He said that all our Embassy colleagues buy from you. I asked because my daughter's birthday is next month, and

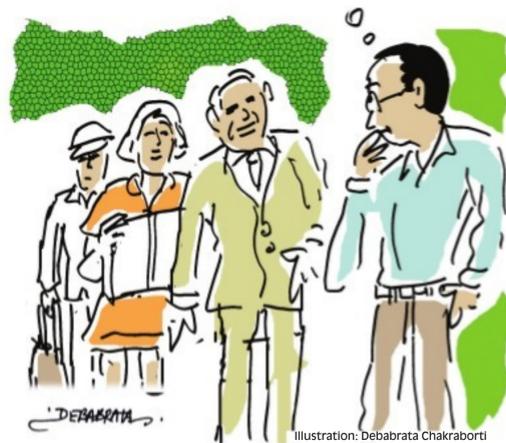


Illustration: Debabrata Chakraborti

"I will need a birthday cake."

"We will be glad to make it for you. Just tell us what kind of cake she would like and what words you would like on the cake."

"I will talk to her and get those to you in time. Your coffee is excellent, I must say."

"In Haiti, we roast the coffee beans in a very special way. I am happy that you like it," Michel said, and ordered another round of coffee for us.

Then he said, "As you are new here, let me say this. You will find that people react to Haiti in two ways. Either they loathe it and loathe it greatly. Or they love it and love it a lot. There seems to be no middle ground."

I told him that I had read something similar in Herbert Gold's book about the country.

"I have been in Haiti barely a month, but I seem to like it. It has a fascinating history and the people are warm. I expect to like it more and more."

He introduced me to his wife, Yolette, and mentioned my birthday cake. I thanked them both and left.

A trip to Boulangerie Christophe became a routine every Sunday morning. I invariably returned with a large box of croissants au beurre and croissants aux amandes, my favorites, and other delicacies for the children or our guests. With each trip our friendship grew and I came to know, not only the Carvonis couple, but most of their family members little by little.

Yolette's brother was a general in the Haitian army and a

member of the junta then ruling the country, after a coup d'état to dislodge the democratically elected President. Also, the Carvonis were related by marriage to a major business family that had financed the coup. They too came to know quickly that I was in the country to negotiate the end of the junta's rule and the return of the President to power. Doubtless the Carvonis had misgivings about my mission, but our friendship endured and flourished. Together we explored the best restaurants of Port au Prince and went to dance the meringue in the lively nightclubs of Pétionville.

Eight months later, after negotiations had failed and US marines had taken over the country, the President was returned to power and the military junta went back to the barracks. My mission had ended, and I was to return to Washington. The last Sunday I did not visit the bakery, for I had to supervise the packing of household goods.

To my surprise Michel and Yolette turned up with a large box of croissants aux amandes. They knew just what I loved with my coffee. When they were leaving, I came out to see them off and their chauffeur brought out two huge cartons of Haitian specially-roasted coffee. The Carvonis didn't want me to miss my cherished flavor even in Washington.

The writer is a Washington-based international development advisor and had worked with the World Bank. He can be reached at mnandy@gmail.com



People want a mazboot government like the Modi government, which is eliminating corruption and not sparing those involved in corruption

UNION MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

TAKING A DIG AT THE OPPOSITION RALLY ORGANISED BY TMC CHIEF MAMATA BANERJEE IN KOLKATA

THUMBNAILS



Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Sunday. AFP

BJP MLA quits party in AP: The BJP suffered a setback in Andhra Pradesh Sunday as one of its four MLAs resigned from his Assembly membership and the party. Akula Satyanarayana, MLA from Rajamahendravaram (Urban) constituency said he sent in his resignation letter to Assembly Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao. PTI

Goa mining: Modi Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Centre will look at "judicial solutions" for Goa's mining sector which has come to a standstill since March last year after the Supreme Court quashed mining leases and banned iron ore extraction. PTI

Two held for sodomising minor boy: Two people who allegedly sexually assaulted an 11-year-old boy in Chandrayangutta are in Hyderabad were arrested, police said Sunday. On January 16 night, when the boy was playing near his house, the two aged 22 and 19, took the boy near the railway station, and had unnatural sex with him, they said. PTI

Man mauled to death by lions at zoo: A man was mauled to death by lions on Sunday at Chhatbir Zoo in Zirakpur, around 20 km from Chandigarh. According to zoo officials, the man entered the enclosure by scaling an over-25-foot wall and as soon as he crossed over, he was attacked by two lions. Officials suspect the man was drunk. PTI

Modi's projection in Delhi will not work for BJP in LS polls: Dikshit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Three-time chief minister and newly appointed Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit Sunday said BJP's plan to build its election campaign around Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital will not work at all unlike 2014, as he has not done "anything" for the city in the last four-and-a-half years and people will vent their anger in the upcoming polls.

She said that Congress was fast regaining its lost ground in the national capital, and ruled out any possibility of an electoral understanding with the AAP for the Lok Sabha polls, calling the party as "very unreliable".

In an interview to PTI, she also said respect for party chief Rahul Gandhi among leaders and workers in the Congress increased significantly after the Congress' electoral victories in politically crucial states of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

"The Congress people now have lot of respect for Rahul Gandhi. We found in him a leader who is responsive and is also taking by and large correct decisions. So we are very confident of performing well in the coming Lok Sabha election. Congress will do much better," she said.

The 80-year old Congress veteran did not give a direct reply when asked whether the party will storm back to power but asserted that people of India will teach BJP a lesson for its wrongdoings. "I will not be able to say at this point whether Congress will be able to come to power. No body expected us

'Cong is best equipped to lead alliance against BJP'

Tejashwi says Grand old party needs to handle its leadership with 'large-heartedness'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

The Congress is "best equipped" to lead the Opposition's charge against the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said on Sunday, asserting that the grand old party will have to handle its leadership role with "large-heartedness" and accommodate regional parties.

Yadav also hailed the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance in Uttar Pradesh and emphasised that his "courtesy call" meetings with Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati post the tie-up should not be construed as a "pressure tactic" aimed at the Congress.

In an exclusive interview, the Rashtriya Janata Dal leader said since Congress is India's oldest and currently the second-biggest political party having a pan-India presence, it is in a very strong position to win maximum number of seats

I don't find anything wrong if the Congress plays a pivotal role in forming the alliance or taking the leadership role of the alliance into the elections. But having said that, they have to accept that each state has different ground realities

TEJASHWI YADAV
RJD LEADER

among the opposition parties.

In 2014 Lok Sabha polls, among the prospective opposition grand alliance parties, the Congress had won 44 seats, the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress won 34, the Samajwadi Party won five, while the RJD had bagged four seats.

"I don't find anything wrong if the Congress plays a pivotal role in forming the alliance or taking the leadership role of the alliance into the elections. But having said that, they have to

accept that each state has different ground realities," Yadav said.

The Congress, being the party with national acceptance and maximum footprint in the opposition, is "undoubtedly best equipped" to lead the opposition's charge against the Bharatiya Janata Party or the National Democratic Alliance, the former Bihar deputy chief minister asserted. "However, the Congress will have to handle their leadership role with large-heartedness and play a proactive role by accommodating regional parties with their agenda.

"In states where Congress don't have a robust base, it must allow regional outfits to occupy the front-line position against the BJP," Yadav said, emphasising that regional parties have a greater ability to transfer votes.

The concentration is on winnability, hence the coalition must be decided state-wise and seat wise, said the 29-

year-old son of former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad.

Every party will have to compromise or lend space to other parties depending on the situation in a particular state for forming a winning alliance, Yadav said while replying to a question on whether the Congress has to be more giving to regional parties to strengthen the opposition coalition.

Asked if leaving out the Congress from the SP-BSP tie-up will impact the opposition's national level coalition, he said the people of India feel they have been "duped badly" and have made up their mind to get rid of propagandists for their own well-being. The people are wise enough to understand which fighting block can be their best bet to defeat the BJP, he said.

On whether the SP and BSP will be a part of the mahagathbandhan in Bihar, the RJD leader said principally all opposition parties are together against the BJP-led alliance.

General category quota will get NDA 10 per cent more votes, says Paswan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan on Sunday claimed people were likely to vote to bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi back to power in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, thanks to his politics of development and recent move to grant 10 per cent reservation to poor among the upper caste population.

Paswan, who had earlier decided against contesting the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, said as a result of the Constitutional amendment Bill setting aside 10 per cent reservation, the BJP-led NDA would gain by a similar percentage in its vote share in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls. "Let me tell you. This 10 per cent quota will lead to a rise of 10 per cent in our vote share," he said.

The Union minister admitted that some of the measures that the present government had earlier taken created resentment among the common people. He, however, said the people were not ready to vote for Prime Minister Naren-



Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan on Sunday claimed people were likely to vote to bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi back to power in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, thanks to his politics of development and recent move to grant 10 per cent reservation to poor among the upper caste population.

dra Modi's 'strong and stable' leadership. "A few more months are left to the Lok Sabha elections. The government will shoot one arrow after another. What will also weigh the most on people's mind is who will be the Opposition's choice as PM. Whether the next government will be a stable or temporary one, people will prefer a strong, stable government to a weak, unstable government, leading to Modi's victory," Paswan explained.

In his state wise analysis of the impact of the 10 per cent reservation for the poor among the upper caste, Paswan said it was going to adversely impact the RJD's electoral chances in the light of their opposition to the measure. He said in Uttar Pradesh the NDA would

repeat its showing of 2014 and was expected to win 70 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats.

Paswan, however, warned against occasional off the cuff anti-Muslim remarks by a section of the BJP leadership which he said might go against the alliance. He said in recent times there had been a positive change in Dalit's perception about the Prime Minister which is going to help the NDA's prospects in the coming elections to the Lok Sabha.

"Dalits now know that Modi is not anti-Dalit as used to be projected. He strengthened the law on atrocities against them and has done so much for highlighting the legacy of Bhim Rao Ambedkar. A majority of them will support him during the polls," Paswan said.

About the BJP's defeat in the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Paswan said the party had learnt its lessons from these defeats. He indicated at a possible slew of measures by the government in the run up to the elections.

RIGHT TO RAISE VOICE



Members of the Transgender community take part in a protest march against the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016, at the Jantar Mantar in the Capital on Sunday. RIITIK JAIN

Opp has united fearing Modi's popularity: Haryana CM

Opposition's unity is not going to last. They have united out of fear of Narendra Modi's popularity and the country's growing position in the world. This (opposition unity) is going to make no difference to the people

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR
HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

GANDHINAGAR, JAN 20

Opposition parties have united out of "fear" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and their togetherness is not going to last, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar said Sunday.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a seminar on investment opportunities organised by the Haryana government as part of the 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.

"This (opposition) unity is not going to last. They have united out of fear of Narendra Modi's popularity and the country's growing position in the world. This (opposition unity) is going to make no difference to the people," Khattar claimed.

"They (opposition parties) had looted the country for several years. They have united as they are not getting the opportunity to loot the country," Khattar added.

He was responding to a query on the Trinamool Congress-led mega opposition rally, titled 'United India Circles', held in the Brigade Grounds in Kolkata on Saturday. He also mocked the Opposition's lack of a leader acceptable to all constituents, and claimed it was a 'baraat' (marriage procession) without a groom. Speaking on economic issues, Khattar said his state was looking at investments and it climbed up the ladder as far as ease of doing business rankings were concerned. PTI

Srikant Jena spews venom on Rahul after being expelled from party

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 20 JANUARY

Former Union minister Srikant Jena today spewed venom on AICC president Rahul Gandhi after he was expelled from the party and said the AICC president had 'surrendered to the mining mafia in Odisha'.

Expelled from the Congress last night, Jena hit out saying "in Odisha there is a mahagathbandhan between Rahul Gandhi, Naveen Patnaik, OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik and the mining mafia". "On 25 January, the day Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to visit Odisha, I will make expose Rahul Gandhi and his dealings" said Jena at a press conference here.

It may be noted that Jena's expulsion was on the cards



towards the BJD".

There are several parties which are honest, he said, when asked whether he will join the Aam Admi Party.

"I have not decided, I will campaign against the Patnaik family that has ruled Odisha for forty years", he said.

He said he would tour the state and expose the unholy alliance between Rahul, Naveen and mining mafia. The state Congress is led by a "habitual bribe giver", charged Jena. He was referring to a court observation against Niranjan Patnaik in 1985.

Jena said he had written to the AICC president in December last year raising issues and asking him pointedly whether the party is to stand by the people or with two Patnaik families.

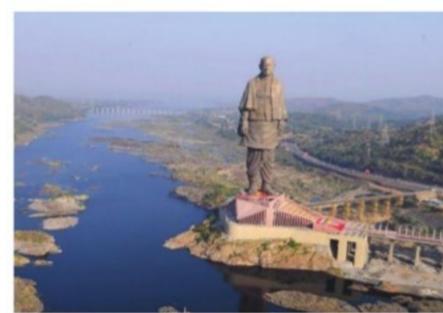
Statue of Unity a priceless investment: Vice-President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday said the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue in Gujarat, known as the Statue of Unity, was a way of correcting the imbalance in presenting the historical narrative of India, which justified the amount spent on it.

