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2017

The Statesman

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PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

OUTDOORS

Forecast: Clear sky, haze in morning
Rainfall: Nil

TEMPERATURE
Max: 25.1 (-1); Min: 12.4 (+1)

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max: 67% | Min: 33%

SUNRISE 06:49 hrs | **SUNSET** 18:18 hrs

VICTORY FOR MAY AS LABOUR SUFFERS DEFEAT

P12

HISTORY-MAKER DETHRONED

LEICESTER CITY GET RID OF RANIERI

P15

'DMK WAS BEHIND ASSEMBLY FRACAS'

P9

THUMBNAILS

Vintage/Classic Car on road during pre-judging programme of "The Statesman Vintage and Classic Car Rally-2017" at Modern School in the Capital on Friday. ■ Subrata Dutta

Bronze for Ghatkar: Pooja Ghatkar clinched the women's 10m air rifle bronze medal in the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in New Delhi. The former Asian champion, shot 228.8 to finish third. **P15**

BSSC chief held for scam: Bihar Staff Selection Commission chairman Sudhir Kumar was arrested by a Special Investigation Team in connection with the paper leak scam in clerical-grade recruitment examination. **P5**

Australia 298 runs ahead: Left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe's career-best six-wicket haul and skipper Steve Smith's half century helped Australia take a commanding lead of 298 runs as they reached 143/4. **P16**

Farooq for talks: National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah called for resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan to restore peace in J&K, saying the policy of "bullet for bullet" will only worsen the situation. **P5**

Government warns banks on taxes: The government has warned banks of "de-authorisation" of branches if they refuse to accept taxes under the amnesty scheme PMGKY, which ends on 31 March.

INDIAN ENGINEER SHOT DEAD IN USA

SHOOTER YELLS 'GET OUT OF MY COUNTRY', US CONDEMNS ATTACK

THE INDEPENDENT
Kansas City, 24 February

(Left to right) Gunman Adam Purinton, Srinivas Kuchibhotla, and the injured Alok Madasani

An Indian engineer Srinivas Kuchibhotla, 32, was shot dead and two others were injured after an American navy veteran yelling "terrorist" and "get out of my country" opened fire on them in a crowded bar in Kansas City in an apparent racially motivated hate crime, police said today.

Adam Purinton, 51, was charged in Johnson County, Kansas, with one count of premeditated first degree murder and two counts of attempted premeditated first degree murder, Johnson County District Attorney Stephen Howe told a news conference. Purinton is accused of shooting and killing Srinivas Kuchibhotla, 32, and wounding Alok Madasani, also 32, in the Austins Bar and Grill in Olathe, Kansas, on Wednesday evening, according to a statement from the Olathe Police Department.

At least one bystander told the *Kansas City Star* that the man shouted "get out of my country" before shooting the Indian men. He is also accused of wounding American Ian Grillot, 24, who was shot when he tried to intervene, the Kansas City Star reported.

The man who tried to save the victims of Kansas shooting says 'we're all humans'. Witnesses told the *Kansas City Star* and *The Washington Post* that Purinton was thought to have been kicked out of the bar on Wednesday night before the shooting took place. "He seemed kind of distraught," Garret Bohnen, a regular at Austin's who was there that night told *The Washington Post* in an interview. "He started drinking pretty fast." He reportedly came back into the bar and hurled racial slurs at the two Indian men, including comments that suggested he thought they were of Middle Eastern descent. When he started firing shots, Grillot, a regular at the bar whom Bohnen called "everyone's friend," intervened.

Two officials from the Indian consulate in Houston were going to Kansas to meet the injured men and police to "ascertain more details of the incident and monitor follow up action," Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Vikas Swarup said in a statement.

"I am shocked at the shooting incident in Kansas in which Srinivas Kuchibhotla has been killed. My heartfelt condolences to bereaved family," Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj said in a Tweet.

The US embassy in New Delhi condemned the shooting. "The United States is a nation of immigrants and welcomes people from across the world to visit, work, study, and live," US Charge d'??Affaires MaryKay Carlson said in a statement. "US authorities will investigate thoroughly and prosecute the case, though we recognise that justice is small consolation to families in grief."

Howe would not elaborate on the details of the incident or the motive for the shooting.

"We want to be able to be sure about our facts versus speculation. So we are not prepared at this point to talk about the particular facts of the case because this is still very fresh," Howe said.

Kavipriya Muthuramalingam, a friend and former colleague of the shooting victim, has raised more than $250,000 via a crowd-funding website to help his family with funeral and other expenses. "This came as an incredible shock - as he is one of the most gentle, nicest human beings you would meet," Muthuramalingam said. "He was non-confrontational, non-controversial, easy-going, always smiling."

The killing led news bulletins in India and drew strong reactions on social media, amid growing concerns that US President Donald Trump's "America First" rhetoric on immigration and jobs has fuelled a climate of intolerance.

JAYA'S NIECE LAUNCHES POLITICAL FORUM

Chennai, 24 February: J Jayalalithaa's niece Deepa today kick-started her political career by launching the 'MGR Amma Deepa Forum', on the late chief minister's birth anniversary.

Addressing a press conference at her home, she unveiled a flag carrying the images of Jayalalithaa and M G Ramachandran and said her political journey has "begun".

Responding to a query, Deepa said people wanted that she should contest from R K Nagar constituency that fell vacant following the demise of J Jayalalithaa.

"I will definitely contest. Though I was not keen on entering politics, it is the people's wish," she said. She said the Forum has been formed to "retrieve the two leaves (AIADMK's official symbol) and bring back Amma's golden rule in Tamil Nadu".

The former chief minister's niece said she was getting several requests to enter politics and she did so to respect people's wishes.

Deepa, who will be the treasurer of the Forum, said her next course of action would be decided in due course and she would reveal it at the "appropriate time".

On her facing hurdles in meeting Jayalalithaa when she was hospitalised, Deepa merely said she went there to pray for her speedy recovery. PTI

SEE ALSO PAGE 7

All eyes now on Sena, BJP power play

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, 24 February

With the elections to the BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) throwing up a fractured verdict, all eyes are on Shiv Sena and BJP, each of which notched up over 80 seats in the 227-member council, whose leaders are yet to spell out their next move.

The Sena today put up a brave front despite the results falling far short of its expectations, indicating that it will not agree to a post-poll pact giving up its claim for the coveted post of Mayor in the country's richest civic body.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena's tally of corporators rose to 87 with three party rebels who won as Independent nominees returning to its fold. This gave a slight push to the Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray's efforts to cobble up numbers but reaching the magic figure of 114 seats needed to rule the cash-rich BMC is still a far cry.

The development came at a time when both the Sena and its estranged ally BJP which has won 82 seats, are keeping cards close to their chest on the prospects of coming together again to attain power or otherwise.

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Nitin Gadkari, however, said the two parties have "no option" other than a coming together. "The situation now is that both parties have no option but to come together again," Gadkari told a Marathi channel, adding "The final decision on this issue has to be taken by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray."

Fadnavis, the architect of the BJP's stunning performance in BMC and other city bodies across the state, had yesterday said his party's "core committee" comprising him and the state unit chief will take the next step.

Uddhav Thackeray, after admitting the rebel corporators in the party, told reporters that he had not thought about an alliance with any party to wrest power in the BMC yet, but maintained that the coveted Mayor's post will be held by Sena only.

The Sena, which has been in power in the BMC for last 20 years with the BJP being a junior partner, is looking forward for another term. It contested the BMC polls separately by dumping the BJP. Sena is a junior partner of the BJP in Centre and Maharashtra governments.

However, the resurgent BJP breached the Sena citadel of Mumbai and bagged 82 seats, just two less than Sena's original tally of 84. Congress was relegated to the third position with 31 seats, whereas the NCP and Raj Thackeray-led MNS finished with 9 and 7 seats respectively.

TURN TO PAGE 4

Mohalla Clinic was one initiative Delhi could've been proud of, but alas~ these greedy frauds couldn't stay fair even in healthcare services ...

UNION MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN
HITTING OUT AAP GOVT OVER ITS MOHALLA CLINIC PROJECT

THUMBNAILS

1 shot dead in clash between two groups: A man was shot dead and two others sustained bullet injuries during a clash between two groups outside a wedding venue in south east Delhi's Dakshinpuri area, police said today. A PCR call was received around 12.30 AM about an incident of firing outside a wedding venue in Dakshinpuri. Policemen who reached the spot found Shekhar Yadav, Vikas Arya and Harneet Singh with bullet injuries. They were taken to a hospital, a police official said. The reason behind the clash and firing is not known, but it was believed that two members of each groups had a scuffle over a trivial matter when one was pushed by the other, police said, adding several rounds were fired during the clash and stones were also pelted. PTI

6 including five girls held for fraud: The Gurgaon police have arrested five girls and their hirer for committing online fraud. The arrests were made by the Gurgaon Police from New Delhi. Disclosing this here today, a police spokesman said that a complaint had been registered by Pankaj Kumar, resident of Chhachhrauli in Muzaffarnagar District (Uttar Pradesh). He registered the complaint at Civil Lines Police Station that some unidentified persons had fraudulently withdrawn Rs 45,000 from his bank account using his State Bank of India credit card. The police have taken Amit on three-day remand and the girls have been sent to Bhondsi Jail," the spokesman added. SNS

2 FIREMEN DIE IN CYLINDER BLAST

VICTIMS WERE FIGHTING BLAZE AT FAST FOOD JOINT

Police investigate the blast site in Vikaspuri on Friday. ■ Sns

PRESS TRSUT OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

Two firemen died and as many were injured after an LPG cylinder exploded when they were fighting a blaze at a fast food joint in west Delhi's Vikaspuri area today.

The blast occurred when a six-member fire brigade team had gone to attend a fire call at 5.35 AM. The initial blaze had started due to a short circuit, police said.

Two firefighters, Hari Singh Meena (48) and Hari Om (49), died after getting trapped in the fire caused by the blast, said a Delhi Fire Services official.

Hari Om was rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where he succumbed to injuries. Hari Singh Meena was taken to Park Hospital, Khyala, where he was declared brought dead.

Two other firefighters, Navin (32) and Ravinder Singh (33), suffered injuries and are undergoing treatment at BL Kapur Hospital.

Naveen's condition is critical, while Singh is likely to be discharged tonight.

"We got a call around 5.30 AM about a fire in a small shop in H Block, Lal Market, in Vikaspuri. Two fire tenders were rushed to the spot," the official said.

The shop, 'Chitkora Food and Snacks', is owned by Satpal Singh. There were four-five LPG cylinders kept in it, he said.

"The fire must have started after 2 AM and would have heat up the cylinders. Our firemen did not know there were cylinders kept inside.

"They cut the locks of the shutter using lock-cutters and barely rolled it up a few inches that the cylinder burst and the shutter was completely ripped off," the fire official said.

"The firemen suffered more injuries because of the splintered shutter," he said.

The flames were doused by 7.36 AM. Later, the district crime team and officials from forensic science lab inspected the spot, the officer said. The post-mortem of bodies was conducted at DDU Hospital.

A case under relevant IPC sections, including 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered against unknown persons, a senior police officer said.

School buses must have CCTVs, GPS, speed governors: CBSE

PRESS TRSUT OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

School buses will now have to be equipped with GPS, CCTV arrangements and speed governors as per the revised guidelines issued by the CBSE to ensure greater safety of children.

These guidelines have been issued on the directions of Human Resource Development minister Prakash Javadekar after a recent school bus accident in Uttar Pradesh, official sources said.

"Windows of the bus should be fitted with horizontal grills with mesh wires. School buses should be fitted with speed governors with maximum speed limit of 40 km/h.

"GPS and CCTV arrangement should be made compulsorily in each vehicle and should be in working condition all the time," a CBSE circular said. "The management and the head of the school will be held responsible for any lapse and it could lead to disaffiliation too. School buses will have to be fitted with alarm bells and sirens," it said.

"School authorities have also been directed to voluntarily evolve an arrangement, that in each school bus at least one parent should be present who can oversee the conduct of the driver and the other staff," the circular said.

For security of students a transport manager and a "well-trained" lady attendant will have to be designated. Schools will have to provide a mobile phone inside the bus to be used in emergency situation, it said.

Students will be asked to give their feedback on the transport facility, especially about the driver, the circular said. Last month, 12 minor school students and their bus driver were killed and 35 children injured when their vehicle collided with a lorry near Etah in Uttar Pradesh.

WOMAN'S BODY FOUND IN LAKE AT HAUZ KHAS VILLAGE

New Delhi, 24 February: The body of a 62-year-old woman was found in a lake at Hauz Khas Village in south Delhi this morning, police said.

On receiving a PCR call around 10.40 AM about the body being found in District Park Jheel, police reached the spot and sent it for post-mortem, a senior police officer said.

The woman has been identified as Veermati, a resident of Hauz Khas Village. Her son Ashok Kumar and brother-in-law Ramesh, who identified her, did not suspect any foul play and drowning seems to be the cause of her death, he said. The woman used to go to the park for walks and was seen there around 9 AM, the officer said.

Post-mortem will be conducted tomorrow and inquest proceedings are underway, he said. PTI

Police chargesheet four for gangraping US tourist

PRESS TRSUT OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

Delhi Police has chargesheeted four men for allegedly gangraping and criminally intimidating an American tourist in a 5-star hotel here last year.

In a charge sheet filed before a city court, the agency has alleged that the accused -- Aniruddha Singh, a Rajasthan- based tourist guide, Vivek Srivastatva, who was working in the hotel when the crime was allegedly committed, Omprakash and Maqsood -- also had unnatural sex with the victim and that they also made videos of the act.

According to the sources, all the four persons have been chargesheeted under sections 376 D (gangrape), 377 (unnatural sex), 328 (causing hurt by means of poison) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) besides 506 (criminal intimidation) read with section 34 (common intention) of the IPC.

The police had on December 26 last year arrested all the four persons in connection with the alleged gangrape of the woman in April last year.

The 25-year-old US national had arrived here last December to join the probe and recorded her statement before a judicial magistrate where she reiterated that she was gangraped by five persons in the hotel.

Four accused were arrested after the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) issued a notice to the police asking them why the Rape Crisis Cell of the panel was not informed when the victim's statement was recorded.

Earlier, the complainant had said she was "not satisfied" with the probe and was ready to come to India to identify the accused.

The woman had alleged she was raped by the men for two days and also threatened with dire consequences if she reported the matter to anybody.

She had also stated that the accused had made a video of the act and threatened to make it public if she reported the matter. She had also told the police that the accused had claimed to have sexually assaulted a couple of other female tourists as well.

A team of psychologists and psychiatrists had assisted the woman in recalling the details of the incident.

AIIMS puts proposal on hold to revise user charges

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 24 February

Facing stiff opposition from the faculty members, AIIMS has put the proposal of revising treatment charges at the premier medical institute on the back-burner.

In a meeting held recently, the feasibility of revision of user charges was discussed and a majority of the faculty members opposed it, saying the concept of equity and access to healthcare will be compromised as mostly poor patients come to AIIMS for treatment.

Following opposition from faculty members, the proposal to revise user charges has been put on hold, an AIIMS official said.

The finance ministry had asked the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to undertake a review and revise its user charges which have not been revised for the last 20 years.

AIIMS Deputy Director V Srinivas said the institute has been presenting demands for additional allocation amounting to Rs 300 crore, in non-plan expenditures which are of recurring nature including salaries, consumables, maintenance and establishment expenditure every year.

The institute currently generates Rs 101 crore from user charges which include OPD charges, diagnostic tests in various departments, radiology charges, in-patient care and room rentals.

As per the minutes of the meeting circulated among all members, Dr Anoop Saraya, HOD Gastroenterology said a Parliamentary panel and WHO Expert committee have expressed concerns in the past against levying of user charges in the institute as it makes services inaccessible for larger section of the society. A parliamentary committee, in its report in 2015, had stated that user charges are barriers to accessing healthcare for most people, especially the poor.

Raj Kumar, the senior financial advisor, said user charges for services and investigation for BPL patients may remain completely exempted and higher user charges may be levied on patients availing private ward services.

According minutes of the meeting, some faculty members proposed that statistics pertaining to user charges collection need to be analysed through the biostatistics department or computer facility to understand the existing proportion of fund collected from general and private ward patients.

"Dr Saraya expressed concern that the facility of exemption of service charges for BPL patients is a largely exploited as 60 per cent of genuine poor patients do not have BPL cards. Therefore BPL card alone cannot be considered for exemption of user charges," the minutes of the meeting read.

3-YR-OLD SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, KILLED BY NEIGHBOUR

PRESS TRSUT OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

A 3-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted and murdered by her 16-year-old neighbour who was caught while burying the victim's body in a pit at Narela here, police said today.

The girl was playing near her home when the accused picked her up while her parents had gone for work to a nearby construction site yesterday, said a senior police officer.

As the girl went missing her parents, who work as construction workers, searched for her with neighbours but she was nowhere to be found. An hour later they got to know about the incident when the accused, a juvenile, was caught red handed while disposing of the body of the girl, officer said.

The accused who is a neighbour of the victim allegedly took her to a secluded place nearby and assaulted her sexually.

Later, fearing that he will be caught, he strangulated the girl and was trying to bury the body in a pit when he was spotted by some passersby who caught him.

"The accused who worked as a water proofing worker was apprehended. A case has been registered under relevant provisions of POCSO Act and IPC and accused has been sent to child correction centre," he added.

DEVOTION

Devotees offering water to Lord Shiva on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri in the Capital on Friday. ■ Sns

Two minors raped in Greater Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Greater Noida, 24 February

Two minors, including a differently-abled girl, were allegedly raped in different areas here, police said today.

The differently-abled girl was allegedly raped by a saloon owner last evening in an area under Ecotech 3 police station, they said, adding a complaint has been lodged by the victim's family members.

Police said villagers claimed that they had seen the accused committing the crime.

The victim has been sent for medical examination and a manhunt has been launched to arrest the accused, they said.

In Jewar, a 13-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour last night, police said.

Yashpal lured the girl out of her house and raped her in a nearby field. A complaint has been lodged by family members, they said.

At Knowledge Park 3 police station area three men stole a car at gun point when it was being cleaned by its driver.

The car belonged to Narendra Kaushik. The victim has lodged a complaint, they said.

NOIDA GANGRAPE: 9 MEN ACQUITTED DUE TO BOTCHED UP PROBE

New Delhi, 24 February: A Noida police officer left "no stone unturned" to botch up investigation in a 2009 case of gangrape of a 24-year-old MBA student that has led to the acquittal of nine persons by a Delhi court on the grounds that the identity of the real culprits could not be proved.

The court pulled up the police for not following proper procedure of law while investigating the matter and said no judicial Test Identification Parade (TIP) of the accused was conducted by the investigating officer (IO).

The court held that the IO had left "no stone unturned for making this case impossible to be proved" and directed Noida Senior Superintendent of Police to take appropriate action against IO, inspector Anil Samaniya, for his improper probe in the case.

"These factors clearly show that due to the negligent, casual and unprofessional investigation conducted by the IO, real culprits of the case could not be identified/arrested or subjected to administration of justice," Additional Sessions Judge Shail Jain said, adding that this was "a classic case" of botched up investigation carried out by the IO. However, the judge was all praise for Special Public Prosecutor Neelam Narang, saying she provided valuable, substantial and useful help in explaining the lengthy case in a summarised manner.

Though the girl had identified all the accused before the court during the recording of her testimony, the judge said their identification by her was "doubtful" as the alleged crime was committed in the night in a forest area where there was no source of light.

According to the prosecution, the incident took place on the evening of January 5, 2009, when the girl along with her male friend, was returning from the Great India Place Mall in their car which was forcibly stopped by several youths who were returning on their motorcycles after a cricket match. PTI

CNG, PNG supply to be affected

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Gurgaon, 24 February

Supply of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is going to be scarce in Gurgaon, as the pipes will be closed for maintenance for next two days.

The biggest impact will be on public transportation and long queues were seen today at all CNG pumps in the evening.

Gurgaon has 14 CNG stations which are located in Sector 12, 14, 15, 22, 29, 31, 44, two in 52, 53, 57, 62, 86, and 89 with capacity of 2.5 lakh kgs against demand of 2 lakh kgs.

In a statemant issued by the Haryana City Gas Distribution Ltd, which supplies gas in the city said that due to some maintenance work they have planned to shutdown supply from 3 pm on 25 February till 9 am on Sunday, 26 February depending on the the maintenance work.

The biggest impact will be on public transportation and long queues were seen today at all CNG pumps in Gurgaon which has 14 CNG stations located in Sector 12, 14, 15, 22, 29, 31, 44, two in 52, 53, 57, 62, 86, and 89 with capacity of 2.5 lakh kgs against demand of 2 lakh kgs

Rahul Chopra, chief executive officer, Haryana City Gas Distribution Ltd, said that the supply of all CNG, industrial and commercial supply of PNG will be suspended during the period.

"We request customers to make alternative arrangements during the period. We urge CNG users to save and use the available gas wisely or to drive their car on fuel. The supply of PNG in domestic household will remain unaffected during the maintenance," said Chopra.

THE THEMES OF 'CITY, NATURE, LOVE AND LONELINESS'

'Meer ki Delhi': Celebrating the bygone era

PRESS TRSUT OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

The city's legacy of literature and music is being celebrated in a unique festival that will take the audiences on a historical ride to "Meer ki Delhi".