Naidu visited the 182-metre-tall statue in Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district and said only a partial account of Patel's role and contributions in the freedom struggle was documented.

"This Statue of Unity is a firm reminder of the vision, courage, capabilities and contributions of Sardar Patel in the making of modern India. In the true sense, it is a way of correcting the imbalance



in presenting the historical narrative of our country," Naidu was quoted in a statement issued by the vice president's office.

Justifying the money spent on the statue, Naidu said given the significance of the structure, "the amount spent

on erecting it was worth it and it is a priceless investment".

He also complimented Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his initiative to build the statue and said it should serve as a reminder to uphold unity among all Indians. Known as the "Iron Man",

Patel was the country's first deputy prime minister and home minister.

Citing a letter written by Patel to Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister, in which he had cautioned about the threat from China, Naidu said the situation after the 1962 Sino-India war could have been different if Patel's words had been heeded.

"We all know that one of our neighbours waged war against us in 1962 and its result. Had Sardar's concerns been taken seriously, the situation could have been different. All other issues raised by Sardar Patel still remain relevant," he said.

Underlining the importance of the unification of the erstwhile princely states after Independence, Naidu said getting freedom from the

British was a milestone in the country's modern history, but the integration of the 565 self-governed states that existed at the time of Independence was another equally important milestone.

"Without Patel and his vision and resolve, many of these 565 princely states would have preferred and remained as independent countries. Had this happened, the map of India would have been vastly different from what we have today," he said.

The people of India would forever remain grateful to Patel for realising his dream and vision of consolidating the country with a steely resolve, Naidu said.

"For this act of courage and determination, Patel is rightly called the 'Iron Man of India'," he said.

Life-term to SP-rank officer in kidnapping, extortion case

JALGAON, JAN 20

A Maharashtra court has sentenced a superintendent of police (SP)-rank officer and another person to life imprisonment in a 2009 kidnapping and extortion case.

Jalgaon sessions judge P Y Ladekar convicted Manoj Lohar, who is presently posted at the Home Guard Department in Mumbai in a senior administrative position, and his relative Dheeraj Yevle on January 16.

The court pronounced the sentence on Saturday and also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 each on the duo.

Lohar and Yevle were convicted under Indian Penal Code Sections-342, 346, 364-A, 385 and 506. PTI



THUMBNAILS

Infosys US hiring: Infosys has hired over 7,600 staff in the US ~ more than three-fourth of its target of recruiting 10,000 American workers ~ and said it is making recruitment from local schools a "sustained effort" in its largest market. "...we have pretty much done 7,600-plus. We have opened five hubs now, we have announced six of them and we have opened five of them and we have hired 2,000 plus school grads ~ campus hires," Infosys president and deputy chief operating officer Ravi Kumar said in a recent investor call. PTI

Fieo plea: Exporters' body Fieo has sought immediate intervention of the government and Reserve Bank of India to resolve issues related to payment mechanism for Iran and flow of credit to push shipments. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (Fieo) President Ganesh Kumar Gupta said that a clarity is required on product coverage under rupee payment mechanism to Iran. PTI

E-way bills: Non-filers of GST returns for six consecutive months will soon be barred from generating e-way bills for movement of goods. The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is developing such IT system that businesses who have not filed returns for two straight return filing cycle, which is six months, would be barred from generating e-way bills, an official said. PTI

Kia Motors: Kia Motors India expects trial production of its first model ~ SUV SP Concept ~ to begin at its Andhra Pradesh-based plant this month as it gears up to launch the vehicle by mid 2019, a company official said. The company, a subsidiary of South Korean auto major Kia Motors, is in the final stages of commissioning the manufacturing facility with an annual installed production capacity of over 3 lakh vehicles. PTI

Skoda outlook: Admitting that its profit situation is "not good" in India, Czech car maker Skoda Auto has said the road ahead is "tough", even as it kick-started an around Rs 8,000 crore investment plan under "India 2.0" project with the opening of a new technical centre here. Led by Skoda, the India 2.0 project aims at strengthening the parent Volkswagen Group's presence in India with tailor-made products by the two auto makers through the MOB AO IN platform which is specially developed for India. PTI

FPI outflow: Foreign investors have pulled out more than Rs 4,000 crore from the Indian capital markets so far in January, highlighting their cautious stance towards the country. This comes following a collective net inflow of over Rs 17,000 crore in the capital markets by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) during November and December. PTI

India likely to surpass UK in largest economy rankings

PwC's Global Economy Watch report projects real GDP growth of 7.6 per cent for India in 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, according to a report by global consultancy firm PwC.

As per the report, while the UK and France have regularly switched places owing to similar levels of development and roughly equal populations, India's climb-up the rankings is likely to be permanent. PwC's Global Economy Watch report projects real GDP growth of 1.6 per cent for the UK, 1.7 per cent for France and 7.6 per cent for India in 2019.

"India and France are likely to surpass the UK in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, knocking it from fifth to seventh place in the global table," the report said.

According to World Bank data, India became the world's sixth largest economy in 2017 surpassing France and was likely to go past the UK which stood at the fifth position.

PwC's Global Economy

ECONOMY WATCH

▶ India and France are likely to surpass the UK in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, knocking it from fifth to seventh place in the global table

▶ As per the World Bank data, in 2017, India became the sixth largest economy with a GDP of \$2.59 trillion, relegating France to the seventh position. The GDP of France stood at \$2.58 trillion

▶ The UK, which is facing Brexit blues, had a GDP of \$2.62 trillion, which is about \$25 billion more than that of India, the data showed

▶ The US was the world's largest economy with a size of \$19.39 trillion, followed by China (\$12.23 trillion) at the second place in 2017



Watch is a short publication that looks at the trends and issues affecting the global economy and details its latest projections for the world's leading economies.

"India should return to a healthy growth rate of 7.6 per cent in 2019-20, if there are no major headwinds in the global economy such as enhanced trade tensions or supply side shocks in oil.

"The growth will be supported through further realisation of efficiency gains from the newly adopted GST and policy impetus expected in the first year of a new government," said Mr Ranen Banerjee, partner and leader ~ public finance and economics, PwC India.

Mr Mike Jakeman, senior economist at PwC, said India is the fastest growing large

economy in the world, with an enormous population, favourable demographics and high catch-up potential due to low initial GDP per head.

"The UK and France have regularly alternated in having the larger economy, but subdued growth in the UK in 2018 and again in 2019 is likely to tip the balance in France's favour. The relative

strength of the euro against the pound is an important factor here," Mr Jakeman said.

The global economy as a whole is expected to slow in 2019 as G7 countries return to long-run average growth rates, the PwC report said.

PwC expects that the pick-up in growth of most major economies seen between the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2018 is now over.

As per the World Bank data, in 2017, India became the sixth largest economy with a GDP of \$2.59 trillion, relegating France to the seventh position. The GDP of France stood at \$2.58 trillion.

The UK, which is facing Brexit blues, had a GDP of \$2.62 trillion, which is about \$25 billion more than that of India, the data showed.

The US was the world's largest economy with a size of \$19.39 trillion, followed by China (\$12.23 trillion) at the second place in 2017.

Japan (\$4.87 trillion) and Germany (\$3.67 trillion) were at the third and fourth places, respectively.

Coal projects worth ₹11K cr facing delays, Centre seeks report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Concerned over coal projects worth Rs 11,000 crore facing delays, the Centre has asked Coal India and NLC India Ltd to identify the reasons behind it and submit a report, an official said.

The matter came up during a recent meeting to review projects worth Rs 35,000 crore at a time when India is witnessing significant amount of coal imports.

"At a recent meeting to review coal projects costing more than Rs 500 crore and 3 million tons, coal secretary Sumanta Chaudhuri sought exception report from Coal India Ltd (CIL) and NLC India and asked them to identify reasons behind delay," a coal ministry official said.

An exception report is a document stating instances where actual performance deviated significantly from expectations.

The review meeting covered 51 projects of Coal India Ltd - which accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic dry-fuel production - nine of NLCIL (formerly Neyveli Lig-

nite Corporation) and two belonging to Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Out of these, 21 projects are facing inordinate delays - 17 by CIL and four by NLCIL, the official said.

Coal India's delayed projects include Magadh Expansion, Karo, North Urimari and Rajrappa RCE.

The delayed NLCIL projects include Pachwara South Coal Block, Talabira II and III Coal Block and Rajasthan Power Projects.

The delays come against the backdrop of coal demand from power sector exceeding the supply in 2018.

India has imported over 200 million tons of coal annually in the recent years.

Earlier this month, coal minister Piyush Goyal said the country faces no shortage of coal and production has witnessed an increase of 7.4 per cent in April-December period of the ongoing financial year. He, however, also admitted that coal production did not go up in the past because of delays in environmental clearances, land acquisition and other problems.

New ECB guidelines limit refinancing options: Fitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 20 JANUARY

The recent Reserve Bank guidelines simplifying external commercial borrowings will "curb" refinancing options for companies, says a report.

But the system-wide impact of this will be limited, as there were masala bonds and foreign-currency debt issuances recently with a minimum average maturity of 10 years, global rating agency Fitch said.

The report said the RBI's intention behind the new rules is to rationalise multiple regulations and make it easier for corporates to borrow from overseas markets.

Eligible borrowers will now be allowed to raise up

to \$750 million per financial year without approval, with previous sector limits removed, as per the notification issued on Tuesday evening.

Some commentators have suggested the changes are part of the RBI efforts to encourage capital inflows and ease pressure on the rupee, but the agency pointed out that the decision to merge regulatory categories for types of ECBs will create refinancing complications.

"Under the previous framework, corporates could refinance rupee-denominated debt with track II ECB (forex debt with minimum average maturities of 10 years) or masala bonds (offshore rupee-denominated

bonds). This will no longer be permitted," it explained.

The report further noted that refinancing of rupee debt with other types of offshore debt was already restricted, which means rupee-denominated debt can now only be refinanced in the local market, unless the lender is a foreign equity holder in the borrowing company.

Domestic corporates had not, in general, been able to take advantage of offshore refinancing options, so most are unlikely to be significantly affected, the agency said.

Only the largest and strongest issuers have been able to tap the masala bond market since regulatory constraints were introduced in mid-2017.

Reliance seeks Niko's exit from KG-D6 over payment default

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Reliance Industries has asked its partner Niko Resources to withdraw from eastern offshore KG-D6 gas block over default in payments for field development cost, but the Canadian firm has sought to stall the move by invoking arbitration, the companies said.

Niko, which defaulted on payment of loans to its lenders, has been unsuccessful in seeking a possible buyer for its 10 per cent stake in Bay of Bengal block KG-D6 or securing financing for its share of the \$5.6 billion R-Cluster, Satellite Cluster and MJ development projects in the block.

In its third quarter earning statement last week, Reliance Industries Limited stated that Niko "defaulted on cash calls and

accordingly default notice was issued as per the provision of joint operating agreement (JOA)".

"Since Niko did not cure the default within the default period, RIL and BP issued notice to Niko for withdrawal from production sharing contract (PSC) and JOA and assign the participating interest to RIL and BP," RIL said. "In response to the notice, Niko has served notice of arbitration."

Reliance is the operator of KG-D6 block with 60 per cent stake and UK's BP plc has 30 per cent interest.

Niko, in a corporate update, said that it has on 17 December 2018 "received a notice from the non-defaulting parties requiring the subsidiary to withdraw from the KG-D6 PSC and JOA".

The company said it was evaluating its legal options regarding the notice.

Niko decided not to pay a KG-D6 block cash call that was due in early October 2018. This led to Reliance slapping a default notice under the production sharing contract (PSC).

Under the terms of the joint operating agreement (JOA)

between the participating interest holders in the D6 PSC, during the continuance of a default, the defaulting party shall not have a right to its share of revenue (which shall vest in and be the property of the non-defaulting parties who have paid to cover the amount in default).

In addition, if the defaulting party does not cure a default within 60 days of the default notice, the non-defaulting parties have the option to require the defaulting party to withdraw from the D6 PSC and JOA.

Niko had previously withdrawn from eastern offshore NEC-25 block due to cash crunch. Its 10 per cent interest was assigned to Reliance and BP. Subsequent to that, Reliance now holds 66.6 per cent interest in NEC-25 and BP the remaining 33.37 per cent.

Sebi amends norms for REITs, InvITs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Markets regulator the Sebi has amended guidelines for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) to ease the process of public issue of their units.

Now, these trusts can accept only Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA).

Among others, the manager on behalf of the REIT or InvIT will announce the floor price or price band at least two working days prior to the opening of the bid in case of an initial public offer. Currently, it is five days.

In two separate circulars, the Sebi said the amendments have been made to rationalise and ease the process of public issue of units of REITs and InvITs. Regarding the issue period, it said the trusts

may extend the bidding issue period for a minimum of three working days in case of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances.

However, the extension should not exceed the thirty-day bidding period.

Investors will be required to submit a completed bid-cum-application form either to self-certified syndicate banks with whom the bank account to be blocked is maintained or to intermediaries.

According to the regulator, intermediaries apart from acknowledging the receipt of applications would also be responsible for uploading the bid along with other relevant details in application forms on the electronic bidding system of stock exchanges.

They will also be required to submit the form to self-certified syndicate banks for blocking of funds.

RBI may take dovish stance in Feb policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 20 JANUARY

With softer retail and wholesale price-based inflation, the Reserve Bank of India is likely to change its policy stance to "neutral" from "calibrated tightening" in the February policy, says a report.

The inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) eased to an 18-month low of 2.19 per cent in December compared to 2.33 per cent in November and 5.21 per cent in December 2017.

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation also eased to an eighth-month low of 3.80 per cent in December 2018, as against 4.64 per cent in November 2018, and 3.58 per cent in December 2017.

This is the fifth consecutive month that the CPI read-



ing has been below the RBI's target of 4 per cent.

"Benign headline inflation to provide a dovish tilt to monetary policy committee (MPC). Softer December CPI and WPI prints of 2.2 per cent and 3.8 per cent, respectively, reaffirm our belief that the MPC will adopt a more dovish tone in the February meeting and change its stance to neutral from calibrated tightening," according to a Kotak research report.

The RBI will announce its sixth bi-monthly monetary policy on 7 February. The report expects CPI at around 3.3 per cent in March 2019.

It said concerns, however, remain about the stickiness of core inflation, especially at a time when growth is expected to slow to 6.6 per cent in the second half of financial year 2018-19.

"While volatile crude oil prices and concerns on fiscal slippage may warrant some caution, the seemingly structurally benign food inflation along with softening growth should help in capping the upside pressures," it said.

The report expect a 50 basis points of rate cut in the first half of 2019. In the previous monetary policy announced in December, the RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

Voda Idea seeks time for spectrum payment

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Telecom operator Vodafone Idea has sought two years moratorium on annual spectrum payment of about Rs 10,000 crore, citing high debt levels and stress on the balance sheet.

"The department of telecom has received representation from Vodafone Idea for 2 years additional moratorium on spectrum payment that they procured in auction. The request is being examined and it has to be scrutinised and considered by other departments/ministries in the government before taking any decision," a senior government official said.

The amount to be paid by Vodafone Idea is estimated to be around Rs 10,000 crore this year. When contacted, Vodafone Idea spokesperson said:

"The telecom industry is critical to fulfilling the digital aspirations of 1.3 billion Indians. Hence, it is important for it to be financially robust with multiple operators that can offer choice to citizens, ensure healthy competition and that national assets like spectrum are valued correctly. However, India's telecom industry is currently suffering considerable financial stress and this has been extensively reported in the media".

Vodafone and Idea have participated in five auctions that were held in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016 before merging their mobile business. In five auctions, Vodafone alone had acquired spectrum worth Rs 79,343 crore, which is highest in terms of value compared to bids made by any other operator. Idea too had purchased spectrum worth Rs 63,597 crore.

Auto parts industry likely to grow by 15%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

The domestic auto components industry is expected to grow at around 15 per cent in the current financial year despite a slowdown in demand in the automotive sector, according to rating agency Ica.

The growth is expected to come from healthy volume growth in two-wheelers, commercial vehicles and tractor segment until November last year. The rating agency also expects automobile volumes to grow by 8-9 per cent during the current fiscal, as against 14.8 per cent growth during fiscal 2017-18.

"The aftermarket sales

were impacted in FY2018 by GST-related inventory de-stocking in the first quarter of FY2018 and initial implementation related uncertainties in the second quarter of FY2018. However, demand picked up in August-September 2018, with a sharp revival from the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017-18," Ica senior group vice-president Subrata Ray said.

Weighted-average demand for auto components from original equipment manufacturers (OEM) is expected to grow by 10-11 per cent in the current fiscal, as compared with 9.5 per cent in fiscal 2017-18, supported by strong commercial vehicle volumes, Ica said.

Large deals push PE, VC investments up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 20 JANUARY

Private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) investments in the country grew by 35 per cent to \$35.1 billion in 2018 compared with \$26.1 billion in 2017, according to a report.

The increase in investments was driven by significant growth in large deals.

PE/VC exits recorded \$26 billion in value, almost equal to the value of exits in the previous three years combined. "2018 has been the best year for PE/VC investments and exits. As forecasted by us in the beginning of the year, both PE/VC investments as well as exits have touched a new record high in 2018," EY's partner and national leader (private equity services), Mr

Vivek Soni, said in a report. Though volatility in broader markets dampened pipe investments in the second half of 2018, this was more than adequately compensated by an uptick in buyout and startup activity, he said.

During 2018, 12 deals having value of \$500 million or more each, including eight \$1 billion plus deals happened. In the year, deal volume increased by 28 per cent to 761 deals compared to 594 deals in 2017.

"The growth was led by strong pickup in buyouts and startup investments," the study said.

The year recorded a strong uptick in startup investments on the back of some mega deals that saw large venture capital investors like Softbank,

NEW RECORD

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Tencent and Naspers deploy significant amounts of capital.

There were 76 deals of value greater than \$100 million in 2018, aggregating to \$25.9 billion and accounting for 74 per cent of total PE/VC investments made in 2018 compared to 54 deals, aggregating to \$18.7 billion, of value greater than \$100 million in 2017.

The largest deal during the year saw GIC, KKR, Premjiinvest and OMERS invest

\$1.7 billion in HDFC Limited for a three per cent stake.

In 2018, PE/VC exits, at \$26 billion, increased by almost 100 per cent compared to 2017 and are almost equal to the value of exits in the previous three years combined,

the report showed. The sharp rise was mainly on account of a large deal that saw Walmart acquire controlling stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion from a clutch of investors, including Softbank, Tiger Global and others.

This is the largest deal in the Indian PE/VC market ever, it said.

From a sector perspective, e-commerce (\$16.4 billion across 10 exits), technology (\$1.8 billion across 24 exits), financial services (\$1.5 billion across 34 exits) were the top sectors for PE/VC exits in 2018.

The year 2018 saw \$8.1 billion being raised across 51 fund raises by PE/VC funds, a 40 per cent increase over 2017 and the highest ever, the report said.



Failure to deliver Brexit would produce a yawning gap between Parliament and the people, a schism in our political system with unknowable consequences

LIAM FOX
INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARY

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	33°C	26°C
HONG KONG	23°C	12°C
TOKYO	12°C	1°C
LONDON	7°C	-1°C
DUBAI	22°C	17°C
SAN FRANCISCO	15°C	9°C
NEW YORK	7°C	-12°C
MOSCOW	-3°C	-8°C

S: sunny, C: clear, H: hazy, R: rainy...

THUMBNAILS



The morning scene of Filisur village near Davos, Switzerland on Sunday. IANS

World's oldest man, 113, dies at his home in Japan: The world's oldest man has died at his home a hot springs inn in northern Japan at the age of 113. Masazo Nonaka died in the early hours of Sunday while sleeping at home in Ashoro on Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido, his family said. PTI

'UK faces political tsunami if Brexit halted': Britain's trade minister says the country will face a "political tsunami" if the government does not deliver on voters' decision to leave the European Union. International Trade Secretary Liam Fox wrote in the Sunday Telegraph that "failure to deliver Brexit would produce a yawning gap between Parliament and the people, a schism in our political system with unknowable consequences." AP

Democrats reject Trump's proposal to end shutdown

US president offers to bargain temporary status for nearly a million illegal immigrants

IANS
NEW YORK, 20 JANUARY

With an eye on political moderates, President Donald Trump has offered to bargain temporary status for nearly a million illegal immigrants for the \$5.7 billion he wants in the budget for his border wall, but the deal to end the partial government shutdown was shot down by the Democratic Party leadership.

After swearing-in a group of immigrants as citizens at the Oval Office on Saturday, he said he would give a three-year reprieve from deportation for 7,00,000 young people who were brought into the US as children and 300,000 illegal immigrants from Nepal and certain other countries that have faced natural disasters or violent upheavals. He also promised to pursue immigration reforms after the shutdown crisis was resolved and hold weekly bipartisan meetings to fashion "a great product, a product we can be proud of".

Democrat leaders have ruled out any compromise and insist on an end to the shutdown before there can be negotiations. Even before he spoke, Speaker Nancy Pelosi rejected any proposal he would make saying they would be a "non-starter".

The Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called the proposals "ineffective and one-sided"



and accused him of taking the one million as hostages.

The government remained paralysed except for its vital functions as the partial government shutdown that entered its 30th day on Sunday with most government employees going without their paychecks since January 11 and nearly 800,000 of them on temporary layoff.

Trump has demanded that the budget should include \$5.7 billion for his border barrier, which the Democrats, who control the House of Representatives, have refused. Because of the stalemate there is no budget and no money for most government operations.

His first formal offer of concessions was aimed at the moderates in both parties who were looking for a path to compromise.

"It is time to reclaim our future from the extreme voices who fear compromise and

demand open borders," he said. Some in his own party have also opposed his proposal citing the offer to extend temporary protection to some illegal immigrants.

Trump offered a scaled-down vision of the border wall that he had promised in his election campaign, saying, "This is not a 2,000 mile concrete structure from sea to sea. These are steel barriers in high priority locations."

Temporary permission to stay legally in the US that was given to the 700,000 young people, dubbed "Dreamers" for their pursuit of the American Dream, expired in March and the Trump administration did not renew it. Another programme to allow people from certain countries affected by violence or natural calamities like the Nepal earthquake to stay on in the US is not being renewed. Democrats said that since Trump had ended these

programmes offering to reinstate them was not a compromise. "Offering some protections back in exchange for the wall is not a compromise but more hostage-taking," Schumer said.

Trump also said that he would introduce a system for people to apply for asylum in their Central American home countries, instead of coming to border and either applying for asylum or entering the US illegally. About 7,000 Central Americans who came in a caravan through Mexico are camped in squalor at the border trying to enter US, straining the resources of their host towns and another caravan is on its way. He described it as a "humanitarian and security crises".

Trump cast his efforts end illegal immigration as a compassionate effort, saying it would end the exploitation of migrants, especially women and children, by the smugglers who have been known to attack and rape them.

As for the US, he said the end to illegal immigration would prevent wages being depressed, the public services being strained and criminals entering the country. He mentioned an Indian-American police Corporal Ronil Singh, who was killed the day after Christmas in California by an illegal immigrant.

He also said the border barrier would stop the drugs being smuggled across the

border. If there is a compromise, "we can start the border project of remaking our immigration system for the 21st century", Trump said.

He has said earlier that he wants to introduce a merit-based immigration system similar to those of Canada and Australia that could benefit Indian professionals who have to wait as many as 10 years to get their green cards.

Two weeks ago, he had tweeted that those on temporary professional H1-B visas "can rest assured that changes are soon coming" that will put them on "a potential path to citizenship".

A master of marketing, Trump evoked the imagery of patriotism and the traditions of welcoming legal immigrants.

He went in the morning to an air force base to solemnly receive the bodies of four Americans killed by the Islamic State terrorists in Syria last week. One of the victims was a Syrian-American woman.

And just before his speech he held a ceremony for a group of green card-holders that included a Muslim woman wearing a head cover to formally become US citizens.

On the other side, thousands participated in the Women's March in Washington and elsewhere that protested Trump's immigration policies in addition to demanding protection of women's rights.

Migrant caravan continues to advance towards Mexico



A woman holds a placard during a rally to protest against the partial government shutdown at Federal Plaza in Chicago, the United States on Saturday. IANS

IANS
MEXICO CITY, 20 JANUARY

A migrant caravan has continued to advance towards Mexico in order to reach the country's border with the US, authorities said.

The migrants are moving on foot or aboard vehicles, while nearly 3,000 more are waiting for their humanitarian visa, which the government of Mexico is issuing in small numbers at the border. Efe news quoted the Mexican authorities as saying on Saturday.

As of now, around 2,000 migrants have crossed into Mexico without any documents to prove their legal stay in the country, risking their lives between vehicles and enduring high temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius with intense humidity.

Two days after their arrival on Mexican territory, this contingent, most of them Hondurans, has not stopped advancing.

On Saturday, the caravan moved from Tapachula to Huixtla, covering a distance of 40 km. The migrants are fleeing from poverty and the lack of well-paid employment, which leaves them without food and makes it hard to support their families, some are forced to travel with their whole family, including single mothers with young kids.

Ana Pinto from Honduras, a mother of three, told Efe: "We have walked a lot, we started at three in the morning and we have not been able to board a vehicle and we have not been given water or food until now."

Mexico blast toll reaches 73



Forensic personnel work at the site of a pipeline explosion in the municipality of Tlahuelilpan, Mexico, on Sunday. IANS

IANS
MEXICO CITY, 20 JANUARY

The death toll from a devastating oil pipeline blast in Mexico has increased to 73, officials said.