Organised by Sanathan Sangeet Sanskriti and eminent Hindi poet Ashok Vajpayee, the two-day literature festival, which started today, revolves around the themes of "City, Nature, Love and Loneliness".

Meer Taqi Meer, an important poet of the city in the 18th century, is the inspiration behind the festival, which has named all its sessions from his poems be it 'Kehte hai Bagh Baharan hai', 'Kaunn Jaye Meer' or 'Hum bhi Iss Zindagi Se.

"The festival will discuss what was Delhi years back and the several ways in which we can see how the city is today. The four themes here will be the guiding force," Trustee, Sanatan Sangeet Sanskriti Malvika Rai told PTI.

Taking part in this celebration of grandeur of Delhi will be eminent personalities like William Dalrymple, Muzaffar Ali, Surjit Patar, Mangalesh Dabral, K Satchid Anandan, Mrinal Pande, Pawan K Varma and Raghu Rai among many others. "There are variety of discussions taking place in the festival. For example, we have Pawan Verma talking on the subject of loneliness, then there are young editors of digital daily talking about how the digital media has taken over things. "So the panelists will be deliberating on very varied topics. And also there are some beautiful music compositions to complement the event," Rai said.

The inaugral event will also have a musical concert curated by Vikram Lall, the concert is titled 'Khayal Gayaki' (The musical heritage of Purani Dilli).

It is the time to wipe out corruption from the Municipal corporations. The BJP and the Congress have indulged in corruption in civic bodies for the past 20 years...

AAP DELHI UNIT CONVENOR DILIP PANDEY
AFTER RELEASING PARTY'S FIRST LIST FOR MCD ELECTIONS

THUMBNAILS

Windy morning: Residents of the national capital today woke up to a windy morning with the minimum temperature settling at 12.4 notches, one degree above normal. The Met Department has predicted clear sky with the possibility of haze tomorrow morning. The weatherman said the humidity was recorded at 59 per cent at 8.30 am. The minimum temperature settled at 12.4 degrees Celsius. SNS

PTM for Class 12th: Directorate of Education will organize a special Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) in Delhi Government schools tomorrow for the parents of Class 12 students. "Since the class 12th Board examination is fast approaching, the DoE has directed all schools to apprise the parents about their wards' progress. In the Morning Shift Schools, the PTMs will be from 8 AM onwards and in the Evening Shift Schools from 5 PM onwards," said an official. SNS

FEAR GRIPS DU CAMPUS, TEACHERS 'FORCED' TO SHIFT MEETING

ABHINAV SINGH
abhinavbismark@gmail.com
New Delhi, 24 February

Two days after large-scale violence in and around Delhi University (DU)'s Ramjas College rocked the varsity's North Campus, an atmosphere of fear and anxiety prevails among a section of students and teachers, even as a leading group of Left-leaning teachers had to shift the venue of their meeting at the last moment today under their "apprehension" of its "disruption" by the RSS-affiliated students organisation ABVP which dominates the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU).

The Left-affiliated DU teachers close to shift the venue of their meeting at the eleventh hour from Delhi School of Economics on North Campus to some place at ITO in central Delhi. They were apprehensive that ABVP members could "violently interfere" in their meeting in a bid to disrupt it.

Because of this last-minute change of venue, only about 15 teachers were able to participate in it, sources said. They had convened the meeting to deliberate on their future course of action against ABVP's "hooliganism" and its alleged attacks on "plural culture" of universities. On the condition of anonymity, a senior teacher said the information about this "confidential" meeting somehow got leaked, which forced the teachers' group to shift it at the last moment as they feared alleged disruption from ABVP. "We came to know that they (ABVP) are planning to disrupt our meeting violently."

These teachers also said that they were "fearful" because of recent incidents of disruptions and violence unleashed allegedly by ABVP members on North Campus.

Yesterday, DU's SGTB Khalsa College was forced to "postpone" its street theatre festival since ABVP made it clear to the college authorities that the "security for the event could not be guaranteed" if any of these plays had "any objectionable and anti-national content".

On 21 February, ABVP members had allegedly protested violently against a seminar on "Culture of Protest" at Ramjas College in which Umar Khalid ~ one of the prime suspects of last year's "anti-national" row on the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus ~ and Shehla Rashid, another student leader from JNU, were invited as speakers. Ramjas College was thus forced to call off this seminar.

North Campus witnessed massive violence on 22 February when a march by the Left-affiliated students and teachers ~ to protest against ABVP's alleged vandalism leading to Ramjas seminar being cancelled ~ was allegedly attacked by ABVP members in the presence of police personnel. In the ensuing clashes between the two groups, scores of students and others, including teachers and journalists, were wounded.

Delhi Police has continued to ensure heavy police deployment on North Campus which has continued to be gripped by tension and fear amid an uneasy calm.

Beginning next week, Left-affiliated teachers are going to launch a series of action programme against ABVP.

They will take out a "massive march" on 28 February against ABVP's "hooliganism" and the "culture of violence" prevailing in the varsities, highlighting the cause of free debate and dissent in academic institutions.

Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) has also condemned ABVP's alleged bid to indulge in "mob violence", with its Executive adopting a resolution in this regard yesterday.

ABVP has also decided to hit back with its own slew of protest programmes against the alleged "anti-national agenda of the Leftist brigade". They are going to organise a "massive march" on North Campus in the first week of March that would involve a large number of students and teachers. ABVP has also planned to hold such protests in universities across the country.

Meanwhile, ABVP denied the Left teachers' apprehension of their meeting's disruption by them, calling it "unfounded" and part of "Left's propaganda and conspiracy". They have however maintained that they would not allow DU to become "a hub of anti-nationals" allegedly like the JNU.

ALL SET

A boy with toys walks down a street in the Capital on Friday. ■ Prakash Sharma

JNU's culture under 'serious threat': 400 international academics to VC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

Over 400 academicians from international varsities, including Harvard, Cambridge, London School of Economics, Yale and New York University, have written to JNU Vice Chancellor Jagadesh Kumar, voicing concerns over recent events unfolding at the university.

The scholars from across the globe have signed an open letter to Kumar saying the "academic culture and context that has formed basis of cooperation with international institutions is under serious threat".

"We are deeply concerned and shocked at the events unfolding on your campus and we urge the responsible authorities to act decisively to protect the future of JNU as an internationally renowned university of academic excellence, which has produced generations of excellent researchers, scholars and other professionals," the letter said.

The letter said it was "shocking" that the university, known for its academic freedom and autonomy that fosters debate, discussion and dissent, was now being "wilfully destroyed".

JNU has been hogging a negative limelight for over an year after its students were arrested in a sedition case last February in connection with an event during which "anti-national" slogans were allegedly raised. Since then, the students union and the teachers association have been at loggerheads with the administration over denial of permission to protest on campus, disappearance of a student after a brawl, deduction of salaries of teachers raising voice and show-cause notices issued to them, and the latest confrontation on amendments in the admission policy leading to massive seat cuts in MPhil and PhD courses. "We also feel that such an attack on public education in universities like JNU disables opportunities for the historically marginalised communities of India. It is essential that an enabling admission policy, like the one in place in JNU must be retained, other than abiding by the constitutionally mandated policies for affirmative action," the letter said.

"Now, however, the academic culture and context that has formed the very basis of our cooperation with JNU is under serious threat, we request you to restore the institutional autonomy and provide assurance to the international community that JNU will maintain its commitment to an academic and intellectual vision of a university that champions academic freedoms, teaching and research, keeping social and gender justice, and civil liberties intact," it added.

'Both Central, Delhi govts have betrayed Delhi'ites'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 24 February

Reacting to the statement of Delhi Urban Development Minister Satyendra Jain about the non-regularization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi, Jag Pravesh Kumar, Congress leader said both the Central Government and the AAP Government in Delhi have betrayed the people living in unauthorized colonies.

The Delhi Congress will organise a convention with pradhans of all the unauthorised colonies at the Talkatora Indoor stadium on 26 February. He said that AAP Government has been totally rattled by the convention of pradhans from unauthorized colonies to be held at the Talkatora Indoor stadium on February 26 by Congress because at the convention, the Delhi Congress will prepare an action plan, after detailed discussions, for the unauthorized colonies.

"Though the AAP Government has been in power in Delhi for the past two years, and the BJP Government has been in power at the Centre for the past three years, not a single brick has been laid for the development of unauthorized colonies," he said.

Mohalla clinics a scam: Harsh Vardhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

Union minister Harsh Vardhan today attacked the Delhi government over its mohalla clinic project, calling it a "scam" after the Vigilance Department sought details on complaints of alleged irregularities in it.

Citing media reports, Vardhan, himself a medico, said the initiative could have been one which Delhi could be proud of, but alleged that doctors in mohalla clinics made "false entries" of patients to ensure "good income".

Taking a jibe at the Kejriwal dispensation, Vardhan said treating two patients in a minute is "truly record breaking".

"Treating one patient in a minute is impressive, but to treat two is truly record breaking. Mohalla Clinics, a scam! Doctors in AAP govt run Mohalla Clinics make false entries of patients, giving them useless medication to ensure revisits, and their income. "Mohalla Clinic was one initiative Delhi could've been proud of, but alas- these greedy frauds couldn't stay fair even in healthcare services (sic)," the Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences said in a series of tweets.

His comments assume significance as Vardhan, a senior Delhi BJP leader, prefers not to say much on the city politics after he became a minister in the Union cabinet. Ahead of the MCD polls, the Minister also attended a meeting of senior state BJP leader early this week.

Vardhan was also the chief ministerial candidate of the BJP in 2013 Delhi Assembly polls but his party could not muster numbers to form the government. In 2014, he was elected to Lok Sabha from the Chandani Chowk constituency.

South Corpn to have waste to energy plant

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 24 February

As a solution to the huge pile of waste which has taken a shape of a mountain at its landfill site, the South Corporatrion will set up a waste to energy plant at Tehkhand at a cost of Rs 351.10 crore.

The Standing Committee Chairman Mr Shailender Singh Monti on Thursday said that the corporation is likely to be allotted 14.2 acres of land in the possession of Cement Corporation of India near the existing landfill site and another 35.33 acre of vacant land near the existing landfill site as the Central Government has directed the DDA and other stakeholders concerned to resolve the issue and transfer the land to South Corporation for Solid Waste Management.

Monti said that at present South Corporation's quantity of unprocessed waste is approximately 1600 Ton Per Day. "With start of a few initiatives taken by South Corporation in collection and transporation of waste such as greater emphasis on segregation of waste at source and at secondary collection points, the quantity of remaining unprocessed may decrease in near future. Keeping these issues in mind the capacity of WTE plant is being kept at 1200 ton per day."

Wherein the South Corporation Commissioner Dr Puneet Goel informed that processing of 1200 ton per day Waste To Energy (WTE) will provide relief to the only landfill site of the South Corporation. The site was commissioned in 1996 over an area of 32 acre. "So far 60 lakh tone waste has been accumulated there and 1800 ton is being dumped every day. The height of accumulated waste has gone upto 160 feet against permissible 90 feet height of landfill."

Dr Goel said, "an amount of Rs 351.10 crore will be required for setting up of WTE plant as per tentative estimate. The South Corporation will receive grant of Rs 122.88 crore from Union Urban Development Ministry as part of Swachh Bharat Mission at the rate of 35 percent of project cost and Rs 52.66 crore, Grant from Department of Power Government of India as subsidy at the rate of 15 percent of project cost. The South Corporation will have to mobilize Rs 175.46 crore for this purpose."

He also added that it is presumed that the plant will generate 15 MW power at 80 percent Plant Load Factor and South Corporation will be able to sell power at the rate of Rs 5.50 per unit yearly income from sale of power works out to Rs 57.81 crore.

Deadline for feedback under Swachh Survekshan extended

New Delhi, 24 February: The Union urban development (UD) ministry has extended the deadline to receive citizens' feedback under Swachh Survekshan 2017 from 12 February to 28 February.

According to a ministry official, 6,94,867 citizens from 435 cities have given their feedback on the survey till date."As the survey concludes on 12 February, it has been observed that the number of citizens giving feedback has gone up because of which the ministry has decided to extend the deadline. The extended deadline will also apply to the Swachhata App and other city-based applications rolled last year," said the official in a statement. One of the major components of the survey is citizen feedback, which accounts for 30 percent of scoring. The citizens can give their feedback by either giving a missed call at 1969 to record their response or by filling up a feedback form given on the Swachh Survekshan website. http://swachh-survekshan.in/.

The UD ministry is also requesting citizens through various mediums to participate in the survey and give their feedback on the cleanliness standard of their respective cities.

Last year, "Swachh Survekshan-2016" ranked 73 cities across the country and 1 lakh citizens participated and gave their feedback. The results of the survey will be released in March 2017.

The top 10 cities, which received maximum citizens' feedback, are Visakhapatnam, Gwalior, Indore, Mysore, GHMC, Warangal, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Ranchi and Chandigarh. The UD ministry started "Swachh Survekshan 2017" from 4 January 2017. Swachh Survekshan 2017 is a survey under which 500 cities of India will be ranked on cleanliness and other aspects of urban sanitation. SNS

AAP FIRST LIST FOR MCD POLLS OUT

New Delhi, 24 February: With the Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections likely to be held in April, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today released its first list of 109 candidates, that included 49 women.

The list was finalised after being vetted by the party's top decision-making body, Political Affairs Committee (PAC), headed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. AAP Delhi Unit Convenor Dilip Pandey said the party is working to select candidates for the remaining seats. "It is the time to wipe out corruption from the Municipal corporations. The BJP and the Congress have indulged in corruption in civic bodies for the past 20 years," Pandey said. The elections will be held on 272 wards. This will be AAP's first civic body election though it contested a few seats last year. Apart from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and Yogendra Yadav's Swaraj India are also competing the civic polls. AAP has received over 10,000 applications forms. Of these, 3,522 are from north Corporation, 3,673 from south corporation and 2,902 from east Corporation.

Pre-rally nod for vintage vehicles

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 24 February

With just one day to go for the 51st Statesman Vintage Classic and Car Rally (VCCR), the pre-judging of cars to inspect their originality and fitness began today at Modern School, Barakhamba Road. As many as 96 vehicles are participating in the rally, of which 54 are in the Vintage section, 8 Classic cars, 20 in the post-War section and 12 in a special category.

The oldest vehicles will be flagged off first at the rally followed by the newer ones.

There are four different categories of judges, who have specialised in different fields, and are checking different sections of vehicle. The first panel of judges comprising Appasaheb Alur and Gyan Sharma, are checking the mechanicals and engines of vehicles along with their originality and how well they are performing.

The second panel of judges comprising Neeraj Nagpal and Pramod Bhasin checks the condition of rims, tyres, instruments, meters, etc. The third panel of Rakesh Jain and Jitendra Pandit are looking after restoration, originality, interiors and exteriors coach work, etc. The fourth panel with the lone judge Mukesh Kumar is checking the chassis. He also checks if the vehicles have any welding or cracks.

Rakesh Jain, who has been judging vehicles for the past 30 years, said, "I am also a car enthusiast. I had a few cars. But later I sold my cars and now I am looking after other people's assets and enjoying them." The pre-juding of cars will continue tomorrow too.

Talking to The Statesman, Anirudhha Mittra, Marshal of VCCR, said, "Earlier, the vehicles had milometer and speed was measured in miles per hour. But now speed is measured in kilometres per hour. So, I will convert miles per hour into kilometres per hour to check the speed."

He also said each vehicle will have different speeds and have different time limits to reach their destination. There are two check points between the rally track, which will check the speed and time of the vehicle and mark points according to it.

There are 55 trophies to win including those for oldest vehicle, most outstanding vehicle, best restored vehicle, best maintained vehicle, best performance on road section, and some special trophies for ladies.

Children at Vintage Car pre-judging of 'The Statesman Vintage and Classic Car Rally-2017' at Modern School in the Capital on Friday. ■ Subrata Dutta

It only shows that the Indian people are extremely patient and stoic. But that does not mean that there is no anger....

CONGRESS LEADER P CHIDAMBARAM
ON THE RESULTS OF CIVIC POLLS IN MAHARASTRA

THUMBNAILS

UP campaign ends today: Campaigning for the fifth phase of Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls for 51 seats in 11 districts, including Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi's home turf Amethi will end on Saturday. PTI

'Kanpur tragedy a conspiracy': The Kanpur train tragedy in which 150 people were killed, was a "conspiracy" and the perpetrators carried it out "sitting across the border" in Nepal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday. PTI

MNS leader attacked: An MNS leader celebrating victory in the civic poll and eight other party workers were injured when they were allegedly attacked by a mob of around 100 people in Kurla. PTI

GAGAN-compliant aircraft: The government is likely to soon make it mandatory for carriers to only induct aircraft which are compliant with the newly-developed GAGAN navigation system in their fleets from 1 January, 2019. PTI

MODI'S VOICE FEEBLER THAN MOUSE: RAHUL

RIDICULES 'MAKE IN INDIA' DRIVE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Bahraich (UP), 24 February

Stung by repeated barbs by BJP leaders at former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi today said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's voice was "feebler even than that of a mouse".

"The voice of PM, who has given the clarion call of 'Make in India', is not of a roaring lion, but even feebler than that of a mouse," Rahul told an election meeting in Mahsi Assembly constituency here that goes to the polls on 27 February.

His retort came hours after BJP president Amit Shah at a rally in Azamgarh, nearly 300 km away, mocked Rahul for "often asking" as to what the Modi government has done for the country. "Rahul *baba*, the first thing that we have done is that we have given a PM who speaks. You had given a PM who did not speak for 10 years, and his voice was heard by you and your mother (Congress president Sonia Gandhi)," Shah had said.

PM's clarion call of 'Make in India', is not of a roaring lion, but even feebler than that of a mouse

RAHUL GANDHI

Peeved over the remark, Rahul questioned, "What is the utility of these punchlines?" Ridiculing Modi's 'Make in India' campaign, he said almost everywhere items 'Made in China' are readily available. "Even my phone is made in China," he said.

Rahul accused the PM of spreading hatred since the SP-Congress alliance was forged.

Shah quotes Sheila's remark that Rahul 'still not mature'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Azamgarh (UP), 24 February

BJP president Amit Shah today pilloried Congress leader Rahul Gandhi quoting former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit's statement that he "is still not mature and needs some time". "If he is not mature, then why has he been enforced upon Uttar Pradesh? Is this a political laboratory or learning ground for someone?" Shah asked at an election rally here.

Noting that the state faces a plethora of problems, he said "men of steel" are needed to solve them. "Problems of Uttar Pradesh can be solved only under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Shah said.

Citing BJP's poll manifesto that claims a significant decline in cattle count in UP under the SP rule, he said if his party forms government, it would shut all slaughter houses and ensure instead of "streams of blood", those of milk and ghee flow.

Shah said the BJP tsunami would help the party get two-thirds majority in the 403-member Assembly and

put an end to SP-BSP "misrule" over the past 14 years when development "took a backseat" in the state.

Mounting an attack on the SP-Congress alliance, he said: "It is quite amusing that one prince is giving tough times to his mother, the other to his father, and both are troubling UP."

Seeking a performance report from the Congress, Shah said: "Your (Rahul's) family has ruled the country for over 60 years. What has it done for the country? Rahul must answer this."

Urging the voters to uproot the SP government from the state, Shah said good days would dawn upon the state on 11 March when the results are out.

CROREPATIS, CRIMINALS IN FRAY FOR UP PHASE 5

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

A total of 168 crorepati candidates are in the fray for the fifth phase of UP Assembly elections to be held on Monday, while 117 have declared criminal cases against themselves, says a report.

UP Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 612 out of 617 candidates from 75 political parties, including 6 national parties, 4 state parties, 65 unrecognised parties and 220 independent candidates, who are contesting in the fifth phase to be held on 27 February.

Among crorepati candidates party-wise, 43 out of 51 are from BSP, 38 of 51 from BJP, 32 of 42 from SP, 7 of 14 from INC, 9 of 30 from RLD and 14 of 220 Independent candidates have declared assets worth more than Rs 1 crore, the report released today by Delhi-based ADR said. The average assets per candidate contesting in the fifth phase of polls is Rs 1.56 crore.

AROUND TOWN

ENGLISH FILM

Split

PVR Vasantkunj, Delhi -1:50pm, 4:25pm, 7pm, 9:35pm.
Director's Cut, Delhi - 2:55pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Anupam, Saket - 12:10pm, 5:25pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Select City Walk - 4:15pm, 11:30pm.
PVR Sangam -9:45am, 5:25pm.
PVR Naraina -3:10pm, 8:20pm.
PVR Pacific Mall - 11:15am, 4:15pm, 9:15pm.
PVR Shalimar Bagh - 3:35pm, 8:45pm, 11:20pm.
PVR Logix, Noida - 10am, 5:45pm, 10:55pm.
DT MOIN, Noida - 10am, 2:50pm, 7:50pm, 11:20pm.
PVR Ambience, Gurgaon -10:15am, 8:45pm.
PVR MGF, Gurgaon - 12:35pm, 5:45pm, 10:50pm.
Wave Cinema, Noida - 9.40am, 2.20pm, 6.40pm, 11.05pm.
Wave Cinema, Raja Garden -12.05pm, 4.30pm, 8.45pm.
Spice Cinema Noida - 10am, 4:30PM,8:40pm.