The toll was confirmed to the media by Hidalgo Governor Omar Fayad on Saturday evening, reports Efe news.

Accompanied by Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Fayad said that there were 74 injured, who were receiving treatments at hospitals in Hidalgo, Mexico City, Queretaro and Guanajuato.

The governor announced that some of the injured will be transferred in the next few hours to a specialised burns

medical centre in Galveston, Texas.

It is believed that the blast occurred after the pipeline was ruptured by suspected oil thieves in the town of Tlahuelilpan, in Hidalgo state, on Friday night.

The pipeline went ablaze at around 7 p.m., when dozens of people were scrambling around a leak spot to collect fuel in the presence of the armed forces.

TV footage showed large flames and people at the scene with severe burns as well as what appeared to be smouldering corpses scattered on the ground near the blaze.

Raul Arroyo, Hidalgo state

prosecutor, said of the 73 victims, only nine have been identified so far.

Authorities said that the pipeline transported the highly flammable octane gasoline which facilitated the explosion, although the exact cause of the blast was still being ascertained.

Residents in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline, which runs from the cities of Tuxpan to Tula, have been evacuated, state oil company Pemex said.

President Obrador, who visited Tlahuelilpan on Saturday, said pipelines will be monitored to avoid fuel theft, CNN reported.

"To guarantee that there are no fuel shortages, it has been fundamental the participation of the armed forces, the military, marines and federal police," he said.

"If necessary, we will reinforce the surveillance strategy. Another method will be the increase of fuel transportation capacity."

The explosion comes as gas stations in several Mexican states and the country's capital have been running dry for nearly two weeks.

The Obrador administration closed key pipelines in an effort to crack down on fuel theft, which the Mexican leaders said cost the country an estimated \$3 billion last year.

UK PM's office says MPs' Brexit moves 'extremely concerning'

AFP
LONDON, 20 JANUARY

British Prime Minister Theresa May's Downing Street office said on Sunday that reported plots for parliament to seize control from the government over Brexit were "extremely concerning".

Downing Street blasted reported moves by lawmakers seeking to rewrite the rules of the House of Commons in an attempt to take control of the business of the lower chamber in order to frustrate May's Brexit plans.

Groups of MPs are planning to table such amendments this week, newspapers reported on Sunday.

"The British public voted to leave the European Union and it is vital that elected politicians deliver upon that verdict," a Downing Street spokeswoman said.

"Any attempt to remove the government's power to meet the legal conditions of an orderly exit at this moment of historic significance is extremely concerning."

"This news should serve as a reminder to those MPs who want to deliver Brexit that they need to vote for it - oth-



erwise there is a danger that parliament could stop Brexit." May is due to spell out to lawmakers on Monday what her plans are now for Brexit following MPs' overwhelming rejection of the divorce deal agreed between London and Brussels.

Lawmakers are set to table a series of various Brexit amendments this week to test their support in the Commons.

May was due to hold a conference call with senior ministers to update them on her talks with other political parties in the wake of last week's landslide vote.

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox warned of a "political tsunami" if MPs

fail to deliver on the 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU.

He also slammed people calling for May to rule out a no-deal Brexit - a key demand of the Labour main opposition - saying the "most stupid thing possible" in a negotiation is to "give away your strongest card".

"Failure to deliver Brexit would produce a yawning gap between parliament and the people, a schism in our political system with unknowable consequences," Fox, a senior pro-Brexit cabinet minister, wrote in The Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

"It is time for MPs to deliver on the promises they made. It is a matter of honour and a matter of duty."

Sikh man attacked in hate crime in US

PTI
NEW YORK, 20 JANUARY

A Sikh man has been brutally assaulted in an alleged hate crime by a white man who pulled his beard, kicked and punched him in the face at a store in the US, the latest such incident in the country.

Harwinder Singh Dodd, who was working at a convenience store in the US State of Oregon, was racially targeted on Monday by a 24-year-old Andrew Ramsey.

Ramsey targeted Dodd because of his perception of the employee's religion, FOX 12 TV news reported, citing a court document.

Ramsey wanted rolling papers for cigarettes, but did not have an ID and the clerk would not sell them to him, Justin Brecht, a legislative policy adviser in the Oregon State Capitol and a former combat Marine, was quoted as saying by the report.

When Dodd asked Ramsey to leave, he attacked him by pulling his beard, punching him in the face, pulling him to the ground and kicking him, Brecht said, adding

that they held Ramsey down until officers got there, the report said.

"He was bleeding, he had gotten punched quite a bit in the face, and kicked on the ground and thrown to the ground very brutally. It was very serious."

Ramsey has been charged with a hate crime, assault, police said, adding that he threw his shoe at Dodd and tried to steal his head covering.

He was also charged with assault in the fourth degree, disorderly conduct and criminal trespass.

Hate crimes increased by 40 per cent in Oregon from 2016 to 2017, according to the FBI.

In August 2018, in about a week, two Sikh men were brutally assaulted in the US State of California that raised concerns over increasing incidents of hate crimes in the country.

Last year, the South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) published a report documenting a 45 per cent increase in hate violence and rhetoric against Indians, Sikhs, and South Asian Americans from the year prior.

Protest in Tehran over US detention of journalist

IANS
TEHRAN, 20 JANUARY

Iranians demonstrated outside the Swiss embassy in Tehran on Sunday to protest against the detention of an Iranian-American journalist in Washington.

The protesters chanted "Free Marzieh Hashemi" and demanded that the US authorities immediately release the journalist who works for Iran's Press TV, reports Xinhua news agency.

Hashemi, who has been living in Iran for years, was detained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at the airport in St. Louis, Missouri, on January 13 while making a family visit.

A federal US court order confirmed on Friday that she had been arrested on a "material witness" warrant and had not been accused of any crime.

Novel tech cleans water using bacteria

IANS
NEW YORK, 20 JANUARY

Researchers, led by one of Indian-origin, have developed a new technology that can clean water twice as fast as commercially available ultrafiltration membranes, an advance that brings hope for countries like India where clean drinking water is a big issue.

According to a team from the Washington University in St. Louis, more than one in 10 people in the world lack basic drinking water access, and by 2025, half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas.

The team led by Srikanth Singamaneni, Professor at the varsity, developed an ultrafiltration membrane using graphene oxide and bacterial nanocellulose that they found to be highly efficient, long-lasting and environment-friendly. The membrane technology purifies water while preventing biofouling, or build up of bacteria and other harmful micro-organisms that reduce the flow of water.

For the study, published in



the journal Environmental Science and Technology, they used bacteria to build such filtering membranes.

The Gluconacetobacter hansenii bacteria is a sugary substance that forms cellulose nanofibres when in water.

The team then incorporated graphene oxide (GO) flakes into the bacterial nanocellulose while it was growing, essentially trapping GO in the membrane to make it stable and durable.

They exposed the membrane to E. coli bacteria, then shone light on the membrane's surface.

After being irradiated with light for just three minutes, the E. coli bacteria died. The team determined that the membrane quickly heated to above the 70 degrees Celsius required

to deteriorate the cell walls of E. coli bacteria.

While the bacteria are killed, the researchers had a pristine membrane with a high quality of nanocellulose fibres that was able to filter water twice as fast as commercially available ultrafiltration membranes under a high operating pressure.

When they did the same experiment on a membrane made from bacterial nanocellulose without the reduced GO, the E. coli bacteria stayed alive. While the researchers acknowledge that implementing this process in conventional reverse osmosis systems is taxing, they propose a spiral-wound module system, similar to a roll of towels.

It could be equipped with LEDs or a type of nanogenerator that harnesses mechanical energy from the fluid flow to produce light and heat, which would reduce the overall cost. If the technique were to be scaled up to a large size, it could benefit many developing countries where clean water is scarce, the researchers noted.

Ghani to contest presidential poll

IANS
KABUL, 20 JANUARY



Incumbent Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Sunday registered with the Election Commission to contest the presidential poll slated for July 20.

"Our objective is to have a strong government... Only a strong government can overcome the prolonged 40 year-old crisis and can ensure justice in society to stabilise peace and security," the president said in a speech after registering his candidacy. A total of 14 politicians including Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, former National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar and former warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar are in the fray, reports Xinhua news agency.

Tshisekedi declared DRC Prez, runner-up revolts

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KINSHASA, 20 JANUARY

Congo's election crisis deepened early Sunday when the Constitutional Court confirmed the win of Felix Tshisekedi, rejecting claims of fraud, and runner-up Martin Fayulu promptly declared himself the country's "only legitimate President."

Fayulu's supporters have alleged an extraordinary backroom deal by outgoing President Joseph Kabila to rig the vote in favor of the opposition after the ruling party's candidate did so poorly that a Plan B was needed. Neither side has acknowledged the accusations. The court, however, said Fayulu offered no proof to back his assertions that he had won easily based on leaked data attributed to the electoral commission. Fayulu urged Congolese to take to the streets to peacefully protest what he called "constitutional coup d'etat," accusing the court of validating false results. "It's no secret... that you

have elected me president," he said. Neither Congolese nor the international community should recognize Tshisekedi, nor obey him, Fayulu added.

Tshisekedi said early Sunday that the Constitutional Court's decision confirming him as the winner of the presidential election was a victory for the entire country.

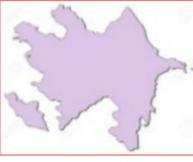
"It is Congo that won," said Tshisekedi, speaking to his supporters after the court decision. "It is not the victory of one camp against another. I am engaged in a campaign to reconcile all Congolese. ... The Congo that we are going to form will not be a Congo of division, hatred or tribalism. It will be a reconciled Congo, a strong Congo that will be focused on development, peace and security." The largely untested Tshisekedi, son of the late, charismatic opposition leader Etienne, is set to be inaugurated on Tuesday. His supporters who had gathered outside the court cheered. "It's a shame that Mr. Fayulu wants to stay iso-

lated," Tshisekedi's spokesman, Vidiye Tshimanga, told The Associated Press. He said the two men once had been part of an opposition coalition demanding that Kabila step down. The new president will need everyone for the reconstruction of the country, Tshimanga said, as the Congolese people have "suffered a lot in recent years."

The court's declaration came shortly after the African Union in an unprecedented move asked Congo to delay announcing the final election results, citing "serious doubts" about the vote. It planned to send a high-level delegation on Monday to find a way out of the crisis, fearing unrest spilling across borders of the vast Central African nation. Congo's government replied it was up to the courts. The court turned away Fayulu's request for a recount in the Dec. 30 vote. Government spokesman Lambert Mende quickly acknowledged the court's decision, congratulating Tshisekedi as Congo's fifth president.

FOCUS

AZERBAIJAN



Capital: Baku

Currency: Azerbaijani manat

Ethnic group: Azerbaijani 91.6%, Lezghin 2%, Russian 1.3%, Armenian 1.3%, Talysh 1.3%, other 2.4% (2009 est.). Note: the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region is populated almost entirely by ethnic Armenians

Languages: Azerbaijani (Azeri) (official) 92.5%, Russian 1.4%, Armenian 1.4%, other 4.7% (2009 est.)

Religions: Muslim 96.9% (predominantly Shia), Christian 3%, other <0.1, unaffiliated <0.1 (2010 est.)

Note: religious affiliation is still nominal in Azerbaijan; percentages for actual practising adherents are much lower

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

The best time to visit Azerbaijan is during spring (March-June), when the weather is warm and the foliage is in full bloom. The summer months (July-September) can be oppressively hot and humid, particularly in the Capital, Baku, but they are also the best months to go hiking in the mountains. Although temperatures along the Caspian coastline remain mild throughout winter (November-February), the mercury dips well below freezing further inland. The mountains at this time of the year are covered in snow and very treacherous. Though downpours do occur throughout the country, most of the rainfall is confined to the West.

SECULAR CELEBRATIONS

The New Year's holiday is celebrated on 1 January; 20 January commemorates the victims killed by Soviet troops in Baku in 1990; 8 March is International Women's Day and 21-22 March is Novruz (the New Year), an old Persian holiday celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox. Novruz is the most distinctive Azeri holiday, accompanied by extensive cleaning and cooking in homes. Other holidays are 9 May, Victory Day (inherited from the Soviet period); 28 May, Day of the Republic; 9 October, Armed

FORCES DAY

18 October, State Sovereignty Day; 12 November, Constitution Day; 17 November, Day of Renaissance; and 31 December, Day of Solidarity of World Azeris.

FOOD AND DRINK

Azerbaijani food combines Turkish and central Asian elements. While Baku has an excellent selection of international restaurants, from Japanese fusion to Italian, in most rural restaurants the kebab is most definitely king. Azeris reckon their tomatoes are the best in the world and there is some justification for this. A special place in the cuisine also belongs to lamb kebabs, of which there are many different varieties. Sumac, a purple powder derived from dried berries, adds a zesty citrus flavour to plainly grilled meat. Hand-cut chips, made from locally-grown potatoes, are excellent. Vegetarians will end up eating a great deal of salad and lentil soup as most dishes contain meat. In the chaikhana (tea houses), men linger for hours drinking sweet black tea out of tiny glasses and playing nard (backgammon). Some of the specialties are Lule kebab, Dograma, Piti, Qutab, Badimjan dolmasi, Dushpara, Toyuk levngisi, Shirin plov, Monastirski, Coban salatasi.

INDIAN PRESENCE

The Indian community in Azerbaijan comprises about 1000 persons, including professionals employed with international companies in the oil and gas sectors, six businessmen engaged in commodities trading, catering and restaurant business and construction workers on short-term contracts.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

Over the years, the bilateral trade has increased substantially from around US\$ 50 million in 2005 to around US\$ 463 million in 2017. The primary import of India from Azerbaijan is crude oil. The important items of direct and indirect imports from India are: rice, machine parts and other plant equipment, drugs, clothes and textiles, meat, food stuff and tea.

TOTAL BILATERAL TRADE IS US \$ 463 MILLION.

Indian Investment in Oil and Gas Sector of Azerbaijan: The ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) of India acquired shares worth US\$ 1 billion in development project of the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli (2.72%) oil field and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline (2.36%) from US Company Hess in March 2013 and has established an office in Baku. The Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) to jointly pursue LNG opportunities through capacity booking, LNG procurement and promotion of LNG projects globally. Groundbreaking ceremony for Sun Pharma plant for production of solid consistency drugs in Sumgayit was held on 13 July, 2017. Economy Minister Shahin Mustafayev took part in the ceremony. The plant will produce medicines for cardiology, nephrology, gastroenterology and diabetes.

VISA

Documents required are Original Passports with 6 months validity from date of travel, 2 Photos, Visa Application form, Covering letter mentioning the details of the visit, An invitation letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan (letter is valid only for one month), HIV test certificate, Air tickets, Copy of medical insurance certificate (if a host does not undertake to pay for medical services), Invitation Letter proving the purpose of an invitation along with Govt ID proof, If tourist visa then Tourist Voucher from receiving travel agency in Azerbaijan is required, copy of a birth certificate, a permission of parents or a legitimate representative and copies of identification documents are required for issuance of visa for children under 18 years, if travelling without his/her parent or a legitimate representative, and Authorization Letter Attested for submission and collection of Application.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Baku: Baku, the Capital city of Azerbaijan, lies along the Caspian Sea, and is a somewhat curious mix of the old Walled City of Icheri Seher and a modern building craze that has led a boom in skyscrapers, many of which are studded with LCD screens. Of all of these, make sure that you don't miss the Flame Towers, three towers built to resemble fire that cast a bronzed glow over the city at night. The city also embraces the modern at the Museum of the Contemporary Art that has over 900 artworks that feature up and coming artists from the region, and is well worth a visit for those interested in modern culture.

Garasu Volcano: Many visitors to Azerbaijan may not know that the country has the highest number of mud volcanoes in the world - 350 to be exact! One of the best known is Garasu Volcano, that has been known to spew mud over 1,000 metres into the air. The volcanoes are caused when gases under the earth build up and push the mud high into the air as a release. Visitors to Garasu often say that it looks like the surface of the moon!

Sheki: Nestled at the foot of the southern Greater Caucasus Mountain is a place called Sheki. The town of 60,000 dates back 2,500 years, making it one of the oldest Caucasus settlements. Sheki's claim to fame for the millennia was silk, textiles and embroidery, which made it a significant point on the Silk Road. Today, the historical region with ancient mosques, castles and the 18th-century Palace of Sheki Khans form the foreground against the majestic green mountains. Other places are: Masazir lake (Pink Lake), Icheri Seher, Absheron National Park, Naftalan Oil Resort, Gobustan National Park, Caspian Sea, Shirvan National Park, Nabran, Yanar Dag - Flaming Hillside, Ateshgah Fire Temple, Yanar Bulag and Astara.



Compiled by Kumal Jain (kunaljain@thestatesman.com)

Exhibition showcases Bangladesh

CULTURE

S KOREA

The artworks of Bangladeshi artists are on display at an exhibition at the Korean Cultural Centre, exploring the place variously referred to as Bengal, East Pakistan or Bangladesh.

Co-curated by Tanzim Wahab and Hadrien Diez, the exhibition, titled Displace, has a total 11 bodies of work on display in various forms, such as drawings, video installations and photography.

Acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam has showcased the various movements of protest in Dhaka in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This was shot over a decade ago. The series was not conceived as a single, unified narrative: it illustrates a multi-faceted struggle that continues even today, as recent events in Bangladesh reflect.

Najmun Nahar Keya in her work called The Vibe comments on the shifting ecology of the old Dhaka



neighbourhood. It is now a place in a state of flux where colonial mansions and warehouses are rapidly being replaced with concrete towers.

"The Korean Cultural Centre is an appropriate place to portray various aspects of Bangladesh as Korea too has seen terrible times," said Kim Kum-pyoung, Director of Korean Cultural Centre India.

"KCCI intends to bring various exhibition practices from SAARC countries to showcase this culturally vibrant

region," he said.

Displace is structured around various areas of disagreements, each framing questions connected to the general line of inquiry while they also open specific discussions. It touches upon topics as urgent to Bengal and Bangladesh as they are to the world: shifting environment, migration, marginalisation, economic and/or cultural appropriation. The exhibition further discusses related issues of borders and place ownership, and of utopian sen-



sibilities vis-à-vis forced displacements.

"We naturally felt that our project would have to touch upon Bangladesh, the place where we are active as curators and where our practice is rooted. At the same time, we were wary of the postcard effect, under which we would present an exotic somewhere else to foreign audience while eschewing essential topics that would normally have found place in other of our projects. But we found a solution: we would discuss a place in

Bengal/Bangladesh, of which many historical and geographical particulars would provide a fertile ground for polemics, while also discussing place as a general idea," said co-curators Hadrien Diez and Tanzim Wahab.

Among the participating artists are: Tayeba Begum Lipi, Afsana Sharmin Zhumpa, Ronni Ahmmed, Mohammed Shamsul Arifin, Zihan Karim and Bengal Institute for Architecture Landscape and Settlement. The exhibition is on until 22 February.

'India among top five markets for Penang'

MALAYSIA

SNS

Thirteen Malaysia-based organisations visited the Indian Capital for the Penang Sales Mission 2019 with the objective of promoting Penang as the preferred destination for corporate and association meetings, conferences, and leisure travel.

Led by Ashwin Gunasekaran, Chief Executive Officer of the Penang Convention and Exhibition Bureau (PCEB), the sales mission to New Delhi was joined by Yeoh Soon Hin, Penang State Executive Councillor for Tourism Development, Heritage, Arts and Cul-

ture. "India is one of the top five markets for business events in Penang and, over the past year, we have received encouraging interest from event planners and conference organisers. This mission is joined by some of Penang's finest offerings in the hospitality, travel and events sectors, and will showcase the best of what Penang can offer to the Indian market," said Gunasekaran.

In 2017, 13 per cent of business events of Asia Pacific origin was from India, contributing 46 million dollars. In 2018, Penang's largest business event, V Con 2018, which saw the participation of 16,000 delegates from around the world, reported that 80 per cent

of the delegates were from India. In the past year, PCEB has heavily invested in marketing Penang to India.

"I am very honoured to represent the Penang state government in this year's Penang Sales Mission to India, here in New Delhi. Penang is a state in Malaysia and it has been listed in various travel articles among top ten cities to visit," said Yeoh Soon Hin.

Capitalising on Penang's rising popularity in India, the Penang Sales Mission to India organised in each of the four cities it visited (Kolkata, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai), a business to business engagement session with participating business



India-UK discuss migration issue

SNS

UK government officials last week visited New Delhi for talks with the Indian Government on migration. The discussions signalled a new phase of cooperation and acted as a forum to discuss opportunities to strengthen the bilateral relationship.

The migration dialogue allowed UK government officials to engage directly with their Indian counterparts on the UK's plans for a new single, skills-based immigration system after Brexit. In addition, the UK delegation held roundtable events with key figures from the corporate, business and education sectors in India, to gather insight and highlight

how the new system will benefit them.

Commenting on the talks, UK Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes said, "The UK is committed to building relationships across the globe, which is why officials visited New Delhi and met the Government of India today."

"We already issue more skilled worker visas to Indian nationals than to the rest of the world combined, and I am delighted to see many Indian students coming to study at our world-class universities."

"Under the new system, operating from 2021, we will always be open to the brightest and best from India, who wish to come to live and work in the UK."

The proposals for the skills-based immigration system, operating from 2021, will allow people from across the world to come to the UK for work or to study and to visit. The UK government wants to encourage skilled workers to come to live and work in the UK and has proposed to abolish the cap on its new skilled visa route when the new system comes into effect in 2021. These proposals will mean that there would be no limit on the number of skilled people, such as engineers, doctors and IT professionals, who can come to live and work in the UK. British High Commissioner Sir Dominic Asquith said, "Strengthening the UK-India migration partnership is a priority for us. India is the first country, outside of the EU, that the UK is consulting on its new migration White Paper. These talks are central to developing closer bilateral cooperation, with policies promoting skilled work and international students playing a major role in new UK proposals. We'll also be continuing our



discussions on handling Indian nationals, who are in the UK illegally. "We look forward to working together with the Government of India on the entire migration relationship. The exchange of business people, students and tourists forms the living bridge between our two countries and we want to make it even stronger."

Ministry of Tourism, and other tourism-related officials participated. The two sides discussed challenges and measures to expand bilateral tourism exchange. "Through today's council and summit, I hope our operators of both sides will sit together and discuss way to promote two-way tourism and come up with concrete tour packages. I would also like to expect the expansion of flights between Japan and India by airlines of both countries, through full utilisation of the open sky agreement," the Japanese envoy added.

Following the council and the summit, a reception was hosted by JNTO at which a large number of tourism-related people from Japan and India participated and interacted. In addition, many of the Japanese delegates joined the familiarisation tour organised by the Ministry of Tourism of India, to Assam and Meghalaya.

TOURISM

SNS

Japan Tourism Agency and Ministry of Tourism of India organised the 3rd India-Japan Tourism Council and Summit in the Indian capital to discuss tourism policies.

The event saw the participation of Kenji Hiramatsu Ambassador of Japan to India, leaders of tourism-related organisations, including Hiroshi Tabata, Commissioner, Japan Tourism Agency and Satoshi Seino, President, Japan National Tourism Organisation.

"Considering the valuable tourism resources of each country, there are good possibilities for a greater tourist exchange in the future. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary for both countries to put the results of this meeting into concrete actions," Ambassador Hiramatsu said on the occasion.

From the Indian side, Yogendra Tripathi, Secretary,

India, Japan meet on tourism policies



Diplomatic Editor Ashok Tuteja (ashoktuteja@gmail.com)

A region erupts in anger



The Citizenship Amendment Bill has brought to the fore serious fissures in the North-east

NAVA THAKURIA

Various parts of northeast India, more precisely the Brahmaputra valley of Assam, are presently witnessing an uproarious situation in the backdrop of the Centre's initiative to amend the citizenship laws.

The region observed a Northeast bandh (shut down) on 8 January protesting the Union government's bid to pass the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha and readying it for introduction in the Rajya Sabha.

Many political observers across the country also start fantasising about another session of the historic Assam movement comprising more northeastern localities under its ambit. The Assam agitation, which started in 1979, culminated after six years with an accord signed by the agitators and the Union government in New Delhi in presence of the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The public uprising, which was for detection and deportation of all illegal migrants (read Bangladeshi nationals) from Assam (meaning India), ended with a wrong resolution

to identify the immigrants with the cut-off date of 25 March 1971. Leaders of the All Assam Student's Union (AASU) and now defunct Asom Gana Sangram Parishad agreed to accept everyone entering Assam prior to the date as legal citizens.

The Assam movement had started with the mission to deport all illegal migrants with the national cut-off year (1951) for which over 850 people sacrificed their lives and thousands others suffered in different shape and sizes. More surprisingly, the accord was never placed in Parliament for its endorsement so that it could have been given legal status.

Now most of the civil society groups and a large section of writers, artists and media stalwarts in the region are hitting the streets opposing the Centre's move to grant citizenship to the religious asylum seekers from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. They came out with a clear demand that the Narendra Modi-led government's move for the benefit of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian asylum seekers from the three neighboring countries must be abandoned. Their logic includes that Indian citizenship cannot be conferred on the basis of religion as it is a secular country and if done it would go against the spirit of the Constitution. The other viewpoint, which has been supported by 95 per cent of protesting organisations, argues that Assam has already taken the burden of numerous illegal migrants (from 1951 to 1971) and it must not get more migrants as they

would destroy the State's demography and Assamese as a language.

The protest gained momentum last year, when the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016 arrived in Guwahati in May for hearings. A number of indigenous organisations, local politicians, intellectuals, media personalities etc assembled at the venue and raised their voice against the move. However, subsequent hearings in Silchar of Barak valley witnessed a different picture as most of the organisations supported the bill.