Lion

PVR Vasantkunj, Delhi -12Noon, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 10:20pm.
Director's Cut, Delhi - 11:45am, 7pm, 11:35pm.
PVR Anupam, Saket - 1:40pm, 6:40pm, 11:20pm.
PVR Select City Walk - 10:05am, 9pm.
PVR Sangam -2:55pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Naraina - 12:35pm, 5:45pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Pacific Mall -9am, 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 11:45pm.
PVR Shalimar Bagh - 1pm, 6:10pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Logix, Noida - 10:20am, 12:35pm, 3:40pm, 9pm.
DT MOIN, Noida - 10:15am, 12:15pm, 5:25pm, 10:35pm.
PVR Ambience, Gurgaon -1:40pm, 11:20pm.
PVR MGF, Gurgaon - 10am, 3:10pm, 8:20pm, 11:05pm.

Guardians The Superheroes

PVR Vasantkunj, Delhi -12Noon, 5:45pm.
PVR Anupam, Saket - 9:10am, 9:15pm.
PVR Vikaspuri -10am, 3:05pm.
PVR Prashant Vihar - 10am, 3:05pm.
PVR Logix, Noida - 10:30am, 6:25pm, 11:15pm.
DT MOIN, Noida - 10:45am, 5:40pm.
PVR Mahagun - 10:10am, 12:55pm, 6pm.
Wave Cinema, Noida - 12.05pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 11.15pm.
Wave Cinema, Kaushambi - 9.50am, 2.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm.
Wave Cinema, Raja Garden -10.05am, 2.30pm, 6.45pm, 11.10pm.

HINDI FILM

Rangoon

PVR Vasantkunj, Delhi -12Noon, 1pm, 2:20pm, 3:10pm, 4:10pm, 6:20pm, 7:20pm, 8:40pm, 9:30pm, 10:30pm.
Director's Cut, Delhi - 9am, 11am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4pm, 7:30pm, 9:30pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Anupam, Saket - 9am, 10:20am, 12:10pm, 1:30pm, 4:40pm, 6:30pm, 7:50pm, 9:40pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Select City Walk - 9:20am, 10:40am, 1:50pm, 3:40pm, 5pm, 7pm, 8:10pm, 11:20pm.
PVR Priya -10am, 1:10pm, 4:20pm, 7:30pm, 10:40pm.
PVR Plaza -10:20am, 4:40pm, 7:50pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Rivoli -9:40am, 12:50pm, 7:10pm, 10:20pm.
PVR Sangam - 10:20am, 1:30pm, 4:40pm, 7:50pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Naraina -9:40am, 10:40am, 12:30pm, 3:40pm, 5pm, 6:50pm, 9:55pm, 11:20pm.
PVR Pacific Mall -9am, 10am, 11am, 12:10pm, 1:10pm, 2:10pm, 3:20pm, 4:20pm, 5:20pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 9:40pm, 10:40pm, 11:40pm.
PVR Vikaspuri - 9:40am, 10:20am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 3:40pm, 4:40pm, 6:50pm, 7:50pm, 9:55pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Prashant Vihar - 9:40am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 3:40pm, 4:40pm, 6:50pm, 7:50pm, 9:55pm, 10:55pm.
PVR Shalimar Bagh - 10am, 11am, 12:50pm, 4pm, 5:20pm, 7:10pm, 10:20pm, 11:40pm.
PVR Logix, Noida - 10am, 11am, 1:10pm, 2:10pm, 3:10pm, 4:20pm, 5:20pm, 6:20pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 9:30pm, 10:40pm, 11:40pm.
PVR EDM - 10am, 11:40am, 1:10pm, 4:20pm, 6pm, 7:30pm, 9:10pm, 10:40pm.
PVR Mahagun - 10:20am, 12Noon, 1:30pm, 3:10pm, 4:40pm, 6:20pm, 7:50pm, 9:30pm, 10:55pm.
Wave Cinema, Noida - 10am, 10.30am, 1.10pm, 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 8pm, 10.40pm, 11.10pm.
Wave Cinema, Kaushambi -10am, 10.30am, 1.10pm, 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 8pm, 10.40pm, 11.10pm.
Wave Cinema, Raja Garden -10am, 10.30am, 1.10pm, 4.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 8pm, 10.40pm, 11.10pm.
Spice Cinema Noida - 10am, 11am, 12Noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm, 11:35pm.

Jolly LLB 2

PVR Vasantkunj, Delhi -12Noon, 5:15pm, 10:10pm.
Director's Cut, Delhi - 9am, 6pm.
PVR Anupam, Saket - 9:15am, 3:20pm, 8pm.
PVR Select City Walk - 9:10am, 12:30pm, 9:55pm.
PVR Plaza -1:30pm.
PVR Rivoli -4pm.
PVR Naraina -9:55am, 1:50pm, 8:10pm.
PVR Pacific Mall - 10:15am, 1:10pm, 7pm, 9:55pm.
PVR Vikaspuri - 12:10pm, 5:15pm, 10:50pm.
PVR Prashant Vihar - 12:10pm, 5:15pm, 10:50pm.
PVR Shalimar Bagh - 10:20am, 2:10pm, 8:30
DT MOIN, Noida - 10:40am, 1:35pm, 4:30pm, 7:25pm, 10:20pm.
PVR EDM -12:45pm, 5:50pm, 10:55pm.
Wave Cinema, Kaushambi -9.45am, 3pm, 5.45pm, 11pm.
Wave Cinema, Raja Garden -10am, 1.45pm, 3.15pm, 11pm.
Spice Cinema Noida - 10am, 12:40pm, 3:20pm, 6pm, 8:40pm, 11:20pm.

Wedding Anniversary

PVR Vasantkunj, Delhi -12:35pm.
PVR Anupam, Saket -4:15pm.
PVR Naraina -5:20pm.
PVR Pacific Mall - 3:55pm.
PVR Shalimar Bagh - 12:45pm.
PVR Logix, Noida - 3:05pm, 10:55pm.
DT MOIN, Noida - 12:55pm, 10:20pm.
PVR MGF, Gurgaon - 5:55pm.

A scene from **Split**

All eyes...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unfazed by the giant stride made by the BJP, Sena kept up its attack on the estranged ally. An editorial in its mouthpiece "Saamana" said the party's fight with the BJP will continue, regardless of the consequences.

It also accused the BJP of having used the state machinery and all its might of central leadership to score an unprecedented result in the BMC polls and other local bodies.

BJP spokesperson Madhav Bhandari said the final decision pertaining to the BMC will be taken by core committee of the party, which is meeting here tonight.

With the fractured verdict restricting their options, Sena and BJP are trying hard to enlist support of as many corporators as possible to stack up numbers ahead of the Mayoral election scheduled next month.

According to sources in the Sena, Thackeray will hold a meeting of all senior party leaders and newly-elected corporators at the Shiv Sena Bhavan tomorrow to decide on the future course of action.

Apollo does it again despite Mamata's warning

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Kolkata, 24 February

Forty-eight hours after chief minister Mamata Banerjee had given a stern warning to private hospitals not to fleece patients in the name of treatment, a 30-year-old resident of Dankuni, Hooghly, Sanjoy Roy, died early today after the authorities of Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals on EM Bypass allegedly refused to discharge him for admission to SSKM Hospital in the city until the medical bills amounting to Rs 7.41 lakh were cleared.

What was even worse, the patient's relatives complained, the hospital authorities had forced them to deposit with them their fixed deposit certificates as guarantee for payment of the bills. The youth had met with a road accident on 16 February and was admitted to the private hospital. The patient's relatives said that the hospital authorities kept giving them hope that the patient was being given the right treatment. But, the amount of the medical charges jumped with the

hospital authorities conducting some medical tests or the other.

Alarmed by the rising medical cost, the relatives contacted Trinamul MP Abhisekh Banerjee for shifting him to the SSKM Hospital yesterday. But, when they approached the private hospital for releasing the patient immediately as his condition deteriorated, the hospital authorities insisted that the bills had to be cleared first, the relatives complained.

The patient could be taken to SSKM Hospital late last night after the relatives handed over their fixed deposit certificates.

The hospital authorities, however, denied the allegation and claimed the relatives themselves offered the certificates as a guarantee for payment of the bills later. They also said it took time to get the patient ready for shifting him to the state hospital and the private hospital itself arranged for oxygen. The relatives challenged the hospital's version and pointed out that they paid for the oxygen that they themselves arranged. The hospital authorities had come out with new complications about the patient such as liver puncture, water deposition on chest, rib cage fracture while he was put on life support system (ventilation), said Mr Subir Mukherjee, a relative of the victim. Ex-minister Madan Mitra met them and threatened he would take up the matter at the highest level.

JNUSU calls off hunger strike

ABHINAV SINGH
abhinavbismark@gmail.com
New Delhi, 24 February

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration may have a sigh of relief as JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) has called off its indefinite hunger strike against it. The decision was taken at the University General Body Meeting (UGBM) held yesterday. The students were on indefinite fast against the new admission policy for MPhil/PhD since 31 December last year, demanding revocation of UGC Gazette notification of 5 May 2016.

"We are taking our agitation ahead with other modes of protest like legal and political battle. The Vice-Chancellor has done many illegalities and we will continue our protest with students from other universities joining us," said Satarupa Chakraborty, general secretary, JNUSU.

Although the students blocking the administrative building claim to have ended their seizure, few of them are still seated there. Earlier the striking students had allowed some employees to enter the administrative building for two days but the Admission and Evaluation branches remained closed. The JNU administration had condemned the selective opening. Today, the students announced that they have called off the seizure or blockade and are allowing all the administrative branches to open.

The seizure was led by the committee of students who were suspended for barging into the academic council meeting held last year. "We have now allowed all offices to open. The employees should resume their work. The VC should come and talk to us but so far no top official has come to meet us," said Mulayam, a suspended student, who had occupied the administrative block. The decision was taken by the aforesaid committee keeping in view the interest of other students and employees. The students had been occupying the administrative building since February 9. However, the JNU, which is baffling with the controversy since many days, bringing almost all administrative works to a stand-still is expected to get some relief after the weekend, if students remained adhered to their decision to end the blockade.

TODAY IN DELHI

ENGAGEMENTS

Habitat World presents Vimhans Monthly Series on Modern-day Parenting Anger Issues in Children and Adolescents. Panelists: Dr.Monalisa Palit, Dr.Neetu Rana and Dr.Deepali Rao, at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, 7 p.m.

India International Centre presents "Meer Ki Dilli: Words in the Garden – A Celebration of Literature, Arts and Ideas" . All the sessions, whether of discussion or reading, have their titles picked from the poetic utterance of the great bard, Meer Taqi Meer, at C. D. Deshmukh Auditorium, 40 Max Mueller Marg, 6 p.m.

FILMS

Habitat World presents sereening of documentary film "Nzinga, The Call of the Drum",(Brazil). Written by Rose La Creta, directed by O. Bezerra In honour of Nzinga, African Queen from Matambo, the documentary underlines the sense of cultural resistance as the greatest knowledge and contribution of Mother Africa to Brazilian Culture. The film is narrated through a game of "buzios", Afro Brazilian Oracle, at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, 7 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Threshold presents a solo art exhibition, at C-221, Sarvodaya Enclave, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (till 10 March).

Korean Cultural Centre presents "Save As", a two Korean artist show, at 25A, Lajpat Nagar IV, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (till 1 March).

Gallery Espace presents "Either Is All That is", a solo art show, at 16 Community Centre, New Friends Colony, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (till 8 March)

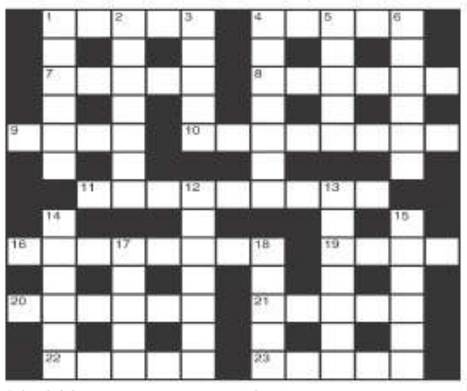
Exhibition ¦ Annexe Art Gallery, 11:00 to 19:00

India International Centre presents "Mariages à la Française – Shifts in a Cultural Grammar". The exhibition traces some of the significant changes and developments in the institution and rites of marriage in France through some select objects. The exhibition aims to present a reflection on social transformations and values in France since the end of the 19th century. Curated by Arundhati Virmani, at Annexe Art Gallery, 40, Max Mueller Marg, 11a.m. to 7 p.m. (till 28 March)

Gallery Espace presents "Either Is All That Is", a solo art show, at 16, Community Centre, New Friends Colony, (till 8 March)

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Advertising leaflet (5)
4 Consider (5)
7 Carrying chair (5)
8 Fatty acids (6)
9 Unleavened bread (4)
10 Tree-covered area (8)
11 Symbol of surrender (5,4)
16 Athletics event (4,4)
19 Pocket billiards (4)
20 Nape of the neck (6)
21 Respond (5)
22 Root vegetable (5)
23 Serving spoon (5)

DOWN
1 Union (6)
2 Jewish vernacular language (7)
3 Take up again (5)
4 Moderately rich (4-3)
5 Urge (5)
6 State of concealment (6)
12 Prized fungus (7)
13 Clap (7)
14 Travelling entertainment (6)
15 Bump roughly (6)
17 Accommodate (5)
18 Danger (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Hole, 3 Sail (Wholesale), 7 Floppy, 8 Needle, 9 Panpipes, 10 Tone, 11 Flora and fauna, 15 Bald, 17 Physique, 19 Gallop, 20 Crèche, 21 Ugly, 22 Ploy.

DOWN
1 Holdall, 2 Lap up, 3 Sinus, 4 Inertia, 5 Myopia, 6 Plan, 12 Red flag, 13 Dry ice, 14 Naughty, 16 Alas, 17 Puppy, 18 Ideal.

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker

RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson

HENRY/Dick Hodgins

NEED TO KNOW

* **Police** 100
* **Ambulance** 102
* **Accident & Trauma** 109 & 1099
* **Fire** 101; **Fire Service Officer** 23314000
* **Women's Helpline** 1091
* **Senior Citizens Helpline** 1291

HOSPITALS

* **AIIMS** 26588500, 26588900
* **Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital)** 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
* **Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences** 26924300
* **Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre** 29051280, 29958747
* **Deen Dayal Upadhyay** 25494402 to 06
* **Guru Tegh Bahadur** 22585007, 22597262, 22586262
* **Lok Nayak Jai Prakash** 23231471, 23230733, 23233400
* **Dr Ram Manohar Lohia** 23365525, 23365988
* **Safdarjung** 26165032, 26168336

RAILWAY INQUIRY

* **General Inquiry** 139
* **Train Arrival** 1331 (North), 1332 (East), 1333 (West), 1334 (South)
* **Train Departure** 1336 (North), 1337 (East), 1338 (West), 1339 (South)
* **Toll Free Nos.** 1800112511
* **SMS Inquiry Nos.** 57886, 54959, 5676747

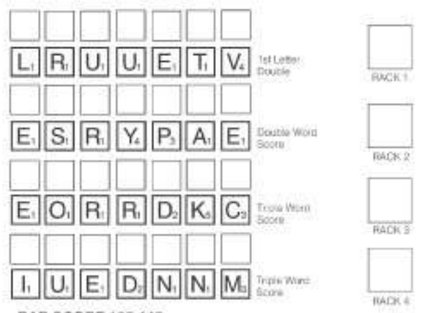
ROADWAYS INQUIRY

* **ISBT (General Inquiry):** 23868836, 23865181
* **Haryana Roadways** 23861262
* **Himachal Roadways** 23717473, 23325320
* **Punjab Roadways** 23867842, 23860626
* **Rajasthan Roadways** 23864470
* **U.P. Roadways** 23868709

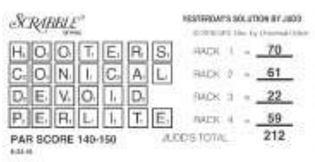
FLIGHT INQUIRY

* **AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation** 18001801407
* **INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office** 43513185, **Call Centre** 09910383838, 18001803838, **Reservation** 43513186; **Indigo Airlines Airport** 011-25671580; **Terminal I-B** 25671576, **Palam Road** 25671579, 18001803838
* **Jet AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation** 39893333
* **EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation** 33773377
* **Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation** 23354373 (City), 25652295/96 (Airport)
* **Japan Airlines Flight Inquiry** 23327104/23327108

SCRABBLE® BRAND — GRAMS



PAR SCORE 135-145
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN



Directions Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary(Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words(Chambers). Judd's solution tomorrow. 10-25-12

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SUDOKU
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

answer to previous puzzle

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

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.

Modi ji, you very rightly said that you indeed work like a donkey

CONGRESS LEADER DIGVIJAY SINGH

JOINING IN THE SLANGING MATCH OVER THE 'DONKEY' BARB

THUMBNAILS

Artists perform on the occasion of Maha Shivratri in Chandigarh on Friday. ■ Prakash Sharma

Disability pension to soldier kin: The Supreme Court has directed the government to pay disability pension to the kin of a soldier, who was discharged from service due to schizophrenia, observing that the disorder was caused due to his work. PTI

Navy war room leak: The Supreme Court has upheld the government's decision to sack two naval officers facing criminal trial in the 2005 Navy war room leak case. The case involves leakage of over 7,000 pages of sensitive defence information. PTI

'Ek mutthi anaaj': Vishwa Hindu Parishad working president Praveen Togadia on Friday launched what he termed *ek mutthi anaaj* scheme and urged activists to collect one fistful of grain every month from each house to feed the poor. PTI

Merger demand: A panel of secretaries has recommended the government to merge the ministries of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) and Urban Development to improve implementation of central schemes. PTI

ANSWER BULLET WITH LOVE, SAYS FAROOQ

SAYS 'BULLET FOR BULLET' PAK POLICY WILL WORSEN SITUATION IN KASHMIR, CALLS FOR INDO-PAK DIALOGUE

AGENCIES
Srinagar, 24 February

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah today called for resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan to restore peace in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the policy of "bullet for bullet" will only worsen the situation in the state.

"Bullet cannot be an answer to a bullet. Bullet can be answered by patience, love and through dialogue. We should desist from that and hope India and Pakistan come to the dialogue table and a new phase of talks will resume so that this problem is resolved," the former chief minister said.

Abdullah, who was a Union minister during the previous UPA government, said it was "imperative that an effort be made towards restoration of peace (in Kashmir). Both the countries should talk peace. There is no other option."

He said poor people in the state would be the worst affected by lack of tourism because of violence.

"Death and destruction should come to an end so that the people of Kashmir can live in peace. The tourism season is about to start and if this death and destruction continues, who will come here? Who is going to suffer because of that? It is the poor people here who depend on tourism," he said.

Death and destruction should come to an end so that the people of Kashmir can live in peace. The tourism season is about to start and if this death and destruction continues, who will come here? Who is going to suffer because of that? ...the poor people here who depend on tourism

FAROOQ ABDULLAH

Abdullah also demanded constitution of a judicial commission to look into the reasons for youths joining militant ranks and people rushing towards encounter sites to save holed up militants during counter-insurgency operations.

"We have to take into account their (militants') sentiments. What is the reason for their taking up arms? A high-level judicial commission should be constituted to look into what is compelling the youth to take up arms," he said.

Referring to the warning of Army chief general Bipin Rawat to the youth against interfering in anti-insurgency operations, Abdullah said, "That is not right. That is unfortunate because if you have to address a problem, the solution does not lie in the gun but talks."

Kashmiri youth picked up arms "for a cause" and they can not be intimidated with death threats, Abdullah said.

Addressing party workers at the Nawa-i-Subha headquarters of the National Conference, Abdullah said: "They are not afraid of death nor can they be intimidated with the threat because they have handed themselves over to Allah's will."

He said that they did not pick up guns to become MLAs, MPs or ministers, adding that "our generation was deceived, but the fight for our rights has been on since 1931."

The veteran politician blamed both India and Pakistan for not understanding the basic reality of the struggle people in Kashmir have been waging and the travails they have been suffering.

Rawat bids adieu to 3 bravehearts

SNS & PTI
Jammu, 24 February

Army chief Bipin Rawat bid farewell to the three bravehearts through a solemn ceremony at the Badami Bagh cantonment in Srinagar today. The three soldiers were martyred in an ambush in Shopian in South Kashmir yesterday.

General Rawat, who flew to Srinagar yesterday immediately after reports of martyrdom of the three soldiers came in, paid rich tributes to the gallant soldiers, Lance Nk Ghulam Mohi- Ud-Din, Sepoy Vikas Singh Gurjar and Sapper Sreejith MJ and expressed his grief and condolences to the bereaved families. He also conveyed his anguish at the unfortunate death of an elderly lady, Taja Begum in the terrorist attack.

Wreaths were also laid on behalf of chief minister Mehbooba Mufti and by Abdul Haque Khan, minister of rural development, Ghulam Nabi Lone, minister for agriculture besides other officials from Civil Administration and Security agencies.