When the Lok Sabha passed the bill on 8 January, the anti-bill protests got escalated in northeast India. Assam's Brahmaputra valley took the lead in the movement with a series of demonstrations. The local media space remains full of anti-bill statements, news related to agitations and also newspaper editorials and television talk shows.

But most of the public debates have lately been influenced by Assam's most powerful minister Himanta Biswa Sarma where he repeatedly commented that the citizenship amendment initiatives would only benefit the Assamese population and few anti-Assam forces (read Naxal/Leftists) continued crying against the amendment bill. In a recent tweet, Sarma stated that the Left elements always use character assassination and intimidation as their tactics, but this would never succeed in changing his views on the bill. "They want us to be slaves of a particular civilization (read Islamic). However, in this civili-

sational fight, we must win. Assam and India must win," he added. In various public discourses, Sarma openly suggested that Assamese people should support the non-Muslim asylum seekers from Bangladesh to safeguard their political, social and cultural rights in Assam.

Expressing his serious concern over the aggressive mentality of Bangladeshi Muslims in the State, Sarma asserted that the said bill, if passed in the upper house of Parliament, would be able to prevent Assam from becoming another Kashmir. As the bill is designed to protect the Hindus in the country, it would finally safeguard the identity of indigenous populace of Assam as well northeast India. However, AASU along with its 30 other civil society organisations continue warning the government that if the bill is passed in Rajya Sabha, Assam would burn. AASU adviser Samujjal Bhattacharjya in various public meetings commented that the BJP-led governments in both New Delhi and Dispur were hatching conspiracies to destroy the peaceful ambience of the State as the bill would destroy the prospects of Assamese language and also threaten the very existence of indigenous people across Assam.

Lately Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma and Mizoram chief minister Zoram Thanga, both with the National Democratic Alliance, have publicly raised their voice against the bill. Even Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh from Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed

his concern over the probable negative implications of the initiative in his State. Similarly, the ruling ally to Tripura's BJP led government (IPFT) has also opposed the bill.

Amidst all opposition, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal came out with strong logic to support the bill. Remaining silent over the matter for months, Sonowal recently made his comment loud and clear that those who opposed the Assam agitation were now making a hue and cry against the bill. He insisted that the Centre's initiative would never harm the local population, but benefit them in the long term.

Sonowal categorically stated that a section of vested interests was hell bent on creating disturbances in Assam by spreading misinformation that 1.90 crore Bangladeshis would get citizenship as an outcome of the bill. Being the son of the soil he would never endorse any harm to the indigenous people of the State.

Arguing that the Centre's recent steps to provide constitutional safeguard to the indigenous people and granting ST status to six communities of Assam would permanently secure interests of the locals, Sonowal urged leaders of AASU, AGP (which has recently snapped ties with the government over the issue) and distinguished personalities to wholeheartedly extend cooperation in implementation of clause VI of the Assam accord.

The writer is the Guwahati-based Special Representative of The Statesman.

PLUS POINTS

No study done in Assam



There has been no detailed study by any Government agency on the impact of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, reports the Assam Tribune.

The newspaper quoted "highly placed official sources" to say that while security agencies had warned the Government on the possible fallouts including agitations by different organizations, the impact of the amendment on the socio-political scenario of the State is yet to be ascertained. It quoted sources to say that the Government does not have figures of Hindus who entered Assam illegally after 1971, or even of those who fled persecution in the 1960s and during the Bangladesh liberation war.

Mizoram says no to Bill



Mizoram Chief Minister Zoram Thanga has told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the people of the North-eastern state vehemently oppose the passage of the Citizenship (amendment) Bill, an official statement said last week.

The controversial bill, which has triggered large-scale protests in the North-eastern states, including Mizoram, was passed by the Lok Sabha on 8 January.

The statement said Zoram Thanga had discussed several issues, including the opposition to the proposed amendment on the Citizenship Act 1955, with the Prime Minister.

20 detained near Digboi



About 20 suspected Bangladeshis, including men, women and children, were held by local residents near Digboi, Assam on Friday and handed over to the police for verification of their antecedents, reports The Sentinel.

The group was eating breakfast in an open paddy field in the Kathalguri area when they were caught by local residents.

The newspaper quoted a police officer as saying that the detained persons were working in a brick kiln along the Arunachal Pradesh border.

Cong revival in Arunachal



Two MLAs of the National People's Party in Arunachal Pradesh last week rejoined the Congress. Two former Ministers and a senior BJP leader also joined the party, signalling a change in its fortunes in the state, according to news reports.

APCC President Takam Sanjay also welcomed the decision of former Chief Minister Gegong Apang to quit the BJP. He was quoted as saying, "His decision to quit, citing various issues, including the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), should be a wake-up call for the state. This bill is against the interests of Arunachal Pradesh and will make our state a dumping ground of refugees."

Bringing the N-E into focus

North-east studies have been accorded priority in the programmes of the Asiatic Society



RANGAN DUTTA

Established in 1784 under the guidance of Sir William Jones, the great pioneer of the discipline of Indology who laid down a broad mandate to the Asiatic Society Calcutta to ensure that its work covered all aspects of life and nature, the society's interest in the eastern frontier of the Bengal Presidency, that is, North East India and Burma began soon after extension of British power to this vast region. Its pioneering studies of Garo and Lushei language and studies on cultures of the Brahmaputra valley and adjoining Hills and Manipur created among the people, especially among the Hill Tribes, a cultural base for social cohesion and identity formation in the modern era.

It is heartening to note that

under Dr. SB Chakrabarti, the society's present General Secretary who had earlier served as an anthropologist in Shillong, North-east studies have been accorded a well deserved priority in the society's programme.

This is evident from several initiatives: first, the institution of the K.K. Handique Memorial Lecture to remind the present generation of the work of a great scholar and second, its sponsorship of the seminar at Guwahati's Anundoram Barooah Institute of Language Art and culture on the contribution of Anundoram Barooah, a great scholar and administrator.

It is not known to many even in the North-east that Anundoram Barooah joined the Indian Civil Service in 1872 along with RC.Dutt, also a scholar administrator, on being

selected through the open competitive examination and was the first Indian to be appointed to the post of the District Magistrate and Collector.

Next, the Society has been sponsoring on regular basis colloquium seminars across the North-east on a wide range of subjects - from historical, anthropological to strategic issues of development and peace building. The seminars sponsored in December last year at the Diphu campus of the Assam University Silchar on "68 years of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution", on "ethnography, historiography and North East" at the Manipur University and on "historiography of the North East region - pre colonial, colonial and post colonial" at the Gauhati University are commendable efforts towards a greater understanding of the com-

plex history of the North-east.

However nothing possibly could sum up better the mission and functioning of the society in the North-east than the title of the subject the society's General Secretary, Dr. Chakrabarti, chose as the subject to deliver the second Gangmumei Kamei Memorial lecture at Imphal on 6 January - "Humane journey into the Nature of Human culture". However in the backdrop of the continuing tragedy of hapless miners trapped in Meghalaya's "rat hole mines" - a national shame really - it is necessary that a hard look is given by institutions like the Asiatic Society to the entire issue of changing land relations in Tribal areas and the impact of capitalism, that is, for profit only activities by the new class of tribal capitalists on tribal economy and society.

In this background the decision of the society to observe the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Azad Hind Government and the INA by Netaji Subhas at Singapore by hosting a two-day international seminar on 11 December 2018 may be seen as an initiative to engage in larger issues of nation-building and geopolitical and economic issues of modern Asian history because the INA movement inspired freedom movements among all oppressed peoples of South East Asia then under colonial rule.

There were five Academic sessions covering the formation of the INA and the Azad Hind Government under Netaji, the role of Japan, World War II strategies and the conduct of war in Manipur and Assam by adversaries and the role of women in the INA. Prominent Netaji scholars like Prof Purabi Roy, Prof Chitra Ghose, Maj Gen (Retd) GD Bakshi and Brig (Retd) Chhikara of the INA Netaji Subhash Trust Delhi and especially the presentations of two Russian scholars - Prof T. Zagorodnikova and Dr. Anne A

Bychkova - made the audience aware of the Russian perception of the INA movement and its impact on Asia and India's North-east and how it awakened the Naga and the Manipuri people about their political rights. The seminar brought out the huge support the Kuki people offered to INA for which they as well as many Nagas and Manipuris suffered and little known facts about grant of INA pension to 160 Kukis, several Assamese and 150 Gurkhas in the INA.

A consensus emerged that the role of the INA and its Netaji has to be contextualised and not in isolation: and rather seen as the successful effort to take advantage of Britain's difficulty in World War II to achieve freedom launched by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose by obtaining support of the Axis powers with consummate diplomatic skills backed by a strategy which was not seen in India before. Here we must note that this was also the strategy of the Indian revolutionaries like Lala Hardayal and M.N. Roy during World War I as documented in the chapter on German conspiracies in the Rowlett Report.

For the British it was a pyrrhic victory as the massive unrest in the armed forces across the country the INA movement caused after the war destroyed the British administrative will to rule any longer - a fact conceded later by Clement Atlee, the British Prime Minister of that period. Indeed, but for Netaji and the INA all our efforts to gain Independence after World War I might as well appear ineffective in really weakening, not to speak of destroying the British "will to rule". And herein lies the strategic role of Netaji as he gave the freedom movement the character of an armed struggle. Netaji Subhas was India's Garibaldi.

The writer is a retired IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.



I have to say that I'm extremely angry because this defeat against Arsenal was due to our mentality

MAURIZIO SARRI
CHELSEA MANAGER

Casemiro wonder goal helps Real Madrid defeat Sevilla

AGENCIES
MADRID, 20 JANUARY

Casemiro's (in photo, right) stunning long-range strike and a late goal from Luka Modric earned Real Madrid a 2-0 win over Sevilla and a much-needed boost to their flailing title challenge in La Liga.

Madrid began the day 10 points adrift of leaders Barcelona, a gap that will be restored if the Catalans defeat Leganes on Sunday, but this victory should inject a timely shot of confidence.

Casemiro's bending effort in the 78th minute and Modric's injury-time finish settled a compelling contest of third against fourth but Madrid were dominant in the second half and, in the end, deserved the points.

It means they move above Sevilla and behind Atletico Madrid, who stay second after running out 3-0 winners away at bottom-club Huesca.

Diego Simeone's side remain Barca's most tenacious challengers but for Real, this was their most impressive result in weeks, following a run of only two wins from five matches.

"Beating your direct rivals is always worth more than three points," coach Santiago Solari said afterwards. "The celebration for our first goal was pure joy."

Madrid had been thrashed by Sevilla in September, a 3-0 loss that triggered a run of one victory in seven games, the seventh culminating in Julen Lopetegui being sacked.

Solari sparked a brief revival but performances had slumped again. This was more like it, a purposeful display by Modric, who played first with a bandage and then stitches to protect a cut eye.

"He was outstanding," Solari said. "Considering he played with a cut, and stitches, he is a fighter. The fact he scored in the last minutes shows his spirit and the spirit of the team."

Sevilla had gone top in



November when Barca were also stuttering but doubts remain about their sturdiness under pressure. In their last 28 visits to the Santiago Bernabeu and Camp Nou, they have now lost 27 and drawn one.

"The biggest games hit you not only physically but mentally too," Sevilla coach Pablo

Machin said. "I have always said there would be moments this season where we were not playing so well." Isco again started on the bench, along with the struggling Marcelo, while Gareth Bale was absent as he continues to recover from a calf strain.

Vinicius Junior was Madrid's

brightest spark in the first half and could have scored early after Modric robbed Ever Banega in midfield but the teenager's shot was saved easily by Tomas Vaclik. Sevilla grew in confidence and had the best chance before the interval as one pass sent Wissam Ben Yedder racing clear on the

Dortmund down Leipzig 0-1, stay on top of Bundesliga

AGENCIES
BERLIN, 20 JANUARY

Germany's Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund won 1-0 at RB Leipzig with a solitary goal from Belgium's Axel Witsel to maintain a six-point lead over Bayern Munich and a nine-point lead over third-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Dortmund on Saturday came into the game with several heavy casualties. The most significant was that of their captain Marco Reus, and with their striker Paco Alcacer not in full physical shape so he was only on the field in the final minutes, reports Efe news.

However, Dortmund managed to impose their dominance on the game in the first half and when Leipzig reacted they were able to defend their win.

The duel had a first phase with clear domination of Dortmund who were in command of the ball and spent most time in the half of their rival.

At the start of the second half, Leipzig had a good chance at the feet of Marcel Sabitzer in the 48th minute, but Dortmund's goalkeeper Roman Buerki reacted in time. Leipzig's best chance in the second half came in the 74th minute when, again, Sabitzer shot from close range but hit straight against Buerki's body.

Atletico's victory over Huesca, who are now 10 points adrift of safety, was never in doubt.

Santiago Arias' volley was the pick of the goals at a foggy Alcoraz Stadium, as he drove in Antoine Griezmann's cross to the back post. Lucas Hernandez and Koke made sure of a comfortable win.

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Ankita wins first singles title of 2019 season in Singapore

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

Indian tennis player Ankita Raina (in photo) on Sunday won her first singles title of the 2019 season and eighth overall after trampling top seed Arantxa Rus in straight sets in the final of the USD 25,000 event in Singapore.

Coming into the tournament after competing at the Australian Open Qualifiers, Ankita demolished world number 122 and the Dutch top seed 6-3 6-2 in one hour and 23 minutes.

Ankita toppled four seeded players in the tournament starting with Dutch eighth seed Lesley Kerkhove in the second round.

The gritty 25-year-old followed that up with wins over second seed Uzbek Sabina Sharipova and third seed Sherry Perrin from Switzerland.

The 50 points earned from the title triumph are likely to catapult Ankita to a career-high singles rank of 168 when the new WTA list is issued on Monday.

"I've been working on my serve for a long while now and I think it's starting to help. I also feel there's more power in the strokes. It definitely helped playing the Grand Slam as the first tournament of the year. It gave a lot of positivity and self belief," Ankita told PTI from Singapore.

"Even though I was a bit disappointed that I didn't qualify for the Australian

Open since I expected that but I was grateful that I had reached where once I used to imagine I would be playing."

It is Ankita's fourth title at the USD 25k level and the others were at the USD 10,000 level. Last year she won two titles -- Gwalior (25k) and Nonthaburi (25k).

The Asian Games bronze medalist said the changes made to the circuit have made even the USD 25k tournaments much tougher.

"This tournament, even though it was 25k event, was a tough competition as all the qualifying players from Melbourne were here and also the last (in entry) was 250th ranked. I played seeded players from the second round itself and saw a lot of things that I was working on with my coach (Hemant Bendre) a few days ago.

"There were a few things that I needed to work on mentally which I am happy I could work with my coach as he was around before the tournament. He eventually left after the first round match due to other commitments back home.

"Also the things I am working for the last six months are paying off. In fact, we were working on it in the Australian open and will continue," she added.

Ankita will play two more tournaments before gearing up for the Fed Cup, starting in the first week of February at Astana, Kazakhstan.



THUMBNAILS

Arsenal manager fuels Denis Suarez signing hopes:

Arsenal manager Unai Emery gave hope to fans on Saturday that the London club are trying to find a way to bring in Barcelona midfielder Denis Suarez in the January transfer window. The club has been widely reported in the British media to be keen to sign the 25-year-old Spaniard, whom Emery worked with previously at Sevilla. Yet the Gunners are thought to have little money to play with, partly due to their high wage bill, meaning a loan deal could be on the cards. At a news conference after Arsenal's 2-0 victory over London rivals Chelsea, Emery was asked whether the club was any closer to securing Suarez's services. He declined to name the player but added: "I know the club is working with different possibilities if (it) can help us for these four months for our competition."

Asked directly whether Suarez might even be with the side in time for their FA Cup fourth-round match against old foes Manchester United on Jan. 25, Emery said only that he would be glad if a player could reinforce the squad. "I know it's a difficult window for the transfer market and if a player is coming to help us I am happy. But the club is doing that and I am going to wait," he said.



Pak drop 11 players from World Cup side:

Pakistan selectors Sunday effected a wholesale change in the country's hockey squad for the FIH Pro-League series beginning next month by dropping 11 players, including captain Muhammad Rizwan, who were part of the team's disastrous campaign in the recent World Cup. After trials held in Islamabad, chief selector Islahuddin Siddiqui announced Sunday that captain Muhammad Rizwan (Sr) and 10 other players, mostly seniors, were dropped from the team. Midfielder Ali Shan will lead the new-look 18-member Pakistan squad for the Pro-League series in Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and European countries in the coming six months. The 25-year-old has so far represented the country in 135 international matches. Pakistan had finished 11th without winning a single match at the 16-nation World Cup held in Bhubaneswar during November-December last year. Then manager Hasan Sardar had held the senior players responsible for the team's miserable show in the mega event.

Haryana beat Jharkhand to win gold in U-21 Girls Hockey:

Playing to a plan, Haryana beat Jharkhand 3-0 to win the U-21 Girls Hockey gold in the Khelo India Youth Games on Sunday in Pune. Earlier Punjab beat Odisha 2-1 for the third place. Haryana, who led 2-0 at half time, attacked well and defended their citadel efficiently giving Jharkhand no chance to create any serious problem from them. Yet, Jharkhand fought till the end, a media release said. The winners took the lead in the 10th minute when Mahima Chowdhary struck. Seven minutes before the second half, Haryana struck again and this time Amandeep Kaur made a solo run from the left and with a super reverse shot beat the onrushing goalkeeper to send the ball into the cave.

Japan's Olympic chief 'did not know' of lobby firm's links to controversial middle man, say investigators:

The head of Japan's Olympic Committee told French investigators he had not known that a consultancy firm used by the 2020 Tokyo bid committee had links to a controversial Senegalese man at the centre of corruption allegations, documents seen by AFP show. Tsunekazu Takeda was charged this month by French investigating magistrates probing two payments totalling \$2.3 million (two million euros) made before and after the Japanese capital was chosen to host the Olympics in a September 2013 vote. Officially the payments, made in July and October 2013, were made for "consultancy work", but the French investigators believe they were aimed at obtaining "favourable votes from members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)".

Arsenal beat toothless Chelsea to blow Champions League chase open

AGENCIES
LONDON, 20 JANUARY

Arsenal blew the race for a top-four Premier League finish wide open as first-half goals from Alexandre Lacazette (in photo, centre) and Laurent Koscielny saw the Gunners beat Chelsea 2-0 at the Emirates Stadium.

Chelsea remain in pole position for a return to Champions League football next season in fourth, but are now just three points ahead of Arsenal and a surging Manchester United, who beat Brighton earlier on Saturday to stretch caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's winning streak to seven games in all competitions.

Maurizio Sarri's men risk being caught after a fourth defeat in 11 league matches that underlined the need for a striker, as the club close in on signing Gonzalo Higuain on loan from Juventus.

Sarri again opted to start with

out a recognised centre-forward, with a largely anonymous Eden Hazard preferred in middle of a front three against an Arsenal defence that had kept just one Premier League clean sheet since September.

By contrast Arsenal boss Unai Emery's selection was vindicated, with Mesut Ozil on the bench for the whole match and a switch to a 4-4-2 that allowed Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to form a potent partnership up front. Aubameyang should have opened the scoring after just five minutes when perfectly picked out by Lacazette's slow cross, but he dragged his shot wide.

Kepa Arizabalaga then produced a brilliant save to deny Koscielny from point-blank range, but it counted for little as from the resulting 14th-minute corner Arsenal took a deserved lead.

Lacazette did well to stay on his feet as he skipped past Mar-

cos Alonso and Pedro Rodriguez before smashing the ball past Kepa at his near post.

Aubameyang should have doubled Arsenal's lead moments later but fired too close to Kepa when clean through.

Chelsea's start was horribly reminiscent of the 3-1 defeat at Tottenham in November that began their dip in form after a fine start to Sarri's reign at Stamford Bridge. However, Arsenal's defence remained vulnerable when put under pressure and Pedro could have levelled when his lob over Bernd Leno shaved the outside of the post. Aubameyang came close again, this time in spectacular fashion with an overhead kick that flew inches wide with Kepa beaten. Chelsea were repeatedly caught out by Arsenal's well-worked set-pieces and paid for it again, albeit in fortunate fashion for the Gunners, six minutes before the break. Sead Kolasinac headed

down Lucas Torreira's free-kick into the path of Sokratis Papastathopoulos and his cross



picked out the unmarked Koscielny. The Arsenal captain mistimed his header, but the ball

bounced in off his shoulder for his first goal since he ruptured his Achilles in April.

Mickelson maintains two-shot lead in Desert Classic

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES, 20 JANUARY

Five-time major champion Phil Mickelson (in photo, left) fired six birdies in a six-under par 66 to maintain his two-shot lead in the US PGA Tour Desert Classic.

The 48-year-old American heads into Sunday's final round chasing a 44th US PGA Tour title and his third in this event in the California desert east of Los Angeles.

His 22-under par total of 194 put him two strokes clear of Canadian Adam Hadwin, who fired a bogey-free seven-under par 65 for 196.

Mickelson -- who launched his week with a sparkling 60 on the La Quinta course, one of three in use this week -- kept his foot on the accelerator on the tougher Stadium course on Saturday, where a chip-in at the sixth hole launched a string of three straight birdies.

"Every now and then you just need that putt, chip, something to fall and give you a little momentum," Mickelson said.



He was one stroke behind Hadwin's clubhouse lead when he rolled in a 34-footer for birdie at the 13th and regained the lead when he drained an 11-footer at the 14th.

A brilliant shot from a greenside bunker at the par-five 16th gave him another birdie look but Mickelson was unable to capitalize.

But he picked up another stroke with a 36-foot birdie putt at the par-three 17th before capping his round with a par.

with his 2017 Valspar Championship crown, said his bogey-free day, which saw him hit 12 of 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens in regulation, was "as stress-free as possible".

"A couple putts went in on the back nine and here I am having a chance again on Sunday," he said.

One-under through his first six holes, he birdied half of the remaining 14.

"I was playing one of the easier golf courses, so I knew I had to keep the pedal down," Hadwin said.

"And, again, it was kind of a slow-ish start, but I've done that the first three rounds now and then just kind of caught fire midway."

Hadwin was one stroke in front of American Adam Long, who had two eagles in a nine-under par 63 at La Quinta. American Steve Marino was a further stroke back on 198 after a 67 on the Nicklaus Tournament course.

Mickelson said he'd stay aggressive when they return to the Stadium course on Sunday.

Khelo: Maharashtra with 228 medals win overall trophy

AGENCIES
PUNE, 20 JANUARY

Hosts Maharashtra walked away with the Overall Trophy at the Khelo India Youth Games, as they amassed a mammoth 85 gold, 62 silver and 81 bronze for a total of 228 medals.

Their sportspersons and officials received the trophy from Union Minister Prakash Javadekar and Maharashtra Sports Minister Vinod Tawde at the closing ceremony here, a media release said. Javadekar said the performances of the athletes at the Games had underlined the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of "5 minute aur" for sports.

He added that the government was determined to bring in a compulsory one-hour daily sports period in every school across the country.

Tawde said he wanted not just five minutes, but 50 minutes and encouraged

all the sportspersons.

Maharashtra finished ahead of Khelo India School Games 2018 winners Haryana, who were second with 62 gold, 56 silver and 60 bronze for a total of 178 medals.

Delhi stood third with 48 gold, 37 silver and 51 bronze, a tally of 136 medals.

On the final day, 15 gold medals were at stake, of which eight were in archery.

Hosts Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana picked two each while Delhi and Punjab got one each.

Haryana asserted themselves in hockey, winning the girls Under-21 final to take their third gold in hockey from four finals, while Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala won gold each in volleyball.

Manush Shah of Gujarat emerged the singles champion in Under-21 table tennis, while Saubhi Patwari of West Bengal won the Girls Under-21 singles.



Michael Schumacher's son Mick has followed in his father's footsteps by signing a contract with Ferrari to join the Formula One team's young driver academy. The 19-year-old German, whose father won five of his record seven championships with the Italian team, will be competing in Formula Two this year after winning the European F3 title in 2018. "I am thrilled that Ferrari has entered a partnership with me and my next future in motorsport will be in red," said Schumacher. "This is another step forward in the right direction, and I can only profit from the immense amount of expertise bundled there. Be sure I will make everything to extract whatever helps me achieve my dream, racing in Formula One. "It is more than obvious that Ferrari has a big place in my heart since I was born and also in the hearts of our family, so I am delighted on a personal level about this opportunity as well," added the German.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

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Federer knocked out by Tsitsipas

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, 20 JANUARY

Defending champion Roger Federer (in photo, left) was stunned by fiery Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas who ended his bid for a record seventh Australian Open on Sunday on a day of upsets that also saw second seed Angelique Kerber crash out.

The Swiss master caved in under the energy and pressure of a man 17 years his junior to tumble out 6-7 (11/13), 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) in the last 16 on Rod Laver Arena.

World number two Kerber was also sensationally bundled out by a woman playing the event for the first time, with American Danielle Collins humiliating the Wimbledon champion 6-0, 6-2 in under an hour.

The man Federer beat in last year's final, sixth seed Marin Cilic, was also sent packing by Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut, who now plays Tsitsipas in the quarter-finals.

Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova was another to fall, but there was no such drama for a rampant Rafael Nadal who powered into the last eight with a straight sets win over Tomas Berdych.

Federer was gunning for a 21st Grand Slam title but had a battle on his hands from off against the 20-year-old, touted among the new generation of young stars as a future champion.

"I'm the happiest man on Earth right now, I cannot describe it," said the 14th seed, who is the first Greek in history to reach the quarter-finals of a Slam.

"I've been idolising him (Federer) since the age of six.



World number two Kerber was also sensationally bundled out by a woman playing the event for the first time, with American Danielle Collins humiliating the Wimbledon champion 6-0, 6-2 in under an hour.