Army chief Bipin Rawat pays tributes to the martyrs on Friday. ■ Sns

On his arrival yesterday, the Army chief had first met other injured soldiers at the Army Base Hospital and wished them speedy recovery.

After paying homage to the martyrs, the Army chief, alongwith Northern Army and Chinar Corps Commanders, Lt Gen D Anbu and Lt Gen JS Sandhu, visited Victor and Kilo Force headquarters, where he was briefed on the prevailing security situation and on the recent operations conducted by the security forces.

He also reviewed the collaborative measures of security forces towards ensuring peace in the region and interacted with local commanders and troops urging them to continue discharging their duty with utmost professionalism.

Reinforcing the need to maintain high vigil, the Army chief also discussed the issue of stone pelting during operations and impr-essed upon all to synergise efforts with the other security agencies in dealing with such situations effectively.

The General officer also appreciated the various humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the troops to bring succor to common people and exhorted them to sustain the positive engagement with the *Awaam* (people).

Meanwhile, thousands of civilians today bid a tearful adieu to one of the martyrs, Lance Naik Ghulam Mohiuddin Rather. The huge turnout of mourners surprised the army officers and jawans who accompanied Rather's mortal remains. His relatives were seen wailing and recollecting the time spent with him.

India should join CPEC, not oppose it: Chinese media

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi,24 February

China has no intention of interfering in the territorial dispute between India and Pakistan and instead of opposing the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), India should join it in its own larger economic interest, according to a leading Chinese daily, which invariably reflects the opinion of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Foreign secretary S Jaishankar, during the India-China strategic dialogue in Beijing on Wednesday, had opposed the CPEC on the ground that it violated India's sovereignty since it passes through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). He had also stated that China must explain how India, whose sovereignty had been violated, could take part in the 'Belt and Road' summit planned in Beijing in May.

In an op-ed this morning, *Global Times* wondered why CPEC had made India apprehensive since the project was an important opportunity not only for the potential benefits it would bring to China and Pakistan but also because it would allow greater cooperation among nations in the region. Affirming that Beijing has long believed that India and Pakistan should solve their territorial dispute through dialogue and consultations, it said China respected India's sovereignty concerns.

"Taking a strong stand on territorial issues is important, but it can be hoped that India would adopt an objective and more pragmatic attitude towards the 'One Belt, One Road' proposal," it said. China proposed this initiative to link countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. The initiative was aimed at promoting an open and inclusive global economy by building cohesive regional trade networks and enhancing connectivity for future growth. The CPEC was not aimed at targeting any third country, the daily said and hoped more countries would become part of the project.

The newspaper stated that India should not view Pakistan's development as a threat. China, Pakistan and India could cooperate to tap the vast economic potential of the Kashmir region.

According to the daily, the CPEC could pave the way for about one million new jobs and attract a strong influx of FDI into the region.

In another article, the daily lamented that China had not been working hard enough to attract science and technology talent from India to work in the country. Some hi-tech firms were turning their attention from China to India's relatively low labour costs.

HRD MINISTRY FORMS NEW PANEL FOR UGC CHIEF SELECTION

The govt is unhappy over the performance of the UGC and is keen on appointing a new UGC chairman soon after the incumbent, Ved Prakash, completes his tenure on 23 April, 2017

New Delhi, 24 February: The Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a search-cum-selection committee for appointing a new chairman to the University Grants Commission, the regulator of higher educational institutions and universities. The committee is tasked with seeking nominations for selecting the new chairman.

According to a notice issued by the UGC, eminent persons with substantial experience in academics, governance and professional management with proven track record of dynamic, idea-centric leadership in institution-building can be nominated for the post.

The government is reportedly unhappy over the performance of the UGC and is keen on appointing a new UGC chairman soon after the incumbent, Ved Prakash, completes his tenure on 23 April, 2017. Prakash was appointed on 18 January 2013, as the UGC chairman with a condition that his tenure would be for five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

India has 759 universities which include 239 private, 47 central universities, 350 state universities and 123 deemed-to-be universities.

For private universities, the UGC approves courses of study but does not have direct control over its institutes, while for Central universities, the UGC funds and approves courses. State universities get Central assistance through the UGC, for which the Commission also sets rules and approves courses. SNS

BSF hands over woman's body

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Jammu, 24 February

The BSF today handed over to the Pakistani Rangers, the body of a woman, Rashida Begum, who was shot last night when she intruded into the Indian territory.

Her body was handed over to Rangers at the Pargwal sector of Jammu district in a company commander level meeting.

Earlier, a meeting with Pak Rangers was held and photo of the killed woman was shown.

In another commandant-wing commander level meeting of BSF and Pakistan Rangers at the Kathua sector today, the BSF strongly protested against firing at BSF pickets and civilian areas from the Pakistani territory.

The Pakistani delegation was headed by Lt Col Asmat Ullah Khan Wing Comdr, while the Indian team was led by Bhupinder Singh, Commandant.

The BSF also raised objections on the Rangers trying to interfere in maintenance work by BSF in the border areas. Pak Rangers assured that they will maintain good relations with the BSF.

SHOWERS OF HOPE

Devotees offer prayers by pouring milk on a Shiva Lingam to mark the Maha Shivaratri festival at the Shiva Mandir in Hyderabad on Friday. ■ Afp

SKIN CANCER CASES TO DOUBLE IF POLLUTION IS NOT CHECKED

Derma danger

SHALINI SHARMA
shalinisharma@thestatesmangroup.com
Chandigarh, 24 February

Blame it to climate change, cases of skin cancer and non-communicable diseases will double in the next 10 years unless initiatives are taken to address the challenges posed by global warming.

This was revealed at a workshop in Post Graduate Institute of Medical and Research (PGIMER), in which the three core frameworks of climate change, global warming and disaster management were taken up.

Deputy director general of Indian Meteorology Department, New Delhi, SD Attari, stressed that more efforts are needed to involve the major stakeholders to better address the challenges posed by global warming and to reduce the impact of natural disasters.

Talking about the major contributors of air pollution Mr Attari said, "Only farmers can not be blamed for air pollution because of burning bio waste. Most of the pollution is caused by the power sector, coal sector and other industries." Mr Attari added, "Fifteen-years back common man did not understand the problem but today remote sensing has proved it with pictures."

He disagreed with the common belief that the poorest of the poor will be affected the most. Rather he cautioned that it will be the middle class that will suffer. He supported his dialogue with the Kedarnath disaster in Uttarakhand that shook the whole country.

Mr Attari suggested that stern laws should be implemented. Referring to bad air quality of New Delhi that continued for one week after Diwali, he cautioned everyone saying, "Air knows no boundaries."

On the other hand JS Thakur, professor of community medicines said, "Right kind of leadership, aid of information system and technology with the health care delivery system are the main blocks of building good health." He further said for integrating data relating to the effects of climate change on health more partnerships are required. No single agency can do it alone."

BIHAR PAPER LEAK: IAS OFFICER HELD

Patna, 24 February: A senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Sudhir Kumar, now posted as the chairman of the Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC), was today arrested from Jharkhand in connection with the test paper leak scandal which surfaced earlier this month. This is the second arrest of IAS officials in the state in the past six months for their alleged involvement in the fraud.

Mr Kumar, a 1987-batch IAS officer, was arrested along with his brother, his sister-in-law and nephew by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to investigate the scandal. The accused were brought to Patna for interrogation. The SIT was looking for the chairman for another round of questioning but he mysteriously went missing since the scandal surfaced in the first week of this month. SNS

APPOINTMENT

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up 03 (three) posts of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), in the cadre of Sikkim Judicial Service, in the Pay Scale of Rs. 27,700-770-33,090-920-40,450-1,080-44,770 plus other allowances, as admissible under the Rules.

1. **Eligibility conditions are as under:**
   (a) Candidate must be a citizen of India.
   (b) Candidate must be a holder of a degree in law, granted by a University established by law in India.
   (c) Candidate must not be more than 35 years of age as on the last date fixed for receipt of applications.
   (d) Candidate must be able to communicate in Nepali, or any other language of the State.
   (e) Candidate must have adequate knowledge in Computer applications to be tested at the time of viva-voce.
2. Competitive examination shall be conducted by the High Court on the date and place to be fixed.
3. The written examination shall be conducted as per syllabus prescribed in the Sikkim Judicial Service Rules, 1975 and same is available in the High Court website i.e. **http://highcourtofsikkim.nic.in**
4. All questions shall be answered in English except the vernacular paper. Answers in any language other than English shall not be considered for evaluation on any ground.
5. The last date of receipt of application is **27-03-2017** at **4-30 p.m.** The application shall be accompanied by attested copies of the following testimonials and three passport-size photographs.
   (i) Certificate of Educational Qualification, i.e. graduation degree and degree in law.
   (ii) Enrollment Certificate as advocate under the Advocates Act, 1961.
   (iii) Proof of date of birth.
6. Incomplete application without requisite testimonials and other documents shall be summarily rejected.
7. The application should be submitted in the prescribed form which is available in the website of High Court of Sikkim i.e. **http://highcourtofsikkim.nic.in**
8. The application received after the prescribed date and time shall not be entertained on any ground whatsoever.
9. Only those candidates found eligible on preliminary scrutiny shall be called for Written Examination. The list of candidates whose applications are accepted for taking the examination shall be uploaded in the High Court website.
10. No T.A./D.A. shall be paid for appearing in the written examination and the Viva-voce test.
11. The Registry of the High Court of Sikkim reserves the right to accept or reject any application, with or without any reason.
12. Examination fees of Rs. 600 shall be payable in favour of the Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim, by way of Account Payee Demand Draft of any Bank, payable at Gangtok, and shall be submitted along with the application. The said amount is non-refundable.
13. Correct mobile/telephone number(s) for communication by the Registry should be submitted by the candidates in their applications.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR GENERAL
HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM

LEGAL NOTICES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANTS
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Ms. Madhu Jain
Presiding Officer, MACT-02
South East District
Room No. 12,
Saket Court Complex
New Delhi
Suit No. 1441/16

Suman Devi
— Petitioner/s
Versus
Dhirender Sharma
— Respondent/s

To,
Suman Devi w/o Sh. Jaivir Singh r/o 16/194 JJ Colony, Dakshinpuri, New Delhiu-110062.
The Respondent Above-named.
Whereas you are intentionally evading services of summons. It is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the day of 01-03-2017 10.00am i.e. the day fixed for final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 15-02-2017.

PO, MACT-02,
South East, Saket
New Delhi
Seal of the Court
CL 03765

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Arun Kumar Garg
Civil Judge-04, (Central)
Room No. 137 A,
Tis Hazari Courts
Delhi
CS/SCJ/602258/16

Punjab National Bank
Versus
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

To,
Mr. Shiv Kumar Agarwal s/o Rajendra Kumar Aggarwal r/o F-242, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110010
The Defendant Abovenamed.
Whereas you are intentionally evading services of summons. It is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 1st day of March, 2017 the day fixed for final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this the 14th day of February, 2016.

Civil Judge-04 (Central)
Delhi
Seal of the Court
CL 03766

CITATION UNDER SECTION 271 OF THE INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT
In the Court of Ms. Sujata Kohli
Additional District Judge
Room No. 102,
Tis Hazari Courts
Delhi (Central).
PC No. 11/17
N.D.O.H.-07-03-2017

Tribhuvan Kant Sharma
Versus
State Etc

Whereas a petiton under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act 1925 for grant of Probate/Letter of Administration in respect of the Estate of Late Sh. Datt Sharma s/o Sh. Ganga Shay Sharma r/o H.No.-1763, Cheera Khana, Nai Sarak, Delhi-110006. Who died on 27-03-1957 at Delhi, has been made by Tribhuvan Kant Sharma s/o Late Sh. Shridatt Sharma r/o H.No.-2388, 2nd Floor, Hudson Line, Kingsway Camp, G.T.B. Nagar, Delhi-110009.
Whereas the 07/03/2017 has been fixed for hearing of the case, notice is hereby given so that any person having any interest in the Probate/Letter of Administration of the Estate of the said deceased if he/she desires to be heard shall appear before this Court on 07-03-2017 before the grant of Letter of Administration.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court, this the 21st day of February, 2017.

Additional District Judge
Delhi (Central)
Seal of the Court
CL 03764

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANTS
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Deepak Sherawat
Judge Small Cause Courts cum Addl. Sr. Civil Judge cum Guardian Judge (West)
Room No. 119, 1st Floor
Tis Hazari Courts
Delhi
CS-612819/16

M/s Jaina Properties Pvt. Ltd.
Versus
M/s Pee Vee Traders & Anr.

To,
M/s Pee Vee Traders, 181, Tagore Park, Delhi-110009.
The Respondent Above-named.
Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 25th day of March 2017 the day fixed for final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this the 20th day of February 2017.

Judge Small Cause Courts
cum
Addl. Sr. Civil Judge cum
Guardian Judge (West)
Delhi
Seal of the Court
CL 03767

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 840/16
Dated: 01-02-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Deepak Kumar Gupta & Ors.
—Respondents

To,
Defendant
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 35,37,549/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Forty 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 the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 08-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03745

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 848/16
Dated: 02-02-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Sunil Kumar & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 18,85,960/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 09-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03746

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 846/16
Dated: 02-02-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Sanjay Bhargava & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 20,76,850/- (Rupees Twenty mLakh Seventy Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 09-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03748

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 811/16
Dated: 20-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Jaison Thomas & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. Jaison Thomas s/o Sh. Aedasseril Thomas (Borrower) r/o B-11/G-1, Dilshad Colony East Delhi-110095.
2. Princy Joseph w/o Sh. Jaison Thomas (Co-Borrower) r/o B-11/G-1, Dilshad Colony East Delhi-110095.
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 30,93,854/- (Rupees Thirty lakh Ninty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Four Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 09-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03749

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 814/16
Dated: 20-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Sushil Kumar Rajan & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. Sushil Kumar Rajan (Borrower) r/o H. No. 172, Gali No. 3, Laxman Nagar Phase-1, Near Bal Bharti School Gurgaon Haryana-122001.
2. Ritu Kumari Sinha (Co-Borrower) r/o H. No. 172, Gali No. 3, Laxman Nagar Phase-1, Near Bal Bharti School Gurgaon Haryana-122001.
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 29,35,223/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Three Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 09-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03750

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 810/16
Dated: 20-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Manu Pranav & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. Manu Pranav (Borrower) r/o H.No. 448, 2nd Floor, H-Block, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028.
2. Dilip Kumar Aggarwal (Co-Borrower) r/o H.No. 448, 2nd Floor, H-Block, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028.
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 44,74,700/- (Rupees Fourty Four Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 09-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03751

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 809/16
Dated: 20-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Rahul Kumar Sharma & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 24,34,031/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand and Thirty One Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 09-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03752

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 833/16
Dated: 27-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Biraj Sahay & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 29,64,457/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Seven Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 03-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03753

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 831/16
Dated: 27-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Mohan Singh & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 38,33,867/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Seven Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 03-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03754

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 788/16
Dated: 13-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
M/s Arise Reinforcement Pvt. Ltd. & Anr.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. M/s Arise Reinforcement Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 221, Udyog Kendra-II, Eco Tech-III, Greater Noida-201306.
2. Sh. Anshuman Atul s/o Sh. Rai Bhim Shankar, 198/54, 2nd Floor Flat No.1, Ramesh Mkt. Garhi East of Kailash New Delhi-110065.
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 20,49,768/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Eight Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 02-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03755

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 787/16
Dated: 13-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Mr. Aman Kumar Goel
— Respondent

To,
Defendant
Mr. Aman Kumar Goel s/o Sh. Shyam Sunder Goel, 19/33, Goel Mkt. Sarai Khawaja PO Amar Nagar, Faridabad-121003.
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 22,86,618/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Six hundred and Eighteen Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 02-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03756

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 337/16
Dated: 19-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Narender Kumar
— Respondent

To,
Defendant
Narender Kumar s/o Sh. Maha Singh (Borrower) r/o H.No. 331, Jain Nagar Karala Delhi-110081.
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.10,03,713/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirteen Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 08-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03757

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 817/16
Dated: 19-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Ankit Agarwal & Anr.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. Ankit Agarwal s/o Sh. Bipin Prakash Goel (Borrower) r/o Flat No. 1020, C-224 Paryavaran Complex Saket Ignou Road Delhi-110032.
Also at: H-102, Amrapali Silicon Society Sect.-Noida UP-201301.
2. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 59,65,479/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy 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 the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 07-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03758

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 819/16
Dated: 19-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Subhash Chand & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. Subhash Chand (Borrower) r/o H.No. I-245, Alpha-II, Gautam Budh Nagar Noida-201308.
2. Arti (Co-Borrower) r/o H.No. I-245, Alpha-II, Gautam Budh Nagar Noida-201308.
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor (Back Side), Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 39,57,178/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Eight Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 07-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03762

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 489/16
Dated: 12-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Rakesh Kumar
— Respondent

To,
Defendant
Rakesh Kumar s/o Sh. Chatter Singh (Borrower) r/o 94, Near Jaton Wali Chaupal Village Akbar Pur Mazra Delhi-110036.
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 14,07,204/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Four Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 01-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03763

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 800/16
Dated: 19-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Ashutosh Sharma & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. Ashutosh Sharma (Borrower) r/o H.No. 16-A, OCS Appt. Mayur Vihar Phase-1, New Delhi-110091.
2. Nidhi Sharma (Co-Borrower) r/o H.No. 16-A, OCS Appt. Mayur Vihar Phase-1, New Delhi-110091.
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor (Back Side), Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.33,88,499/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Ninty 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 the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 08-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03759

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 798/16
Dated: 19-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Vicky Vikash & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. Vicky Vikash (Borrower) r/o 18/172, Block-18, Kalyan Puri Delhi-110091.
2. Mrs. Priti w/o Sh. Vicky Vikash (Co-Borrower) 18/172, Block-18, Kalyan Puri Delhi-110091.
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor (Back Side), Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 19,50,953/- (Rupees Ninteen Lakhs Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Three Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 08-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03760

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 818/16
Dated: 19-01-2017

ICICI Bank Ltd
— Applicant
Versus
Anoop Bhel & Ors.
— Respondents

To,
Defendant
1. Anoop Bhel s/o Sh. Anand Kishore Bhel (Borrower) r/o H.No. I-713, Palam Vihar Near Chiranjiv Bhati School Gurgaon-122017.
2. Megha Khera w/o Sh. Anoop Bhel (Co-Borrower) r/o H.No. I-713, Palam Vihar Near Chiranjiv Bhati School Gurgaon-122017.
3. AVJ Developers India Pvt. Ltd. (Builder), D-237, 1st Floor (Back Side), Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110095
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 44,90,620/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Ninty Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal 07-03-2017 at 11.00 am.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day beforementioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Assistant Registrar,
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of this Tribunal
CL 03761

IN THE COURT OF MS. JATINDER KAUR
District Judge Family Court Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
Crm/197/2016
01-11-2016
Peshi: 07-03-2017

PUBLICATION NOTICE
UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 CPC
Kuldeep Kaur Bains w/o Anoop Singh Bains & d/o Lehmbar Singh, r/o Village Bakapur, Post office Hayatpur Rurki, Tehsil Balachaur, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
— Petitioner
Versus
Anoop Singh Bains s/o Charan Singh r/o Village Nangal Khurd, Tehsil Gharshankar, District Hoshiarpur.
— Respondent
Execution Application U/S 128 CRPC
Publication Issued to: Anoop Singh Bains s/o Charan Singh r/o Village Nangal Khurd, Tehsil Gharshankar, District Hoshiarpur.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) abovenoted cannot be serverd in the ordinary way of service. Hence this proclamation is hereby issued against them and they should appear personally or through their counsel on 10-03-2017 at 9.30 am failing which ex-parte proceeding shall be taken against him/them.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this the 18th day of February 2017.

Judicial Judge
Seal of the Court
CL 03770

IN THE COURT OF MS. JATINDER KAUR
District Judge Family Court Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
Gw/6/2017
04-01-2017
Peshi: 27-03-2017

PUBLICATION NOTICE
UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 CPC
Lakhvir Kaur Divorced w/o Satnam Singh, now w/o Sukhjit Singh Hundal s/o Surinder Singh r/o H.No. 1387, Gali Chubran Wali, Mohalla Ramgarhia, Amritsar-2, Verka, District Amritsar, presently residing at Village Shahabpur, Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
— Petitioner
Versus
1. Satnam Singh s/o Jarnail Singh r/o Village Kishanpur, Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, at present r/o L-Lavrioy-Ave, 122, Peania Attieis, 19002, Greece.
2. General Public
— Respondents
Petition U/S 7 read with section 25 of the Guardians and Wards Act for declaring the petitoner to be the guardian of Minor Simrat Kaur Born on 30-09-2001 from the Loins of respondants No. 1 and from the womb of petitioner at Village Shahabpur Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.
Publication Issued to: Satnam Singh s/o Jarnail Singh r/o Village Kishanpur, Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, at present r/o L-Lavrioy-Ave, 122, Peania Attieis, 19002, Greece.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above namely cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them and should appear personally or through their counsel on 27-03-2017 at 9.30 am.
Take notice that, in default of his/their appearance on the day beforementioned, the abovesaid case will be heard and determined in his/their absence.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 23-02-2017.