It was a dream come true for me just being on Rod Laver facing him. Winning at the end, I can't describe it. The Swiss great was gracious in defeat, saying "I lost to a better player who was playing very well, who hung in there and stayed

calm". Wimbledon winner and 2016 champion Kerber, the bookies' favourite along with Serena Williams after defending champion Caroline Wozniacki was ousted early, was no match for Collins, ranked 35

Barty storms past Sharapova into Australian Open quarters

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, 20 JANUARY

Australia's Ashleigh Barty (in photo) defeated Russia's Maria Sharapova here on Sunday to make it into the first Grand Slam quarterfinal of her career at the Australian Open.

The No 15 seed recovered from a set down against the former world No 1 and wrapped up the match 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in just under two and a half hours, reports Efe news.

Sharapova, who won the Australian Open in 2008, was looking for her first quarterfinal in Melbourne since 2016 after she had ousted defending champion Caroline Wozniacki in three sets in the last round.

But she was no match against the in-form Barty, in the world.

Collins is little known after playing much of her tennis in the US college system and was making her debut in the main draw at Melbourne Park. She had never won a Grand Slam match before this year.

Men's second seed Nadal, returning from foot surgery, barrelled past former world number four Tomas Berdych 6-0, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) as he stays on track for an 18th Grand Slam title. He will play world number 39 Frances Tiafoe for a place in the semi-finals after the young American celebrated his 21st birthday by grinding his way past Grigor Dimitrov 7-5, 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (1/7), 7-5.



the home favourite. Sharapova had powered her way through the first set but could not maintain her imperious tennis as Barty stormed back into the game and gave her a tough fight in

the last two sets. Barty will take on Petra Kvitová in the quarterfinals, who downed American youngster Amanda Anisimova in straight sets earlier on Sunday.

Love match: Everyone's crazy for Monfils and Svitolina

Blossoming romance between new tennis power couple Elna Svitolina and Gael Monfils has fans baying for more, with the pair obliging by setting up a joint Instagram account.

Ukrainian sixth seed Svitolina revealed last week that she is dating French star Monfils after he was spotted in her player box at the Australian Open. "He's there for me, he's supporting me, and I'm there for him as well," she said.

"He understands, I understand, what we're going through. It's great." The news sent social

media into overdrive and the pair have now launched a joint Instagram account 'g.e.m.slife' - Gael Elna Monfils Svitolina - which quickly racked up thousands of likes. The pair posted a video montage of the two of them going about their daily lives together and did a Q&A with fans.

Asked who initiated the relationship, they put up a picture pointing at each other. Australian player Daria Gavrilova called for other big-name tennis couples to follow suit in a post of the site.

"I wanna see Stan Wawrinka and Donna Vekic get a joint account and also Dominic Thiem and Kristina Mladenovic," she said.

Kohli is greatest ODI batsman to have played the game: Clarke

PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

That Virat Kohli (in photo) is destined to be among the pantheons of all-time greats is an oft-repeated assertion but for former Australia captain Michael Clarke, the India skipper is already the "greatest ODI batsman to have ever played the game". Kohli, the world's no.1 Test and ODI batsman, led India through a historic tour of Australia, during which the team won the Test and ODI rubbers and drew the T20 International series.

Kohli's India was the first team ever not to lose any series Down Under and along the way, he continued to add to his rapidly-rising count of international hundreds.

"To me, Virat Kohli is the greatest batsman to have ever played one-day cricket. I have no doubts after seeing what he has achieved for India," Clarke, himself a former World Cup-winning captain, told PTI in an interview.

Kohli has already scored 10,385 runs in 219 ODIs with an astounding average of 59 plus, including 39 hundreds.

An unabashed Kohli fan, Clarke said that the 30-year-old Indian's passion is unmatched. "You have to respect Virat's passion to win games for his country. Yes, he has aggression but no one can question his commitment, how much he has achieved. He is the greatest in ODIs," Clarke said.

While Kohli's craft continues to evoke awe, his predecessor Mahendra Singh Dhoni's current form has the cricketing world divided.

Dhoni's style of batsmanship in ODIs, no longer as aggressive as it used to be, has been a matter of concern but for Clarke, the 37-year-old former India captain should be left alone to play his game.

"MS knows how to react to any given situation. He has played 300 plus ODIs so he knows how to go about his job," Clarke said. But would Dhoni have been as effective as he was in the third ODI against Australia if the target would have been 330 instead of 230? "I think he would have played differ-



ently. It was 230 and he had a particular strategy and it would have been different if the target would have been bigger," he said. "Look at his approach in the second game in Adelaide and the third game in Melbourne. It was different," Clarke said. Asked what should be Dhoni's batting position in the World Cup, Clarke said, "Any position 4, 5 or 6. He is good enough to bat at any position and I believe Virat will use him accordingly."

Clarke, however, made it clear that the currently suspended Hardik Pandya would play an important role for India going into the World Cup in England. Pandya faces, as of now, an uncertain future owing to his much-condemned sexist remarks on a TV show.

"Talented player like Hardik is very necessary for the balance of the side. He can win games alone with his batting and I am confident he will be in that World Cup squad," Clarke sounded confident. While he didn't speak about the Pandya-KL

Rahul controversy but Clarke looked at the bigger picture about professional sports persons being role models. He stressed on the aspect of "respect".

Asked if a lot of money is making youngsters go haywire in their conduct, Clarke gave his insight. "How much money you have earned is irrelevant because most important thing is to earn and give respect. I think it all starts with how you have been brought up.

"Respecting every individual is very important. It starts with respecting elders regardless of profession," Clarke, who has been a chip of the old bloc when it comes to traditions, said. But former batting mainstay also spoke about the need to not make one "mistake" the focus of somebody's career.

"Professional sports persons are role models, recognized and they have a responsibility. Having said that, everyone makes mistakes and one needs to move on and learn from them," said Clarke.

Bajrang gives Punjab first win of PWL 4

AGENCIES
LUDHIANA, 20 JANUARY

Living up to his reputation, Asian Games gold medallist pulled off the deciding bout against Delhi Sultans' Andrey Kviatkovski to guide defending champions Punjab Royals to their first win of the ongoing Pro Wrestling League (PWL) season, here Sunday.

In a battle between the two world championships participants Bajrang outclassed Andrey Kviatkovski in the 65kg encounter.

In the sixth bout, Rio Olympics bronze medallist Delhi's Sakshi Malik didn't break much sweat while defeating 2018 national championships silver medallist Punjab's Anita 11-0 and push the tie to the decider. This was a much improved performance by Sakshi than the one she had against Navjot Kaur of UP Dangal in the last match.

Earlier, the 2017-18 World Military Championships gold medallist Russian Khetik Isabalov of Delhi Sultans won the first bout of the evening against the Asian Championships bronze medallist Vinod Kumar 14-0.

Punjab Royals' 2018 European Championships bronze medallist Cynthia Vescan withstood a tough challenge from the 2018 European U23 Championships gold medallist Anastasia Shustova to win the bout 2-1 and restore parity for the defending champions.

In the men's 86kg category, the 2016 European Championship bronze medallist Dato Magarisvili of the Punjab

Royals dismissed last year's national champion Praveen, scoring an impressive 12-0 win on technical superiority in under two minutes.

National champion Pinki defeated national runners-up Punjab Royals Anju in the 53kg bout. Pinki was coming to this bout riding on the wave of an upset win over world champion Vanesa Kaladzinskaya in the previous round.

But Anju gave Pinki a good run for her money before succumbing 4-9. Both teams were two wins apiece at this stage.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games silver medallist Corey Jarvis of the Punjab Royals won the 125kg bout against Satender Malik 7-2 despite the Indian holding the Canadian at bay for most part of the bout.

Dhoni is still world's best ODI finisher: Chappell

PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 JANUARY

The jury is still out on whether Mahendra Singh Dhoni's (in photo) much acclaimed finishing powers are on the wane or not but former Australia captain Ian Chappell still considers the World Cup winning former skipper as the "best finisher" in 50-over format. Dhoni was recently awarded the Man of the series for his match-winning knocks which helped India win their maiden ODI series in Australia.

Chappell saluted the former India skipper's nerve and longevity.

"Nobody has Dhoni's nerve for finishing off victories. Many times I've thought, 'He's left it too late this time', only to be amazed as he produced a couple of powerful shots to bring India a nail-biting victory," Chappell wrote in his column in ESPNcricinfo.

"His outward calm is no illusion since his tactical adeptness in these situations is proof of his brain continues to work perfectly."

Drawing a comparison with Michael Bevan, who is considered to be one of the greatest finishers of the game, Chappell said Dhoni has sur-



passed the former Australian number six.

"Where Bevan finished matches with fours, Dhoni does so with sixes. The one area - running between wickets - where you'd expect the fleet-footed Bevan to have an advantage is debatable, because even at age 37, Dhoni is among the quickest in the game," he wrote.

"Even allowing for improved bats and the advantage of playing T20 cricket, statistically Dhoni is superior to Bevan. There can be no argument - Dhoni is the best ODI finisher."

Of late, Dhoni has often

been criticised for his slow innings but the former India skipper silenced the doubters when he unleashed a massive six at Adelaide to seal the third ODI and the series 2-1.

"His trademark lofted on-drive comfortably cleared one of the longer Adelaide Oval boundaries to settle the issue in that particular finishing effort," Chappell wrote.

"It was a clear reminder that any thought that his power might be waning was only wishful thinking on the part of opponents. That he achieved the feat in stifling heat only added to the lustre of his performance."

THUMBNAILS

Lagat, Worknesh clinch men's and women's titles: Cosmas Lagat of Kenya and Worknesh Alemu of Ethiopia surprised pre-race favourites to win the men's and women's crowns respectively in the USD 405,000 Tata Mumbai Marathon here on Sunday. Lagat, winner of the Sevilla Marathon in 2016, made the 42.195-km race in this coastal city his own over the last 10 km to storm his way home in 2 hours, 9 minutes and 15 seconds, the second-best in the 16-year history of the race. The course record of 2:08:35 of his own Kenyan compatriot Gideon Kipketer, done in 2016, just about survived the long-legged Lagat's onslaught after he had left behind all his rivals, including pre-race favourite Kuma of Ethiopia well behind his wake. In second place was Aychew Bantie of Ethiopia in 2:10:05 while Akalnew Shumet, also from Ethiopia, took the third spot in 2:10:14. The man with the best time going into the race, Kuma, finished seventh in 2:13:10 after he was with the lead bunch of ten runners, including some pacers, on the sea link after 19 kms before the bunch split up. "I did not think of course record and only winning was on my mind," said Kenyan Lagat who was a pacemaker in the 2012 London Olympics and started running when in primary school.



PSG claim record home win with 9-0 thrashing of Guingamp: Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani both scored hat-tricks as Paris Saint-Germain romped to their biggest-ever home win with a 9-0 Ligue 1 thrashing of Guingamp. The runaway league leaders exacted sweet revenge on bottom club Guingamp, who had ended their bid for a sixth straight League Cup title earlier this month in Paris. It was PSG's largest victory at the Parc des Princes, beating an 8-0 win over Dijon 12 months ago, but fell narrowly short of equalling their biggest win in total - a 10-0 French Cup thumping of Cote d'Azur in 1994. The capital club, who lead second-placed Lille by 13 points with two games in hand, have dropped just four points in their opening 19 matches of the season as they bid for an unbeaten league campaign.

NZ tour: Indian team reaches Auckland: The Indian cricket team on Sunday touched base in Auckland for their upcoming limited over series against New Zealand, starting January 23. The Indian team will play five ODIs and three T20 Internationals during their three-week stay in the country. The BCCI uploaded a small video of Indian cricketers coming out of the Auckland airport, amidst cheers from a small but vocal pack of Indian supporters. The likes of Kedar Jadhav and Dinesh Karthik were seen signing autographs as the loudest cheer was reserved for skipper Virat Kohli and his wife Anushka Sharma. The Indian team will leave for Napier on Monday morning where the first ODI will be played on Wednesday. The subsequent ODIs will be played in Tauranga (January 26 and 28), Hamilton (January 31) and Wellington (February 3). The three T20s will be played in Wellington (February 6), Auckland (February 8) and Hamilton (February 10). The ODI matches will start at 7:30 am IST while the three T20s will start at 12:30 pm IST.

Lahiri misses the cut after third round at Desert Classic on PGA: Anirban Lahiri dropped two shots on the front nine and missed the cut by one at the end of the third round of the Desert Classic. Lahiri, who was Tied-21st, shot one-over 73 with two birdies and three bogeys and exited from the tournament. It was a bit of an anti-climax after the second round of 65. The 48-year-old Phil Mickelson made three long birdie putts on the back nine and carded a bogey-free 66 on the Stadium Course at PGA West to take a two-stroke lead into the final round of the Desert Classic. He shot 60 on the first day at La Quinta Country Club and 68 on Friday on PGA West's Nicklaus Tournament Course in second round.