District Judge Family Court
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
Seal of the Court
CL 03771

IN THE COURT OF MS. JATINDER KAUR
District Judge Family Court Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
Mnt125/126/2016
05-09-2016
Peshi: 02-03-2017

PUBLICATION NOTICE
UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 CPC
1. Manjinder Kaur w/o Satinder Singh & d/o Raj Singh Nagra.
2. Harmeet Kaur Singh minor daughter of Satinder Singh through her mother Manjinder Kaur,
3. Sirat Kaur Singh minor daughter of Satinder Singh through her mother Manjinder Kaur
All Respondents 1,2 &3 r/o Village Jabbowal, Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Saheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.
— Petitioners
Versus
Satinder Singh s/o Jagir Singh r/o Village Easpur, P.O. Mukhsuspur, P.S. Mahilpur, Tehsil Gharshankar, District Hoshiarpur.
Fresh Address: Resident of Spili Dhimoy, Lamlhs, Rathmano, Krhths, T.K. 74053, Greece.
— Respondent
Petition U/S 125 CRPC
Publication Issued to: Satinder Singh s/o Jagir Singh r/o Village Easpur, P.O. Mukhsuspur, P.S. Mahilpur, Tehsil Gharshankar, District Hoshiarpur.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above namely cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them and should appear personally or through their counsel on 02-03-2017 at 9.30 am.
Take notice that, in default of his/their appearance on the day beforementioned, the abovesaid case will be heard and determined in his/their absence.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 18-02-2017.

District Judge Family Court
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar
Seal of the Court
CL 03776

IN THE COURT OF RAJINDER SINGH-I
Judicial Magistrate I Class Ludhiana
MNT125/691/2016
U/S 125 Cr.P.C.
P.S. Dugri
Peshi-28-02-2017

Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and Judgements as well as other case information is available on http://ecourts.gov.in
Amrita Verma
Versus
Ravi Kumar
Publication Issued to: Ravi Kumar s/o Harish Singh r/o H.No. 76, Arya Samaj Gali Sirsapur Delhi.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them and should appear personally or through their counsel on 28-02-2017 at 9.30 am.
Take notice that, in default of his/their appearance on the day beforementioned, the abovesaid case will be heard and determined in his/their absence.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 21-02-2017.

Judicial Magistrate I Class
Ludhiana
Seal of the Court
CL 03772

IN THE COURT OF MS. EKTA
Judicial Magistrate I Class Ludhiana
CRL 567 DT 13-10-2015
U/S 125 Cr.P.C.
Peshi-09-03-2017

Jasvir Kaur
Versus
Lakhwinder Singh
Publication Issued to: Lakhwinder Singh s/o Malkit Singh r/o H.No. 15001, St. No. 15, Parbhat Nagar, Dholewal, Teh & Distt. Ludhiana.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence this proclamation is hereby issued against him/them and should appear personally or through their counsel on 09-03-2017 at 9.30 am.
Take notice that, in default of his/their appearance on the day beforementioned, the abovesaid case will be heard and determined in his/their absence.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 08-02-2017.

Judicial Magistrate I Class
Ludhiana
Seal of the Court
CL 03773

IN THE COURT OF MS. LALITA PATWARDHAN
ACJ (Sr. Division)-cum-SDJM Sohna
NDH: 03-03-2017

Mahesh Singh s/o Surat Singh r/o Village Gwal Pahari, Tehsil Sohna, Distt. Gurgaon
Versus
Ajab Singh s/o Shri Ram Swaroop etc.
Application for passing the final decree for partition.
To,
1. Ajab Singh s/o Shri Ram Swaroop
2. Munesh Devi w/o Chattar Singh
3. Smt. Pushpender Kaur w/o Shri Gurbachan Singh
4. Smt. Surender Kaur w/o Shri Jaswant Singh
5. Smt. Shanti Devi w/o Shri B.D. Gulati
6. Amar Chand s/o Shri Harbans Singh
7. Girdhari s/o Shri Har Lal
8. Shri Kishan s/o Shri Dal Chand
9. Deshraj s/o Shro Ram Phal
All r/o Village Gwal Pahari, Tehsil Sohna, District Gurgaon.
10. Aas Mohmad s/o Shri Babu Ram r/o D-406, Gali No. 1, B. Ratia Marg, New Delhi.
11. Smt. Satish Bala w/o Shri Satish Sharma r/o H.No. 199, New Mangla Puri, New Delhi.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the aforesaid respondents cannot be served through the ordinary way of service. Hence, the proclamation under Order 5 Rule 20 CPC is issued against him/her directing him/her to appear before this Court on 03-03-2017 at 9.30 am personally or through some authorized Agent/Pleader/Advocate, failing which ex-parte proceedings shall be taken in the case according to law.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court, this the 23-02-2017.

Additional Civil Judge
Senior Division
Sohna, Gurgaon.
Seal of the Court
CL 03775

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED
(U/S 82 Code of Criminal Procedure)
In the Court of Ms. Navreet Kaur
JMIC, 1st Class
Ludhiana
CRL. Comp. No. 4954
Date: 23-05-2016
Next Date: 18-04-2017

Deepak Garg, Proprietor of M/s Sakshi Steel Traders, Sua Road, Industrial Area, Nakkar Colony, Dhandari Kalan, near Eastman Impox, Ludhiana through his General Attorney Shri Rakesh Kumar.
— Complainant
Versus
Shri Balvir Singh Proprietor of M/s Devi Shiv Shakti, B-29/536/7, Singla Cycle Road, Opposite Big Ben Industries, Dhandari Kalan, Ludhiana
2nd Address: Shri Balvir Singh proprietor of M/s Devi Shiv Shakti, Leela Forging Compound, V.P.O. Gobindgarh, Piple Chowk, Near Ashoka Computer Kanda, Jasbir Colony, Ludhiana.
3rd Address: Shri Balvir Singh r/o Near Sanjiv Karyana Store, Village kanech, G.T. Road, Tehsil and District Ludhiana.
Whereas present complaint has been before made me that above said accused has committed offence of punishable u/s 138 NI Act and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest therupon issued abovesaid accused has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is herby made that the abovesaid accused is required to appear this Court on dated 18-04-2017 in present complaint.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court.

Judicial Magistrate
1st Class
Ludhiana
Seal of the Court
CL 03774

Public Notice

W.P.(C). 8287/2014 DASTI
GAON SABHA MEHRAULI
PETITIONER
VS. VINOD KARAN CHAWALA & ORS.
RESPONDENTS
Legal Heirs of deceased Respondent No.1
1. Smt. Kiran Chawala
2. Shri. Nikhil Chawala
3. Mrs. Alka Bakshi
All R/o Kasra No. 78/14, Village Mehrauli, New Delhi
Whereas the above noted petitioner has presented this petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India which was listed before the Court on 28-11-2014 and the Court ordered for issuance of notice to you to show cause as to why rule nisi be not issued.
And whereas on 18-12-2016 it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Court that you cannot be served through ordinary mode. Notice is hereby issued to you by way of publication. If you wish to defend the above-mentioned Writ Petition, you may cause an appearance to be entered on your behalf, either in person or through an advocate duly appointed by you for the purpose before the Court of Registrar on 16-03-2017 at 11:00 A.M.
Take further notice that in default of your appearance by yourself, your pleader or someone by law authorised to act for you in the said Writ Petition on the aforementioned date, no further petice of the subsequent date of hearing of the said petition will be given to you in future and Writ Petition will be heard and determined ex-parte in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this 16th Day of January, 2017
Deputy Registrar (Writs)
for Registrar General
CL 03778

SITUATION VACANT

REQ. 1) Sales Mgr. (M).
2) Receptionist (F).
3) Sales Engr. (M).
For a reputed Engg. Co

Not even one per cent of identified vacant posts have been filled during the last 33 months

TELANGANA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE PRESIDENT N UTTAM KUMAR REDDY
BLAMING POLICIES OF THE RULING TRS GOVERNMENT FOR 'UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS' IN THE STATE

THUMBNAILS

Minor accuses father of rape: A minor girl has accused her father of raping her and a complaint was registered after she informed her teacher about the incident, police said on Friday. The accused raped the Class VII student twice. PTI

Wagah-like shows proposed: The BSF have proposed to set up shows similar to that perfor-med at the Wagah border along the Indo-Pak border, albeit, a more friendly one with the BGB of Bangladesh in two BOPs in Meghalaya, an official said. PTI

FUND TRANSFER TO CONG HC COMES AS NO SURPRISE

MOST STATE GOVTS HAVE OFTEN BEEN KNOWN TO SEND HUGE AMOUNTS TO THEIR LEADERSHIP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bengaluru, 24 February

The controversy surrounding the alleged payment of crores to the Congress high command and some AICC members by the ruling Siddaramiah government, does not come as a surprise. Despite the charges and counter allegations by the BJP and the ruling party, the fact is that such transfer of funds is not unheard of.

Especially, as most state governments, irrespective of which national party they represent, have often been known to send huge amounts to their leadership. These sums are largely required for fighting elections, Assembly or otherwise. What is more, this is not a recent phenomenon.

This correspondent has seen it happening while covering the general elections in UP and Madhya Pradesh in the late 80s. Some of the state leaders concerned had no qualms while talking about such transfers in front of newsmen.

Admittedly, none of the parties, central or otherwise, will admit to this practice in public. But on different occasions, The Statesman has heard from senior leaders of the parties, be it the BJP or Congress, that such transfer of funds were unavoidable and remains so, to quote one functionary of an Opposition party.

According to him, with the state funding of elections still being a far cry, there is limited or no option for the political parties to raise funds. Therefore, if their own party is ruling a particular state, that becomes easier. He, of course, did not talk about the kickbacks some states receive while clearing major investments.

He also referred to the allegations of Rajya Sabha seats being sold. Likewise, there are allegations that berths for ministries in state governments are often sold, even if discreetly. "All I can say is that sometimes such allegations are not without foundation," was his response when queried for evidence.

In fact, an erstwhile political functionary of a national party claimed that the state governments raise part of such funds from the transfer of officials. "The business of transfers is really a big one. Rather a huge one. Some of the posts can fetch several crores," he said. According to him, one only needs to check the records of the transfers effected by a few of the state governments.

Another functionary of a regional party, on his part, explained that postings in the police and excise departments were perhaps the most important, rather promising, for a ruling party in the states.

That huge funds are transferred from states or vice versa in a manner which is not always public or above board for election purposes, was highlighted a few years ago. A case in point is the time when the head office of a wire agency directed its crew in Bengaluru to pick up "some cargo" from the plane of a central minister who was landing in the city on his way to Davengere in Karnataka in the late nineties.

The mediamen were directed to hand over the cargo to the minister's staff in Davengere, a destination that was covered by the wire agency crew in a car.

For some reason, the minister found it convenient to have the cargo delivered to his staff in Davengere by the wire agency instead of asking his political party workers to do so. While the mediamen were clueless about the cargo's contents, they were indeed intrigued by the order from their headquarters to do the needful.

Imagine their shock, when an SPG official, accompanying the minister, unwittingly blurted out after delivery, that the cargo was nothing but a few trunks containing several hundred crores. The wire agency crew was not only "used" but its security and safety too were compromised as the road journey to Davengere from Bengaluru takes over ten hours.

INSIDE STORY

- **Despite the charges and counter allegations by the BJP and the ruling party, the fact is that such transfer of funds is not unheard of**
- **Some of the state leaders had no qualms while talking about such transfers in front of newsmen in the late 80s**
- **None of the parties, central or otherwise, is likely to admit to this practice in public**

Jat agitation: No agreement yet, protest to be intensified

SHIV RAWAL
shivrawal@thestatesmangroup.com
Chandigarh, 24 February

As Haryana government failed to reach an agreement with the Jats staging protest to press for their demands, including OBC quota and withdrawal of cases, community leaders today announced to intensify their agitation and hold no further dialogues with the government.

Despite several rounds of talk with the Jat agitators through its constituted committees, the Manohar Lal Khattar government has so far failed to convince the Jat leaders to end the ongoing protest as the agitators have refused to compromise on any of their demands.

Akhil Bharatiya Jat Arakshan Sangharsh Samiti (ABJASS) national president Yashpal Malik told The Statesman that the constitution of the committees by the state government was an eyewash as the committees failed to resolve the issue raised by the representatives of the Jat community. Thus, there would be no further talks with the government until it comes out with any solution.

"If the committees are incapable of redressing our grievances, then what is the benefit of putting our demands before them? So now, no more discussions with the government...we would prefer to intensify the agitation," Malik said.

According to their further plan, the Jat agitators have announced February 26 as 'Black Day' when the protesters would reach the protest sites wearing black turbans and dupattas (shawls) to express their resentment against the state government.

Further, the community members from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh would throng the national capital Delhi on coming March 2. Apart from encircling the Parliament and pressing elected members of the community for supporting the agitation, the agitators have also urged the Jats not to pay government bills including of power and water.

Earlier, the state government constituted a high level committee headed by the chief secretary D S Dhesi that held two rounds of talks with the agitators and later on it was agreed that the four-member legal panel, two members from each side would sit to decide about the withdrawal of cases registered against the members of the Jat community during the agitation last year. However, the dialogues ended with no solution.

Meanwhile, the ongoing agitation in 20 districts of the state led by Malik today completed a peaceful 27 days. The Jat agitation in February last year left nearly 31 people dead while more than 200 were injured.

Classified

(Continued from page 6)

TENDERS

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
The Executive Engineer, Vidyasagar University Division, Social Sector, P.W. Dte., on behalf of Governor of West Bengal, invites sealed e-Tender online, percentage rate basis through N.I.T. No. WBPWD / SS / EE-V.U.DIVN. / e-NIT-14 / 2016-2017 for 2 (two) numbers of civil works at different locations in the Paschim Medinipur District during the year 2016-17 vide Tender ID No.: 2017_WBPWD_ 103045_1 to 2017_WBPWD_ 103045_2. Last date of submission of bid online is 07.03.2017 up to 16.00 hrs. All documents can be seen / obtained from the website: https://wbtenders.gov.in and office notice board. Regarding e-tender, bidder may contact PWD help desk Ph. No.: 033-2223-6236. Corrigendum / rectification or modification, if any, issued by the department against this NIT will be published in PWD website only.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Vidyasagar University Division
Social Sector, P.W. Dte.

MOTHER DAIRY CALCUTTA
P.O.: Dankuni Coal Complex
Dist.: Hooghly (WB)
Pin-712310
Expression of Interest for Engagement of Contractor for Maintenance of Packaging Machine at Matigara Dairy, Himul, Darjeeling.
Ref.: Pur / Tender / Himul / TKC / 77 dt.: 20.02.2017.
Mother Dairy Calcutta invites sealed offers for above job. The last date for submission of sealed offer is 07.03.2017 of up to 2 p.m.
For details please visit our website: www.motherdairycalcutta.com
Chief General Manager

PAKHIRALAY Co-Operative Housing Society Limited having 6K land in New Town invite applications (within 15 days) from Consultants working in New Town to quote rates for planning, sanctioning, soil testing for construction of (G+4) storied building. Please send your quotation in sealed cover at GD-233, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700102.

E-TENDERS are invited from the bona fide contractors for repair and renovation work (Civil) of building under RUSA Project Grant of Sudhiranjan Lahiri Mahavidyalaya, Majdia, Nadia, West Bengal. Interested contractors are requested to log on at http://wbtenders.gov.in

E-TENDERS are invited from the bona fide contractors for electrical works under RUSA Project Grant of Sudhiranjan Lahiri Mahavidyalaya, Majdia, Nadia, West Bengal. Interested contractors are requested to log on at http://wbtenders.gov.in

DUE TO unavoidable circumstances e-Tender for Repair and renovation work under RUSA bearing NIT No. SRLM / RUSA / ET / U(03) / 2016, dated: 18.01.2017, Tender ID: 2017_DHE_98484_1 has been cancelled.

UTTAR BANGA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA
Pundibari, Cooch Behar
West Bengal-736165
INVITING QUOTATION
Tender No. UBKV / Est T / P-02 / 46 / 2016-17
Date: 23.02.2017
Sealed quotations are invited under two-bid system viz. Part-I Technical Bid and Part-II Financial Bid from manufacturers / reputed suppliers for supply of various instrument / equipment. Last date of submission of quotation is 08.03.2017. Details are available in website: ubkv.ac.in
Sd/-
Registrar (Actg.)

UTTAR BANGA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA
Pundibari, Cooch Behar
INVITING QUOTATION
E-Tender Ref. No. UBKV / Est T&P-02 / 04 / 2016-17 dt. 23.02.2017 and UBKV / Est T&P-02 / 05 / 2016-17 dt. 23.02.2017.
Sealed quotations are invited under two-bid system viz. Part-I Technical Bid and Part-II Financial Bid from reputed manufacturers / supplying agencies for supplying and installation of Seed Grader, Conditional Seed Storage Facility and High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). Last date of submission of online quotations: 07.03.2017. Details available in website: wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Registrar (Actg.)

NATARAJAN: I'LL ALWAYS REMAIN A BACKROOM MAN FOR AIADMK

Thanjavur (TN), 24 February: M Natarajan, the husband of jailed AIADMK general secretary V K Sasikala, today said he would always remain a backroom man in the ruling party of Tamil Nadu. Natarjan also hit out at dissident leader O Panneerselvam while stating that "no one" can destroy the party.

Against the background of charges of Sasikala's family taking over the ruling party, he said, "I will always remain behind in the AIADMK's activities and will be silent...Nobody can destroy the party."

Presiding over a function to celebrate the birth centenary of party founder M G Ramachandran and 69th birth anniversary of J Jayalalithaa, he blamed Opposition DMK for the ruckus in the Assembly on February 18 during the trust vote. Taking potshots at dissident leader Panneerselvam, he narrated an anecdote of a dead elephant being swarmed by "insects" and asserted "we will not allow bad elements in the party." PTI

Amid shutdown call, PM to launch Manipur campaign today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 24 February

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will begin his election campaign in Manipur tomorrow amid a statewide 'shutdown' call given by a group of prominent militant outfits protesting against his visit.

A tight security cordon has been thrown in and around the city, especially at the Langjing Achouba ground, the venue of Narendra Modi's public meeting in the capital Imphal. The state goes to the polls for the 60-member assembly in two phases on 4 and 8 March respectively.

The rebel group, which calls itself 'Coordination Committee' or CorCom comprises major rebel outfits, has given the 'shutdown' call from 6 a m till the Prime Minister's departure. A high alert in the state has been sounded in view of security inputs about likely attempts by NSCN (IM) cadres to disrupt Modi's public address.

The Centre has sought detailed information from the state and central security agencies on the threat perception and steps being put in place in view of the PM's visit. The Special Protection Group or SPG responsible for the Prime Minister's security has carried out a combing operation of the meeting venue ahead of Modi's visit. He will be travelling in a bullet-proof vehicle and his address will be from a podium secured by bullet-proof glass, sources said.

CorCom in a press release today accused the Prime Minister of dividing communities in the state. It said the communities in the state have been living amicably for generations. The media coordinator of the Committee Ksh Yoiheiba said, "The proposed

visit of Prime Minister Modi is to deceive the people of Manipur with false promises in the name of development."

Ksh Yoiheiba accused successive governments in New Delhi of violation of human rights and exploitation of the local economy and hitting growth over the last 67 years. The All Manipur Students Union has also asked the PM to clarify his government's stand on the 'framework agreement' it reached with NSCN (IM) in August 2015. It fears the agreement will compromise Manipur's territorial integrity.

The main electoral battle in Manipur is between the Congress and the BJP. The BJP is contesting on its own from all the 60 seats and the Congress from 59. The BJP's allies National People's Party (NPP), the Naga People's Front (NPF) and the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) are contesting from 21, 15 and 11 seats respectively. The BJP is banking on PM Modi's face and has not announced any chief ministerial candidate for the polls.

MORAL POLICING VICTIM KILLS SELF IN KERALA

Thiruvanthapuram, 24 February: In a tragic incident, a youth who was a victim of moral policing on Valentine's Day at Azheekkal beach in Kerala's Kollam committed suicide near his house in Palakkad. His suicide note blamed it on repeated humiliation on social media for his death.

The youth, Aneesh (22) was found hanging from a tree near his house on Thursday evening. The youth's relatives said that he was very gloomy and despondent before he took his life.

On Valentine's day, Aneesh and his girlfriend were assaulted at Azheekal beach in Kollam in the name of moral policing.

It is said that due to lack of toilet, Aneesh's girlfriend had moved to a secluded area of the beach to relieve herself when the group of men allegedly tried to molest her.

The accused captured the entire incident on their phone and circulated it on social media. SNS

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
38, Central Market, West Punjabi Bagh Branch, New Delhi-110026
Phone: 011-25229188, 25229716, 25229717; Fax 25222574

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE LOST OF TITLE DEED

This is for the information of the public at large that M/s Kumar Impex, Partnership Firm having its registered office at 4/5203, Krishan Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 intend to create Equitable Mortgage of Built up property bearing MPL No.-5159/XVI/4, Plot No.-274/1, Khasra No.-3477/274, Khewat No.-1, Khatoni No.-241 situated at Krishan Nagar, Gali No.-3 & 4, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 admeasuring 75 sq. Yds owned by Mr. Muneesh Kumar Kohli & Smt. Kiran Kohli (Joint 50% share each) in the name of M/s Kumar Impex before Union Bank of India, Punjabi Bagh Branch, 38, Central Market, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026. That unfortunately, the last page i.e. page no.-8 of sale deed no.-5837 dt. 09/07/2014 has lost/ misplaced/ destroyed and that incident has been reported to Delhi Police. Any person/ Financial Institution/ Bank etc. Having objection/ claim / right, title & interest on the aforesaid property may lodge it before the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this notice, failing which said bank will accept the said property for equitable mortgage and any claim in this regard shall not be entertained in future either by the said bank or by the said party.

AGM, Punjabi Bagh Branch
Mob.-9819926412

UCO BANK
Chawri Bazar Branch, 3602, Chawri Bazar, Delhi

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Under Section 13(4) of Securitization Act, 2002 read with rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

Whereas, the Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **UCO Bank,** under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest(Second) Act, 2002 (Ord.3 of 2002) and in exercise of the power conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **06.12.2016** calling upon the **MR.DINESH KUMAR DUDEJA & MRS. POOJA DUDEJA, BOTH R/O , A- 131 , GROUND FLOOR , SUDERSHAN PARK, DELHI - 110015 AND ALSO AT : A-206 , 1ST FLOOR , SUDERSHAN PARK , DELHI - 110015(BORROWERS)** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 33,95,949.00/-(Rupess Thirty Three Lacs Ninety Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fourty Nine Only)** as on **31.10.2016** , with further interest, cost, expenses & other charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers have failed to repay the amount notice is hereby giving to the Borrowers within the period and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **20th day of February of the year 2017.**
The borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned here under and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the **UCO Bank, Chawri Bazar Branch , Delhi** . for loan amount of **Rs. 33,95,949/- (Rupess Thirty Three Lacs Ninety Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fourty Nine Only)** due and outstanding as on **31.10.2016** along with further interest, costs, expenses & other Charges thereon.

Description of the immovable/moveble Property

ALL THAT PART ANDPARCEL OF MORTGAGED IMMOVABLE PROPERTY NO. A - 206, 1ST FLOOR , SUDERSHAN PARK , DEKHI - 110015, ADMEASURING 100 SQ YARDS OWNED BY MR. DINESH KUMAR DUDEJA & MRS. POOJA DUDEJA (BORROWERS)
The borrower and/or guarantor attention is invited to provision of sub section 13 of the act in respect of time availble to redeam the secured asset.

Date : 20.02.2017
Place : Delhi
Authorized Officer,
UCO Bank

Modi is our face in Manipur in absence of CM candidate: BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Imphal, 24 February

The BJP is contesting the Manipur election, which will virtually witness a fight between the Congress and the saffron party, without a chief ministerial candidate and allies, but says its face is Narendra Modi.

Although the party has not announced a chief ministerial candidate, its state president K Bhabananda Singh said, "The BJP's face for Manipur election is Narendra Modi and his good governance. Why we didn't put up a chief ministerial candidate, it is for our central leadership to answer. May be there are too many leaders".

The Assembly polls in the state will virtually witness a fight between the BJP and the Congress although some smaller parties are also in the fray.

Speaking here today, Singh exuded confidence about his party's poll prospect, saying, "The BJP came to power in Assam after 15 years of Congress misrule.

In Manipur too, we will come to power with more than two-thirds majority."

BJP is fighting the poll without its allies like the National People's Party (NPP), the Naga People's Front (NPF) and the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP).

The NPP has fielded candidates in 21 of 60 seats in the Assembly while the LJP has put up candidates in 11 seats. The NPF is contesting in 15 seats.

"We are a part of the NDA at the Centre but regional parties have their own aspirations and agenda and the BJP is very much confident that it can make it alone," said Vivek Raj Wangkhem, the General Secretary of the NPP.

BOMBS FOUND AHEAD OF PM'S VISIT

Imphal, 24 February: Police today recovered a hand grenade and a bomb in Manipur's Imphal West district where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address an election rally tomorrow.

The recovery comes even as an apex body of six rebel groups in Manipur has given a call for a "complete shutdown" in the state tomorrow to protest against Modi's visit, saying it was aimed at "hoodwinking the people of Manipur".

The PM will address a rally at Langjing Achouba ground in Imphal West in support of BJP candidates. A Chinese-made hand grenade was found near the gate of BJP candidate Soibam Subhachandra's residence. Frisking has been intensified across the state capital to ensure there was no loophole in security arrangements. PTI

'No point chasing imaginary culprits'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Thiruvananthapuram,
24 February

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday said the police cannot go after imaginary culprits in the actor abduction case.

Speaking after inaugurating the shooting of a film in Thalassery, Mr Vijayan said some people are trying to bring out imaginative names in connection with the actor abduction case. "Police can not go after these fictitious culprits. Based on the revelations by the arrested culprits in the actor abduction case, the investigations would proceed further," he said.

Stating that the number of people with criminal tendencies are on the rise in the Malayalam film industry, he said the move of the cinema artistes to clear the criminals from the field will have full support of the government.

"If anyone from the underworld tries to destroy the film sector in Kerala, then the government would give full sup-

port to the industry," the chief minister said. "When enrolling people, cinema organisation members should be careful," he added.

There have been reports in a section of media stating that some in the Malayalam film world were behind the abduction of the actor. Some media sources have reported that police have questioned a noted Malayalam actor at his residence in connection with the incident.

Police have arrested the main accused Pulsar Suni and another accused V P Vijeesh on Thursday when they came to surrender at a court in Ernakulam.

They were produced before the Aluva magistrate on Friday and the magistrate sent the duo to judicial custody for 14 days.

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
1911 से आपके लिए "सेंट्रल" "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911
BRANCH OFFICE: KESHAV PURAM, LAWRENCE ROAD, NEW DELHI

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
[(Appendix-IV) See Rule 8(1)]

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Central Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice on 07/09/2016 calling upon the borrower **SH. MUNSHI RAM SHARMA S/O SH. DEVI SAHAY,** to repay the amount mentioned in notice being **Rs.51,76,501/- (Rupees Fifty One Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Five Hundred One Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said act read with rule 9 of the said rules on **this day 21st February, 2017.** The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of **Central Bank of India** for an amount of **Rs.51,76,501/- (Rs. Fifty One Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Five Hundred One Only)** and interest thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY
House No. B-37,Part of Khasra No.313, situated in the area of Bindapur Village, Colony Known as Sanjay Enclave, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059.

DATE: 21.02.2017
PLACE: NEW DELHI
Authorised Officer,
Central Bank of India

Vol. CXXXXVIII 47

The Statesman

Incorporating and directly descended from THE FRIEND OF INDIA - Founded 1818

Privately does it

Mamata Banerjee's surgical strike on the booming enterprise called "private hospitals" confirms the dominant impression that medical treatment is only for those who can afford it. This is the worst that can happen in a purportedly welfare state. As West Bengal's chief minister, she had to be riveted to the mess within the state; on closer reflection, the problem is said to have assumed endemic proportions across the country. The wider canvas need not detain us here; the view through the Bengal prism can be revolting in itself. There exists a sharp divide between public and private healthcare, a disconnect in the human development index that can only baffle the sick and the dying. If the affordable state hospitals can be inhumanly negligent when not death traps, treatment and fleecing go hand in hand in the chic private establishments. Medical insurance and company reimbursement cannot be a fig-leaf or excuse for atrocious charges, as often as not higher than five-star hotels, going by the Chief Minister's *verbal demarche* to the heads of leading private hospitals on Wednesday. It is an almost insufferable double whammy as the fiscal distress compounds the physical. Of course, to earn a profit is the primary factor that determines the functioning of a non-government entity... beyond the ambit of public spending as a concept of welfare. Yet there can be no feeble defence of an ugly truth ~ inflated bills, lack of transparency, expensive pathological tests that may be unrelated to the illness, and what is quite the most heart-rending ~ the refusal to release bodies before all the bills are cleared, however inflated.

The Chief Minister has hit the bull's eye with the diagnosis. Less easily formulated is an effective cure as the canker has over the years permeated the system. The philosophy that guides healthcare in West Bengal oscillates between the direly mercenary (private hospitals) and the remarkably insensitive (state hospitals). Some of the private entities have even "diversified" operations to the level of crime, specifically the sale of kidneys and babies. The subtext of the Chief Minister's robust presentation must be that the private healthcare sector is as much responsible for the overwhelming sclerosis. Equally must it be conceded that the almost exponential expansion of private hospitals is embedded in the progressively decrepit state healthcare mechanism. In both sectors is the patient accorded a relatively minor rating. Not wholly unrelated is the mushroom growth of nursing homes ~ many of them unregistered ~ throughout the state. On a limited scale, they showcase the racket that operates in the premier private hospitals... made worse by the lack of equipment and regular attendance by doctors. The malaise is as forbidding as it is disgraceful.

No cause for pride

Only those who deem gung-ho belligerence a fashion statement will be impressed by India being projected as the world's largest importer of military equipment: accounting for 13 per cent of the international arms trade, as calculated by the respected think-tank, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Perhaps some politicians owing allegiance to the ruling NDA will tom-tom the $21.95 billion imports over 2012-2016 as evidence of the government's determination to augment military muscle in keeping with the commitment to national security, and use the SIPRI findings to counter the criticism of only a marginal hike in the defence outlays proposed in the recent budget. While the Swedish institute has remained aloof from the Indian "debate", it has made one very damning point ~ a key reason for the huge import bill is because "the Indian arms industry has largely failed to produce competitive indigenously designed weapons". And before the chorus singing of the NDA government's praises gets hyper-active, the SIPRI study notes that the "make in India drive" had yet to result in any technology build-up. The same noted that China was increasingly able to substitute arms imports with domestic products. For the record, China was the fourth largest importer, and Pakistan was placed seventh on the list.

The SIPRI observation confirms that a virtual non-starter was the plan announced by prime minister PV Narasimha Rao in the early 1990s to reverse the trend of the Indian military being equipped in a 70-30 per cent ratio of imported and indigenous equipment. Some critics would insist that a failure to earmark 10 per cent of defence spending for research and development has hindered domestic production, others would insist that *sarkari* red tape remains the garrote and the "procurement policy" has been so frequently modified that it has thwarted, and continues to stymie, the belated exercise to harness the resources and expertise of private industry for defence production. True there have been some "developments" on that front, but mainly as a result of the "offsets" policy which sees Indian industrial units serving their foreign partners as "sweat shops", producing items at the lower end of the technology scale. The only positive angle to contemporary arms imports is that India is no longer critically dependent on Russian equipment, with American and Israeli products also "flooding" the arsenal. Going beyond imports, some would question a budgetary allocation of 2,74,114 crore rupees when there is not enough money for electricity, water, roads, health or education. One reason is the diplomatic failure to finalise land and maritime boundaries with all neighbouring countries. Adding to that "governance deficit" is the vast expenditure incurred in dealing with insurgencies, both in "frontier" regions and a vast swathe of central India.

Identity politics

THE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL VOCABULARY FAILS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF BREAD AND BUTTER, CONCENTRATING ON GENDER AND THE LIKE WHICH, WITHOUT INCORPORATING THE MASSES, APPEAR SUSPICIOUS AND DIVISIVE. TRUMP HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT HIS APPEAL FOR AMERICAN NATIONALISM RESONATES MUCH LOUDER THAN CLINTON'S PHONY PLANKS OF GENDER AND OTHER EQUALITIES

SUBRATA MUKHERJEE

Liberal democracy is based on the primacy of the individual; yet in the context of representative democracies, there is no alternative to group affiliation for meaningful expression of individual needs, aspirations and fulfillment. In the post-World War II period, the democratic pluralist view asserts that in the context of advanced capitalism, the basic contradictions of the industrial revolution have been resolved and that an overwhelming number of people through group affiliations satisfactorily take part in the decision-making process. Inequality and size are taken care of by a rough parity and special attributes of groups. The advantages and disadvantages are balanced by various attributes of society and government by what is called 'Whitehall Pluralism'.

A radical critique of this democratic pluralist view emerges in C Wright Mills' *Power Elite* (1956) and Herbert Marcuse's *One Dimensional Man* (1964). Accepting the fact that there is no better alternative to liberal democracy, the American Left is trying to plug the loopholes of democracy and actualise it for those in the margins or are unrepresented. The objectives of the new social movements are participatory democracy and identity politics. These lack the social democratic experience of Western Europe, and their primary concern is America's capitalist democracy.

The central issues that the Leftists of the US champion are wrong politically, such as reproductive rights, equal pay, affordable health care, abolition of patriarchy, and action on climate change. The basic problem with identity politics is that its constituency is restricted to the upper middle class both in terms of membership and appeal. It is delinked from serious and immediate economic and structural issues thrown up by globalisation and the rapid technological changes in the manufacturing and mining sectors. This has rendered hundreds of thousands out of employment, disturbed their social status, family life, and the future of the next generation.

Helen Lewis states that instead of attributing Trump's victory to identity politics, it needs to be stressed that the tokenism of contemporary feminism that Hillary Clinton champions was less mindful of white Americans and "male Americans". There was an explicit identification with Afro-Americans, and a sizeable number of white Americans and Hispanics preferred to vote Trump rather than Clinton. In her reckoning, identity politics like neo-liberalism "has become a bogeyman, as dumpster for anything that people don't like but don't care to articulate more fully".

Politics in the US is dominated by identity politics. Clinton's campaign for women is overstressed and her other planks for blue-collar workers, jobs, plans for education have not been effective because of her gender-centric campaign and publicity. Lewis significantly mentions that identity politics has been evident in the US for quite some time, and Trump cannot be blamed for its revival. David Brooks "blames identity politics for not really analysing the cause of the rise of ethnic populism" one that is totally ignored by proponents of identity politics. The crucial problems are: (1) disappearance and decimation of jobs as a consequence of phenomenal leaps in technology, automation and globalisation; (2) tearing of the social fabric; (3) redefinition of the nation-states by mass migration; and (4) rejection of the post-World War II order as a means to ensure peace.

Identity politics views these problems casually and is incapable of providing an answer. In the heyday of post-materialism, these postures were accepted uncritically; but now when even in advanced capitalism contradictions and cracks are visible, such politics is increasingly losing its relevance. As Lewis remarks, both the planks of Trump ~ (a) building a wall between Mexico and USA to stop illegal migration; and (b) making America great again ~ are not part of identity politics. She has argued that "the selling a candidate as an unreconstructed alpha male is not identity politics".

Prof Mark Lilla of Columbia University is categorical that identity politics is detrimental to progressive ideas, the reason being that such politics detaches progressives from the larger nation. He writes: "The fixation on diversity in our schools and not in the press has produced a generation of liberals and progressives narcissistically unaware of conditions outside their self-defined groups and indifferent to the task of reaching out to Americans in every walk of life". The proponents of identity politics cannot provide a coherent view of action to meet the multiple challenges in such a situation. The suspicion of average Americans towards the Washington establishment and the accessories is understandable.

John Gray thinks that Trump has been able to demolish the dynastic politics of the Clintons and Bushs. His victory is appreciable because he won against the well-established media and spending much less money than his opponents both in his own party and the democrats. Gray writes that the popular rejection of the established elite is because of their collective incompetence both in domestic and international politics. He adds: "Those who talk of a triumph of racism and misogyny point to aspects of Trump's campaign that were real enough. Yet it is impossible to imagine these familiar disorders propelling him to power without the decades of neglect and disdain displayed in both main parties for those Americans who have been consistent losers from globalisation".

In such a situation voting for Trump is not an irrational act of the voters. Gray has pointed out that "the hysteria that surrounds Trump's victory stems in large part from a refusal by his opponents to admit their part in bring it about". Making the contrast between the two upsets, he comments that "for the US presidency, economic deprivation and despair trumped the politics of gender, culture and race". The traditional political vocabulary fails to address the issues of bread and butter, concentrating on gender and the like which, without incorporating the masses, appear suspicious and divisive.

Trump has demonstrated that his appeal for American nationalism resonates much louder than Clinton's phony planks of gender and other equalities, as her background of privileges lacks the needed sincerity of an authentic American voice. In a way, Trump's victory reassures the return of programmatic politics in a society which is essentially apolitical and individualistic. But even in such an order the desirable change can only crystallize politically as the fragmented social movements today lack the grassroot support that the civil rights movement had. As Brooks writes, "the central challenge is to rebuild a functioning polity and to modernize a binding American idea".

The basic problem with identity politics is that substantive change can only be brought about by the political process, spearheaded by a leader or a political party. The turning points in contemporary American history have been initiated by political parties. And the examples are the New Deal, the Great Society programme, the containment theory and practice and the Reagan revolution. In spite of the inherent weaknesses of the American political parties, they are better organised and disciplined, qualities that the fragmented social movements cannot match. The major weakness of identity politics is that it is spearheaded by a small group of people with similar outlook and without accepting the basic fact that in the present-day cosmopolitanism, every single individual has multiple identities within a defined nation-state. This calls for a new national agenda, acceptance of what Habermas called constitutional citizenship with a brand of capitalism that has a humane face and which incorporates but is not divisive.

The myth that the American economic heritage is built on economic liberty and *laissez faire* internationalism is broken by the fact that Alexander Hamilton is the first major theorist of American protectionism which the US follows. The Trump victory vindicates what Montesquieu had said long ago, specifically that there are no accidents in history but only cause and effect.

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A member of the Asia News Network

ASIAN VOICES

Anxieties reduced, but uncertainty remains

US adherence to 'one China' policy a positive sign, but trade and security issues loom large. The phone call between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping took a long time to come because the new administration was pondering over how to deal with America's relations with China, as an analyst put it.

But it could also be that Beijing drove a hard bargain during the discussion on the contents of the call, particularly on the issue of the "one China" policy, a cornerstone of bilateral ties since both sides established formal relations in 1979.

What is clear is that Trump and his team have made a decision to adhere to the "one China" policy, paving the way for bilateral ties to develop, though challenges remain.

Trump had, as president-elect, questioned the "one China" policy - in which Washington recognises Beijing as the sole government of China - suggesting that he might use it as a bargaining chip to gain concessions from China.

THE STRAITS TIMES

This had angered Beijing, which saw the policy - in which the United States also acknowledges China's position that there is only one China and that both the mainland and Taiwan belong to that one China - as non-negotiable.

"The 'one China' policy is a bottom line (for China). It is the basis for establishing diplomatic ties and the precondition for the development of political and other ties between the two sides," explained Professor Jia Qingguo, dean of the School of International Studies at Peking University.

He noted that preceding US governments, Republican or Democratic, adhered to it because it was in the US' interests to do so. "Of course, it also conforms to China's interests," he added.

The Trump administration needed to make a decision on the issue "in order to cooperate with China bilaterally, regionally and globally, and to protect its interests", he said. But while an obstacle to the development of bilateral ties has been removed, many other problems must be dealt with, he added. These include Mr Trump's threat to declare China a currency manipulator and impose heavy tariffs on Chinese goods, as well as security issues.

But analysts agree that the other challenges are more manageable.

"Trade issues are easier for Beijing to engage in negotiation on and to even consider concessions," said Associate Professor Li Mingjiang of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Intensifying the ordeal of the people

SIR, Apropos the report, "CM castigates pvt hospitals over kidney racket, high bills" (February 23), Mamata Banerjee at her meeting with the CEOs of private hospitals has articulated the standing grievances of the people.

She has highlighted the irregularities and unscrupulous activities of private hospitals and nursing homes whose singular motivation is to increase the margin of profit. As a mass leader, she has projected the painful and horrific experience of the people in private hospitals.

Her proposal to form a Health Regulatory Commission and amend the existing Clinical Establishment Act are praiseworthy. These entities will help monitor the operations of private hospitals whose functioning is marked by inflated billing, negligence, siphoning of money, and an inhumane attitude.

The super facility hospitals, so-called, in the districts should be provided with sufficient doctors and other hospital staff and facilities so that the poor do not feel the need of going to private hospitals. The state health department must keep regular vigil on the private nursing homes that have mushroomed illegally in small towns and villages. The fees need to be regulated.

Doctors in West Bengal need to be more humane. The people of the state are now visiting Vellore, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai and even Cuttack for better and cheaper treatment. Will West Bengal never be able to regain its lost glory as the most favoured destination of medical treatment in the country?

Yours, etc., Buddhadev Nandi, Bankura, 23 February.

HOSPITALS ON NOTICE

SIR, For the first time since Independence, a Chief Minister has put the private hospitals on notice. Rather than service to humanity, healthcare has been reduced to a profiteering business. Mamata Banerjee has shown the way; other chief ministers should follow in her footsteps. We wish her all success in her mission towards a "healthy" Bengal.

Yours, etc., PM Sen, Kolkata, 22 February.

EXCESSIVE BILLING

SIR, Mamata Banerjee has pulled up the heads of Kolkata's major private hospitals. This was overdue. Excessive and unreasonable billing for indoor and outdoor patients is fairly common in suburban and rural hospitals and nursing homes as well.

Recently, a city hospital increased an endocrinologist's consultation fee by Rs 200. When we pleaded that this was unaffordable, he countered that not he but the hospital authorities had enhanced the fee. We do not know if the hospital had conceded the demand of doctors.

The Chief Minister should also have pulled up private doctors and surgeons on the issue of arbitrary charges that are unrelated to their knowledge, skills and experience. One hospital has justified such increases on the plea of parity with 'international protocol'. Why should an Indian hospital abide by this protocol?

A related development is the increase in the price of medicine. Many pharmacists offer rebates varying from 10 to 17 per cent. Apart from medicines, the retail price of almost every other non-perishable commodity can be drastically reduced if manufacturers and importers cut down the outgo on profits, taxes and publicity.

In fact, most retailers charge much less than the MRP, introduced during the Emergency and fixed not by any government agency but by importers and manufacturers. A permanent Prices Commission might perhaps be able to regulate prices and fix the MRP. Prices are jacked up by excessive and needless publicity.

It will be a great relief to patients if the private hospitals and nursing homes respond to the Chief Minister's appeal.

Yours, etc., Bibekananda Ray, Kalyani, 22 February.

THE SATURDAY INTERVIEW

'DMK was behind assembly fracas'

Senior AIADMK leader and Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha, Munisamy Thambi Durai, has squarely blamed the DMK for the chaos in the Tamil Nadu Assembly during the recent confidence vote for newly sworn-in state chief minister Eddapaddi Palaniswamy.

Seventy-year-old Thambi Durai, a fifth-term member of the Lok Sabha representing Karur, was Deputy Speaker for the first time in 1984 when the late Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister. He was Union Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of State of Surface Transport from March 1998 to April 1999.

Thambi Durai began his political career at 18 as a youth activist of the erstwhile united DMK in 1965, during his first year as a student of Madras Christian College. He participated in the anti-Hindi agitation of 1965 and courted arrest. He worked his way up in the party starting as a worker at the booth level for municipal and legislative assembly polls in 1967 and 1971 for the DMK, and also as an agitprop coordinator in universities and colleges. He was among the founding-members of the AIADMK under M G Ramachandran. He became an MLA from Erode in 1977, and was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 1984 from Dharmapuri. He was also elected to the 9th, 12th, 15th and 16th Lok Sabhas. He has been serving as leader of the AIADMK in the House since 2009. In an interview to SRI KRISHNA, Thambi Durai spoke on the prevailing situation in Tamil Nadu. Excerpts:

Q: How do you foresee politics in Tamil Nadu after the confidence vote won by E Palaniswamy?

A: As far as Tamil Nadu politics is concerned, the legacy of Amma (Jayalalitha) is going to continue and there will be no change. We are going to provide a good and stable government. The people of the state have voted for Amma and her party is in power. We are going to take up Amma's programmes. I am sure people would appreciate our stand and the support will continue. We are going to carry forward the people-oriented schemes that she had envisaged and implemented. They are all going to continue. It may take some time but we will implement them.

Q: Is any action contemplated against those MPs who came out openly in support of O Panneerselvam and were against Sasikala Natarajan?

A: There is no split in the party, we are all together though there may have been some differences which is only natural. Therefore there is no necessity of action against any of them. We are all members of the AIADMK. Our effort in the coming days would be to establish the supremacy of the party which was created by Puratchi Thalaivar M G Ramachandran and Puratchi Thalaivai Amma (Jayalalitha). We are united and are going in the direction given by our leaders.

Q: Who do you think could have been behind this action by Pannerseelvam ?

A: You know very well that it is DMK and its leader Stalin. You would have seen what happened in the Assembly. You know that confidence vote means open voting and there is no rule which says that there should be secret ballot. If there is secret ballot than what is the necessity of having an anti-defection law that has been enacted by Parliament. It is open voting that is the practice even in Parliament. The anti-defection law was brought in Parliament to ensure a stable government and for development of the country. In this case Pannerseelvam sought a secret ballot with the support of DMK.

If you recall, even in 1989 the DMK voted to dislodge an elected government so that President's rule could be imposed in the State. This time, too, the DMK wanted to dislodge the government established by Amma, so they colluded with Panneerseelvam. They sought to get President's rule promulgated in the State. But the AIADMK MLAs remained true to Amma's legacy and followed the rules properly.

Many DMK leaders say democracy is followed only in their party but what happened in the Assembly shows what kind of democracy the DMK is following. The party sought to derail democracy by indulging in the kind of action that they did. They occupied the Speaker's chair and misbehaved.

You saw the violence that erupted inside the Assembly where mikes were pulled out and papers torn and thrown allegedly by DMK MLAs.

The AIADMK followed the path shown by the late Annadurai and our leaders M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalitha. The party MLAs behaved politely.

It was the DMK which even though it claims the legacy of Annadurai did not follow his ideals and supported Pannerseelvam. It was there for all to see. Pannerseelvam was encouraged by Stalin to press for secret ballot as they felt that this would enable the DMK to get the support of his group.

They enacted this drama inside the Assembly forcing the House to be adjourned but later it functioned smoothly and we got the confidence vote and the government was in place.

Q: What do you have to say to the charge that MLAs were forcibly taken away to the Golden Beach resort by Sasikala and kept locked up till the assembly met?

A: The MLAs were not forcibly taken away to the resort. Even the police came and saw where they stayed. The MLAs also gave a statement that they were staying at the resort willingly and wanted to discuss certain things concerning party affairs and how to proceed in the Assembly. Therefore to say that they were staying there forcibly is not true.

At that time Pannerseelvam was the Chief Minister and he too had sent the police but the police said the MLAs were staying at the resort of their own free will. I don't know why eminent persons are saying such things. Whatever allegations are being made concerning the MLAs and their stay at the resort are not correct.

Q: Now that a government is in place, what would be the stand regarding Jallikattu?

A: A law allowing Jallikattu has already been enacted with the help of the Central Government, so there is no need for any further action in this regard. The Central government has also removed the word bull from the list of performing animals and there is no problem.

Q: How do you foresee relations with the Centre after the recent developments?

A: The policy of the Tamil Nadu government, be it under MGR or Amma, has always been to have good relations with the Central government. This will continue in the interests of the state. We hope the Centre would ensure that the elected government which still has about four-and-a-half years to go would last its full term.

It is only the DMK which is attempting to destabilise the government and they will fail in this move. Even at the time Amma was in hospital, the DMK attempted to topple the duly elected AIADMK government and made all attempts to capture power trying short cut methods. But we are all united and therefore Amma's legacy would continue.

Q: What is your government's stand regarding GST?

A: Our government even during the time of Amma had made clear its stand on GST. There will be no change under the present government in Chennai.

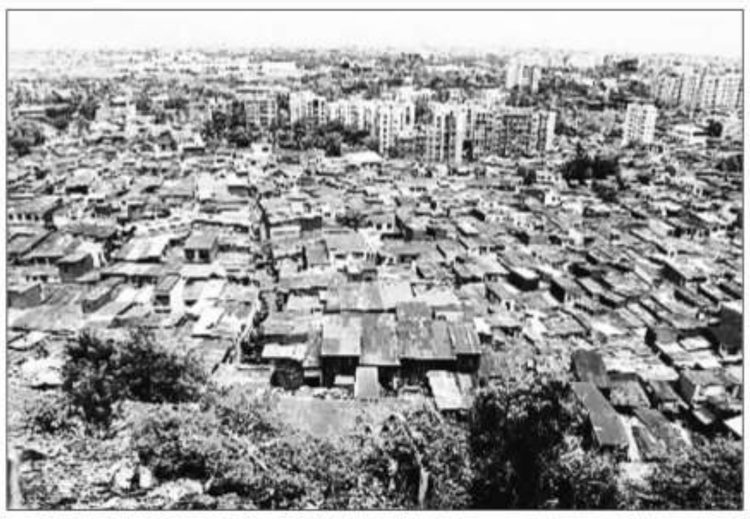
Woes of urban relocation

Bharat Dogra

Urban relocation projects generally involve shifting of urban poor people from central parts of a city to the outskirts. Despite reservations expressed by eminent urban planners, such relocation of slum dwellers and the homeless have become more frequent in several cities. It may be interesting to look at the experience of some groups whose relocation goes back a decade or more to see if with the passage of time they have become more comfortable.

A large number of slum-dwellers living in Banuwal Nagar in North-West Delhi were shifted about 24 kms away to G and H blocks of JJ Colony, Bawana in Outer Delhi about a decade ago. A recent visit to this colony revealed that in terms of the most important issue of livelihood, people are now in a worse position than they were.

Umesh Singh, a community leader who works as a mason explained: "In our previous home I was so well connected that I would just be roaming around and someone would call me for work. Employment was easy to get because we the service providers were living close to the more prosperous people who needed these services and could pay adequately. Then they resettled all the service providers together but in this area away from the main city. Who will use their services?"



He adds: "It is not only we as construction workers, carpenters and plumbers who have suffered. When we meet upper and middle class people of colonies where we worked earlier they tell us that they also now have much more difficulty in getting various services. So if our problems have increased and their problems have also increased then who has benefited from this resettlement?"

Livelihood problems have worsened particularly for women domestic workers. As they could not get work at the new place, many of them still go to their earlier employments in and around Saraswati Vihar about 24 km away. There is no direct bus. They have to leave home at or even before 6 a.m., grabbing a roti or two before leaving if they can get the time for this. Earlier they could return home for some rest in the afternoon. Now they do not get this rest because the home is so far away. They manage to return home only late in the evening and sometimes at night.

People complain bitterly that they still do not have access to usable toilets and have to walk a long distance for open defecation and that too in insecure conditions as an area near a canal is prone to crime. Several of them have been victims of crime. Overall sanitation is very poor as this is contracted out. Piped drinking water is not available and people have to make their own arrangements.

There is another settlement in Bawana JJ colony in front of K and L blocks. These are people who were evicted from Paschim Vihar in west Delhi, a distance of about 30 km, about a decade ago but unlike the relocated people of G and H blocks they do not have legal papers for this relocation. They have built small huts and planted trees, creating a new colony on their own. They do not have ration cards. They do not have sanitation and water facilities either and have to walk a considerable distance for a toilet. School education particularly for girl students is difficult as they have to go a long way and face harassment from goons. The nearest government hospital is also a long distance away.

Most of them are construction workers but some of them also work in nearby industries. People say that there are several industries but the prevailing wage rate of Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 5,000 per month for a eight-plus hour working day is so low that no one can survive on this. But keeping in view the poverty and desperation of people and the lack of alternatives these industries keep the wage rates so low and manage to employ desperate workers, particularly women.

A Block jhuggi in Shahbad dairy is another cluster of people shifted mostly from Shalimar Bagh area more than two decades ago. Despite the fact that the young men of this colony have grown up here, their existence remains precarious and devoid of essential facilities. There are no usable toilets and women going to relieve themselves in the open face the threat of not just harassment but even molestation. Due to lack of drainage, some houses suffer from water logging. Water supply depends on a tanker and hence is very uncertain. The nearest school needs repairs so children are being sent to a village school further away.

Hence it is clear that relocation often increases the many sided problems and vulnerabilities of urban poor households. While there is a clear need for changing urban policies which emphasise relocation, there is also need for immediate action to meet at least the most pressing and basic needs of relocated people.

THE WRITER IS A FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH SEVERAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES

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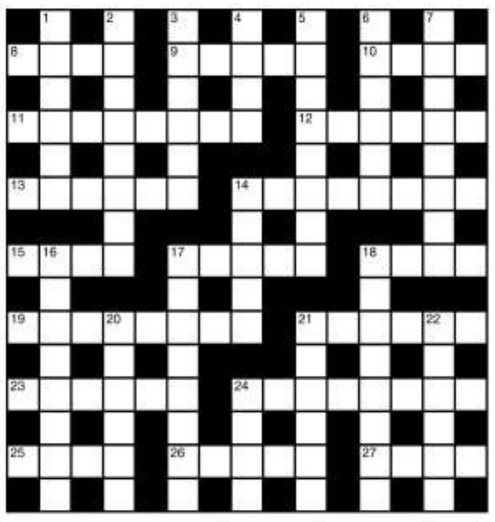


YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

SOLUTION FOR 18 FEBRUARY

ACROSS

8 Group of bishops in Carmen? (4)
9 Dress sailor kept in box (5)
10 Beat group featuring one in 13 (4)
11 Small number live in part of India where there's a bar for some (2-2,4)
12 Location of toilet, say, on motorway (6)
13 Top 3, after second goes second (1-5)
14 Tweet briefly meeting with support, making one more cheerful (8)
15 Esther reported leaving Hungarian family confused (4)
17 African politician orchestrating The Brides of Enderby? Heads must roll! (5)
18 John covers right angle in regular 21D offering (4)
19 Hit silo with hammer, causing unwanted pollution (3,5)
21 House doctor gone, without The Right to an Answer (6)
23 Vessel rejected by the French cruise port (6)
24 Cunning wife is penning verse (8)
25 Big Bang material Hoyle must have covered (4)
26 Where a shroud features in Act 1 (5)
27 Wrong short story writer (4)

DOWN

1 ENT? Reserves an appointment 21D, perhaps (1-5)
2 Most of Malayan trilogy content's gone for short time after Rioja's drunk (8)
3 Way below half of 13 yen (6)
4 Enclosed rhyme has father running up and down (4)
5 Allegedly poisonous stuff about Thomas Paine (8)
6 Long tiring journey in train – taking out glasses, starts on Earthly Powers (6)
7 Criminal group seem ultimately lacking in conscience (8)
14 Notice left in lift (5)
16 Calm bay I negotiated without falling out? (8)
17 Redundancy in book 10 before it's ordered Enderby's End (8)
18 Sexually ambivalent article Irish woman is contracted to write twice a year (8)
20 Fantastic melons in August (6)
21 OUP got into 1 here? (6)
22 Scandal in The Doctor is Sick? Shaking of heads all round (6)
24 Go and see topless women first (4)

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

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The Secretary of State's dispatch on the subject of Indian indentured labour published today was drafted by Mr. Austen Chamberlain in the early winter of 1915 on receipt of the Hardinge Government's recommendation, dated October 15 of that year, that the system of indentured labour should be totally abolished. The fact that the Government of India had approached the Secretary of State on the subject was not made known until the following March, when, in response to a motion by the Pandit M.M. Malaviya, Lord Hardinge announced that the question had already been decided in the sense favoured by Mr. Gokhale. Mr. Chamberlain states that he was not prepared for a recommendation in the negative sense in view of the Sanderson Committee's report. Mr. Chamberlain expresses the conviction that "the prohibition of free emigration would not commend itself to the critics of indentured emigration." But this is exactly the proposal which was embodied in Pandit M.M. Malaviya's Bill for the introduction of which Lord Chelmsford refused facilities in the present session of the Legislative Council. Mr. Chamberlain is apparently disposed to ascribe the popular agitation to the action of the oversea Dominions in refusing to admit free Indian labour, while Lord Hardinge was disposed to trace the movement to Indian horror at the immorality associated with the indenture system. The former view is probably nearest to the truth.

NEWS ITEMS

RIOT IN PHILADELPHIA

New York, Feb 24

One person was killed and fourteen were injured in a food riot in Philadelphia in which 2,500 participated. It is believed that it was instigated by German agents. There has been a mysterious outbreak of a score of incendiary fires in New Britain, Connecticut, where there are many munition works. Martial law has been enforced. A plot has been discovered to blow up a munition factory at Youngstown, Ohio, where two Turks carrying dynamite have been arrested.

WHAT THE COASTGUARDS FOUND

Madrid, Feb 24

There was an explosion of wrath in Spain at the discovery of the buoys at Cartagena containing material for German plots in Spain. It appears that coastguards found close to the harbour two buoys connected by a chain, to which were attached thirty watertight cases, one full of explosives. Others contained correspondence and instructions for Germans occupying official positions in Spain. The submarine which placed the buoys also secretly landed several men who were instructed to use explosives.

BENGAL'S NEW GOVERNOR

London, Feb 24

Lord Ronaldshay was received in audience today and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor of Bengal. The King invested him with the insignia of the G.C.I.E. Subsequently the Queen received Lord Ronaldshay and then their Majesties received Countess Ronaldshay.

RUMOURS CONTRADICTED OFFICIALLY

Madras, Feb 24

The following Press communiqué is issued:- "As rumours of an alarming nature are understood to be in circulation in the city of Madras, the Government of Madras are in a position to state that the evidence as to the cause of the sinking of the Bibby Liner *Worcestershire* indicates an internal explosion. So far as the Government are aware there is at present no reason to suppose that any hostile vessel is in the Bay of Bengal and the military preparations that have been taken are purely of a precautionary character and afford no ground for any alarm on the part of the public."

Nothing wrong has happened over her death...there is no problem

TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER EDAPADDI K PALANISWAMI
REFUTING CLAIMS OF MYSTERY OVER JAYALALITHAA'S DEATH

INLD USING SYL ISSUE TO GAIN LOST GROUND

THE PARTY HAS BEEN OUT OF POWER FOR OVER A DECADE

XRANJEET SINGH JAMWAL
ranjeetjamwal@thestatesmangroup.com
Chandigarh, 24 February

Out of power for over a decade, the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) is using the Satluj Yamuna Link (SYL) canal to gain some of the lost ground in Haryana politics by taking an aggressive stand on this contentious issue.

Though the party's much-hyped call for re-digging the defunct Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal on Punjab border ended on Thursday without success, it did help the party in re-asserting itself as the main Opposition party in the state presently ruled by the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), which once used to be INLD's junior partner.

Taking up this emotive issue of water in the agrarian state, the INLD has made it clear that it will not end its 'struggle' to get Haryana its share of river water from Punjab at any cost. With this, the 'regional party' has gained some momentum on an issue, whereas its main rivals BJP and the Congress find it difficult to take an aggressive stand on the matter due to their political stake in the neighbouring Punjab. After the SYL canal, the INLD next intends to take up another emotive issue concerning Haryana - the state's right over its joint Capital with Punjab, Chandigarh. Punjab political parties claim sole right over Chandigarh as its Capital but Haryana maintains it has equal right over the joint Capital. With top INLD leaders including chief O P Chautala and his son Ajay Chautala behind bars in a recruitment scam, the Jat-dominated party has been finding it difficult to get going.

As INLD's ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) is expected to be voted out of power in Punjab, the party can now afford to take an aggressive stand on contentious issues. Under the leadership of O P Chautala, INLD last ruled Haryana in 2004 and has lost three consecutive Assembly elections to the Congress (2005 and 2009) and the BJP (2014). While the party has 19 legislators in the state Assembly and a Lok Sabha member, late Devi Lal's party currently has no representation in the Rajya Sabha. With the BJP gaining from consolidation of non-Jat votes in its favour and the state's influential Jat community's votes largely divided between the INLD and the Congress, the hopes of Jat-centric INLD returning to power remain bleak. But by taking up Haryana's issues, the party is trying to expand its shrinking vote bank.

PM UNVEILS 112 FT SHIVA BUST, EXTOLS YOGA

Coimbatore (TN), 24 February: Extolling the ancient Indian discipline of Yoga, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today called for efforts to protect nature and mould human activities to bring them in sync with ecological surroundings.

He also termed unity in diversity as the speciality and strength of the Indian culture.

"This (Maha Shivaratri celebrations) symbolises a spirit of vigilance, that we have to protect nature and mould our activities in sync with our ecological surroundings," he said addressing a gathering after unveiling a mammoth 112 feet bust of 'Adiyogi" Lord Shiva at Isha Yoga Foundation here. Underlining the need for peaceful coexistence, Modi said, "Lord Shiva is everywhere" and referred to the bull, peacock and mouse that were the vehicles of the Lord and his sons. PTI

Punjab police under PSHRC scanner

PANKAJ DHIMAN
pankajdhiman@thestatesmangroup.com
Chandigarh, 24 February

When it comes to violation of human rights, nearly 55 per cent of complaints in the state are against the Punjab Police which describes itself as 'a force with a difference, conviction and heart'.

As per the data, 54.98 per cent of total complaints received by the Punjab State Human Rights Commission (PSHRC) since its inception in 1997 are against the Punjab Police. "Most cases received pertain to police excesses and their failure to take action. But when the PSHRC recommends action, the complaints are probed by the police and returned with the report that these were found baseless," said a PSHRC official on the condition of anonymity.

Till 31 January, 2017, the PSHRC has received 2,46,860 complaints of human rights violations. Of these, the Punjab Police alone accounted for 1,35,742 cases. It was followed by 8,506 cases of crime against women (3.44 per cent). The jail department accounts for 4,949 complaints till January 31. The year-wise summary of cases instituted by the PSHRC reveals that from 90 cases registered in 1997, the annual number of cases has crossed 15,523 in 2014, 15,986 in 2015 and 11,162 in 2016. In 2017, 442 cases against the police have already been received, in addition to the human rights violation charges pending.

The number of cases is almost the same during the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal and Bhartiya Janta Party (SAD-BJP) regime in the state with PSHRC recommending action against 200 policemen. During the SAD rule from 1997 to 2002, 11,974 cases against the police were received, the number swelled to 44,180 cases during the Congress regime till 2007. The SAD-BJP government was not behind with 79,532 cases in the 2007-2017 regime.

The Commission remained 'virtually' non-functional due to the non-appointment of its chairman and other members for more than six months.

Now, it is hearing 200 plus cases every day before the court of acting chairperson Justice Ashutosh Mohanta. In the last month itself, the Commission has disposed of 1,670 cases.

CPM POLITBURO MEET: GUIDELINE ISSUE TO BE DELIBERATED

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Kolkata, 24 February

Taking lessons from party MP Ritabrata Banerjee's involvement in a social media controversy which prompted the party to take action against him, CPI-M politburo will discuss threadbare the guidelines to be issued to all its party members regarding strict adherence to party norms and discipline while dealing with the social media and about taking utmost caution in exchanging views keeping in mind the party's interests.

Mr Banerjee, party's Rajya Sabha member and former SFI general secretary, was censured and cautioned at the state committee meeting yesterday in the presence of party general secretary Sitaram Yechury on the charges of maintaining a lifestyle not conforming to the communist party norms and his attempts to use the social media for self propaganda.

A party source said today that the politburo would draft the guidelines and recommend the same to the central committee for finalisation before circulating to all its state units for adherence.

Solar, wind power tariffs hit record lows

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 24 February

A fortnight after solar power tariffs hit a historic low of Rs 2.97 per unit, it is wind power's turn to see a sharp drop in tariff to Rs 3.46 per unit in a recent SECI auction of 1,000 MW capacity.

In the auction of 1000 MW power capacity conducted by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) five companies including Mytrah Energy, Green Infra Wind Energy, Inox Wind Infrastructure Services and Adani Green Energy emerged as the lowest bidders quoting as low as Rs 3,46 per unit.

Earlier, in a similar auction of a solar power plant by SECI in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, a few companies had quoted Rs 2.97 per unit which was even less than the production price of new coal-based power plants. SECI is the nodal agency for implementation of this scheme and is working on the e-bidding process followed by e-reverse auction for eligible bidders.

Till a decade ago, solar and wind energy was costing almost double due to high installation cost and the high cost of solar panels. But with reducing cost of solar panels and indigenous production of wind turbines, the tariff has gone down considerably and has become competitive against new thermal power plants.

TENDER

HPPWD TENDER NOTICE
(OFFLINE)

Sealed item rate offline tender on form PWD-6 & 8 are herby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh by the Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HP, PWD.Kalpa for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD so as reach in the office of the Executive Engineer Kalpa Division HPPWD Kalpa on before 27-03-2017 up to 10.30 am. and shall be opened on the same day at 11.00 am in presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender form documents can be had from this office (Kalpa Division, HPPWD Kalpa) against cash payment (Non-refundable)on any working day during the office hours upto 4:00pm on 25-03-2017. No application for issue of tender forms will be received on 27-03-2017 after 4:00 pm. If the office happens to be closed on the above mentioned dates, the tenders will be sold/opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The earnest money in the shape of national Saving Certificates, F.D.Rs any Post Office/Bank in HP duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HPPWD. Kalpa must accompany with each tenders. Conditional tenders and application (for purchase of tender forms) received without Earnest Money summarily be rejected. The office of the tenders shall be kept open for 120 days. The Executive Engineer Reserves (Right to accept or to reject any) or all the tenders without assigning any reasons:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit Allowed	Cost of form
1.	C/O Link road to Panchayat H.Q. Spillow from 2nd Curve of Spillow Kanam Labrang road km. 0/00 to 1/555 in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- C/O Toe Wall at RD 0/180 to 0/225)	2,05,992/-	4200/-	Three Months	350/-
2.	C/O Link road to Panchayat H.Q. Spillow from 2nd Curve of Spillow Kanam Labrang road km. 0/00 to 1/555 in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD 0/180 to 0/223)	2,57,473/-	5200/-	Six Months	350/-
3.	C/O Thangi Kunu Charang road Km 0/00 to 20/00 (SH:- Back filling between wing wall (Bridge approach Charang side) at RD 14/648 to 14/708).	1,64,102/-	3300/-	Three Months	350/-
4.	R/R Damages on NH-22 to Khadura road Km. 0/00 to 5/00 in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- C/O wire crate B/wall at RD 1/174 to 1/210)	1,56,828/-	4000/-	Three Months	350/-
5.	C/O Link road from Tashigang road to Kastang road Chasma Km. 0/00 to 3/300 in Distt. Kinnaur HP (Sh:- Formation cutting in Km. 1/500 to 3/00).	9,48,519/-	19000/-	Six Months	350/-
6.	C/O Playground at Govt. Sr. Sec. School at Pooh in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- Formation cutting for play ground and C/OR/Wall at RD 0/00 to 0/022 L.H.S.)	3,97,674/-	8000/-	Six Months	350/-
7.	C/O Playground at Govt. Sr. Sec. School at Pooh in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- Formation cutting for play ground and C/OR/Wall at RD 0/022 to 0/044)	4,59,028/-	9500/-	Six Months	350/-
8.	C/O Playground at Govt. Sr. Sec. School at Pooh in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- Formation cutting for play ground and C/OR/Wall at RD 0/044 to 0/062 R.H.S.)	4,03,749/-	8200/-	Six Months	350/-
9.	Widening of Peo Karchham (Shilti) road from existing width to 10/12 mtr. wide width road km. 0/00 to 2/520 (SH:- C/O wire crate R/wall at RD 1/307 to 1/318 and 1/380 to 1/390)	3,73,399/-	8000/-	Six Months	350/-
10.	Widening of Peo Karchham (Shilti) road from 5/7 mtr. wide road 2/520 to 7/010 (SH:- Balance work of formation cutting from Km. 6/045 to 6/120)	5,77,456/-	12000/-	Six Months	350/-
11.	Widening of Peo Karchham (Shilti) road from 5/7 mtr. wide road 2/520 to 7/010 (SH:- Balance work of formation cutting from Km. 6/560 to 6/590)	2,58,603/-	5500/-	Six Months	350/-
12.	Widening of Peo Karchham (Shilti) road from 5/7 mtr. wide road 2/520 to 7/010 (SH:- Balance work of formation cutting from Km. 6/590 to 6/635)	5,36,343/-	11000/-	Six Months	350/-
13.	C/O Link Road from Panchayat Ghar Shudharang to Banglang via Rang School Km. 0/00 to 2/050 at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- C/O R/wall in G.I. wire crate at Rd 0/035 to 0/065)	5,52,163/-	11500/-	Six Months	350/-
14.	C/O Police Thana Building at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- Balance work in grill and roofing)	2,13,087/-	4500/-	Three Months	350/-
15.	Extension of Rarang Ribba road Km. 4/800 to 7/00 (SH:- Providing WBM G-II and Tarring from Km. 4/830 to 6/590 (0/00 to 0/930)	8,99,812/-	18000/-	Six Months	350/-
16.	C/O Jeepable road from Chungling Chowk to Kuto Kanda Km. 0/00 to 3/060))SH:- Providing and laying Khranja stone soling at Km. 0/00 to 1/500)	2,14,954/-	4500/-	Six Months	350/-
17.	C/O Jeepable road from Chungkling Chowk to Kuto Kanda Km. 0/00 to 3/060))SH:- Providing and laying Khranja stone soling at Km. 1/500 to 3/060)	2,23,552/-	4500/-	Six Months	350/-
18.	C/O ADR Centre at R/Peo in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- Providing water supply and sanitary installation thereof)	3,38,242/-	7000/-	Six Months	350/-
19.	C/O Jeepable road from Ropa to Thropa Km. 0/00 to 2/500 (SH:- F/C 2.75/5.00 mtr. wide 1/065 to 1/600 and C/O/B wall in wire crate at RD 1/580 to 1/610	5,61,377/-	11500/-	Six Months	350/-
20.	C/O Jeepable road from Ropa to Thropa Km. 0/00 to 2/500 (SH:- C/O/R wall in G.I wire crate at RD 0/781 to 0/800 and B/wall in G.I. wire crate at RD 0/825 to 0/835, 0/900 to 0/920, 1/145 to 1/165, 1/195 to 1/215 and 1/215 to 1/235)	4,72,122/-	10000/-	Six Months	350/-
21.	C/O Jeepable road from Chungling Chowk to Kothi Kanda Km. 0/00 to 2/00 (SH:- P/L Kharanja stone soling at km. 0/00 to 1/700)	2,43,614/-	5000/-	Six Months	350/-
22.	C/O ITBP road Indo China Border from Thangi to Charang road km. 0/00 to 20/00 in Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH:- Improvement of grade in Km. 17/015 to 17/105)	1,23,479/-	2500/-	Six Months	350/-
23.	C/O Link Road from Sunnam Parlamana Telenkhu to Hango (Portion Chunpabong Nallah to Chelit) Km. 0/00 to 4/00 (Sh:- Hiring of JCB for F/C 5/7 mtr. wide Km. 4/00 to 5/005)	6,55,600/-	13500/-	Six Months	350/-
24.	C/O Link Road from Sunnam Parlamana Telenkhu to Hango (Portion Chunpabong Nallah to Chelit) Km. 0/00 to 4/00 (SH:- Hiring of JCB for F/C 5/7 mtr. wide Km. 5/005 to 6/00)	6,47,900/-	13000/-	Six Months	350/-
25.	C/O Motorable Road from Pangi toThopan road Km. 0/00 to 10/250 (SH:- P/L Soling WBM Grading in Km. 0/00 to 0/800)	2,85,588/-	6000/-	Six Months	350/-
26.	Periodic maintenance of Powari NH-22 to Pangi road under Annual maintenance plan for the year 2017-18 (PMGSY) DRRP NO. HP0502VR0001. (Sh:-Annual Surfacing from Km. 13/00 to 14/00)	6,43,003/-	13000/-	Four Months	350/-
27.	Periodic maintenance of NH-22 Km 402 to Ropa Khas under Annual maintenace plan for the year 2017-18 (PMGSY) DRRP No. HP0502VR0067. (SH:- Annual surfacing from Km. 0/00 to 1/00)	6,43,003/-	13000/-	Four Months	350/-
28.	Periodic maintenance of Moorang Link road Km. 0/00 to 3/310 under Annual Maintenance Plan for the yaer 2017-18 (State) DRRP. No. HP0502VR0043. (SH:- Annual surfacing from Km. 0/00 to 1/00.	6,89,336/-	14000/-	Four Months	350/-

Conditions:-

1. Who possess valid HP Sale Tax Registeration under HP State Sale Tax Act 1986 and produce copy of same and NOC from the Excise and Taxation Department.
2. Proof of valid EPF accounts No alloted by the Provident Fund Commissioner Shimla and PAN No.
3. Ambiguous/Telegraphic/conditional tenders or tenders by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained/considered in any case.
4. The contractors should quote the rates of each items in words as well as figures in the schedule of quantity.
5. Income Tax & Sale Tax No. Latest Sales Tax clearance certificate.
6. The Contractor shall accompany his enlisted/renewal order with his application for obtaining the tender document.
7. The contractor should apply for the tenders only for two works at a time.
8. Statutary deductions shall be made from the bills as per Govt. Rules.

Executive Engineer
Kalpa Division
HP.PWD Kalpa

4482/16-17 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR
SPONSORED RESEARCH & INDUSTRIAL CONSULTANCY

INVITATION FOR GLOBAL TENDER

Sealed tender offers are invited for Technical and Commercial bids for supply of equipment **Rheometer/Rapid Visco Analyzer (IIT/ SRIC/ AGFE/LAV/HNM/2016-17; Dated: 20.02.2017).** Last date of submission: **15.03.2016 at 15:30 hrs** to **Dr. H. N. Mishra, Agricultural and Food Engineering Department,** IIT Kharagpur, WB-721302, Detailed specifications @ **http://iitkgp.ac.in/topfiles/tenders.php**

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/(M-IV)-RZ
ROAD NO. 44, VILLAGE PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034
No. E.E.(M-IV)-RZ/TC/2016-17/28 **Dated : 22.02.2017**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Last date of purchase and Download Tender Document : **16.03.2017 at 02.00 P.M.**
Last date of Bid Preparation and Hash Submission : **17.03.2017 at 03.00 P.M.**
Last date of Close for Bid : **17.03.2017 at 03.00 P.M. to 08.00 P.M.**
Last date for submission of E/M and T/C : **20.03.2017 at 01.00 P.M.**
Last Date of Re-encryption of online Bid : **17.03.2017 at 08.01 P.M. to 20.03.2017 upto 01.00 P.M.**
Opening of Financial Bid in the office of Executive Engineer (M-IV)RZ, Road No.-44, Village Pitampura, Delhi-110034 : **20.03.2017 at 01.01 P.M.**

S. No.: 1. **Name of Work :** Construction of Reading Room in place of abandoned Dhalao in Sector-18, Rohini in Ward No. C-49, M-IV/R. **Head of account:** XL/VIII-S **Tender Amount:** Rs. 25,35,279/- **Earnest Money:** Rs. 50,700/- **Time of Completion:** 3 months **Rates hold good for:** 5 Months **Cost of Tender:** Rs. 500/- **Tender No.:** 281843

Tender document can be download online on website **www.mcdonline.gov.in** and also available on the website **http://mcdetenders.com**. For bidding by approved and eligible contractors, details of NIT can be seen on website.

R.O. No. 163/DPI/North/2016-17 **Executive Engineer/(M-IV)-RZ**

Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority (SSDA)
Bolpur, Birbhum

Tender Notice Nos.
SSDA/ED/N-07/2016-2017,
SSDA/ED/N-09/2016-2017,
SSDA/ED/N-10/2016-2017,
SSDA/ED/N-11/2016-2017,
SSDA/ED/N-12/2016-2017,
SSDA/ED/N-13/2016-2017,

Two E-tenders have been invited from this office for execution of certain works. For details see **wbtenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Officer,
Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division HPPWD, Hamirpur in Form No. 6 & 8 on behalf of Governor of H.P. for the following works from the contractors of appropriate class enlisted with HPPWD. The tender shall be opened in the presence of the contractors/Firms or their representatives who wish to be present.

Time Schedule of Tender:

1. Date and Time of receipt of application for tender form:- 23-03-2017 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Date and Time of Issue of tender form:- 21-03-2017 up to 4.00 pm.
3. Date and Time of Receipt of tenders:- 22-03-2017 up to 10.30 am.
4. date and Time of opening of tenders:- 22-03-2017 at 11.00 am.

The request for issue of tenders should be on the prescribed Application Form which can be obtained from the office of undermentioned and tenders will be issued to only those contractors who qualify the criteria after the scrutiny of application forms by the Committee constituted for this purpose.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of form
1.	C/O Link road from Village Balh to Danoh on Anu Balh link road (SH:- C/O Cement concrete pavement at RD 0/645 to 0/742)	1,83,807.00	3,700.00	One Month	350/-
2.	C/O Link road from Sh. Jaswant Rai House to Ram Chand House Village Bakarti Tehsil and Distt. Hamirpur (SH:- C/O Cement concrete pavement at RD 0/250 to 0/375)	1,25,382.00	2,600.00	One Month	350/-
3.	Restoration of rain damages due to laying of O.F.C. Cable on Baru Hamirpur via Anu road km 0/0 to 6/050 (SH:- P/L 2cm thick premix carpet surfacing km. 0/750 to 1/04/185 to 4/505 & 5/560 to 96/0).	6,73,124.00	13,500.00	Two Months	350/-
4.	S/R of Excise and Taxations Deptt. Quarter no. High-345, 346 and 347 at Hamirpur (SH:- Prov. distempering painting and other minor repair work etc. in qtr. No. HIG-342 (Deposit Work).	1,62,790.00	3,300.00	One Month	350/-
5.	S/R of Dhaneta Hamirpur road km. 18/0 to 36/0 (SH:- Extension and RCC slab culvert span 1.80 mtr. at RD 35/890 along with wing walls both side and construction of Retaining wall at RD. 35/165 to 35/170).	1,54,381.00	3,100.00	One Month	350/-
6.	Repair and renovation of old Ayurvedic building at Hamirpur (SH:- Providing and laying vitrified tile flooring, painting, distempering and repair of wood work etc.)	5,95,740.00	12,000.00	One Month	350/-
7.	C/O Link road Anshla to Kangri Soud km. 0/0 to 2/500 (SH:- C/O 900mm dia RCC Hume pipe culvert at RD 0/075) with wing wall)	1,76,599.00	6,900.00	Three Months	350/-
8.	Restoration of rain damages on Hamirpur Bharmoti Manpul road km. 0/0 to 3/0 (SH:- C/O U-Shape drain in km. 0/700 to 0/850 (RE.H.S.)	3,67,622.00	7,400.00	Two Months	350/-
9.	Restoration of rain damages on Hamirpur Bharmoti Manpul road km. 0/0 to 3/0 (SH:- C/O U-Shape drain in km. 0/500 to 0/700 (Deposited by Reliance Deptt.)	4,90,162.00	9,800.00	Two Months	350/-
10.	C/O Link road Amlahru Harizen Basti Trati Nonoa road km. 0/0 to 3/0 (SH:- C/O Hume pipe culverts at RD 1/150, 1/600, 1/600 and cement concrete pavement at RD 1/220 to 1/230, 1/350 to 1/360 and 1/740 to 1/740 to 1/750	6,81,041.00	13,700.00	Two Months	350/-
11.	C/O Link road from GPS Langni to Chow Village Longni P.O. Karot km, 1/525 to 1/630 (SH:- P/L Soling wearing and 2cm thick Premix carpet with seal coat at RD 1/525 to 1/630)(Deposit work)	1,02,387.00	2,050.00	One Month	350/-
12.	Periodical Renewal on Hamirpur to Baru road km. 5/0 to 6/0 under AMP for the Year 2017-18.	5,77,083.00	11,600.00	One Month	350/-
13.	Periodical Renewal on Pastal Bugdhar Baldook via Matroh road km 3/0 to 3/495 Under AMP for the year 2017-18.	2,98,600.00	6000.00	One Month	350/-

1. The Earnest Money in the shape of national Saving Certificate, Time Deposit account in any of the post office in HP/FDR of any Bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Hamirpur Division, HPPWD, Hamirpur must be accompanied with the application for receipt of tender form along with cost of form. Tender application received without Earnest Money will summarily be rejected.
2. The contractors/firms should possess the following douments (photo copy to be attached with application for obtaining the tender documents):-
(i) Latest enlistment/renewal orders with application for obtaining the tenders documents.
(ii) Registration under the HP General Sales Tax Act 1968.
(iii) PAN (Permanent Account Number) issued by the Income Tax Department.
3. The Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division HPPWD., Hamirpur reserves the right to reject any tender without assigning any reasons (s)
4. The Cess Charges @ 1% will be deducted from the gross amount of work done by the Contractor.
5. A Contractor enlisted in a particular class shall be eligible to tender for his own class and one step below.
6. Only one No. tender form will be issued to the eligible contractor.
7. If 22-03-2017 happens to be holiday the tender shall be opened on next working day at 11.00.

4485/16-17 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Corrugated box industry is in dire straits due to rising kraft paper prices and supply disruptions

KIRIT MODI
PRESIDENT, INDIAN CORRUGATED CASE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

THUMBNAILS

Porsche India director Pavan Shetty with a limited-edition Porsche 911R Sportster in Bangalore on Friday. The model is one of only 991 sold globally, as part of a limited-edition rollout from the German car maker. ■ AFP

IDBI Bank: Icra has downgraded various debt instruments of IDBI Bank owing to a significant erosion of it's common equity tier I, following weak financial performance of the bank in December quarter. PTI

Moody's on Airtel: Bharti Airtel's acquisition of Telenor India is "credit positive" and will enhance the company's position in the highly-competitive Indian mobile telecom market, according to Moody's. PTI

CCI clearance: The Competition Commission has dismissed allegations of unfair business practices made against Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd (GEECL) with regard to supply of coal bed methane gas. PTI

SME IPOs: To tap upbeat investor sentiment, two small and medium enterprises ~ Akash Infra Projects and RMC Switchgears ~ will come out with their IPOs next week to raise about Rs 30 crore. PTI

Omaxe sales: Realty firm Omaxe Ltd's sales bookings rose marginally by two per cent to Rs 282 crore during the third quarter of this fiscal on higher realisation despite demand slowdown after demonetisation move. PTI

Torrent Power: Torrent Power, in a BSE filing on Friday, said it has received shareholders' approval to raise up to Rs 1,500 crore through issuance of non-convertible debentures on private placement basis. PTI

CURRENCY

CURRENCY*	(IN RUPEES)
US$	70.63
EURO	74.50
UK POUND	88.31
YEN	0.62
SW FR	70.96
CAN$	54.03
SING$	50.86
MAL RIN	16.45
THAI BAHT	2.07

*THOMAS COOK'S SELLING RATES

INFY PREPARES GROUND FOR BUYBACK

SEEKS SHAREHOLDERS' NOD FOR INCORPORATING BUYBACK PROVISION IN THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai, 24 February

Infosys Technologies has decided to seek shareholders approval to change its Articles of Association by incorporating a buyback of equities provision in it so that it too ~ like other IT companies such as Cognizant and Tata Consultancy Services ~ can use huge cash on its book to repurchase equities from its investors.

Infosys has been under pressure from its co-founders as well as two former chief financial officers ~ Mr Mohandas Pai and Mr V Balakrishnan ~ to return money to its shareholders via buyback programme. They have reminded the board of directors of Infosys that it has obligation towards its stakeholders to protect their financial interest.

In a separate appeal to institutional investors in India's second largest IT firm, the two CFOs had nudged them to impress upon Infosys board to expend its piled-up cash to soothe growing worries in the wake of global slowdown in IT business.

The co-founders, including the IT doyen Mr NR Narayana Murthy and Mr Pai, have been critical of the board for clearing a severance package of Rs 173.8 million to its erstwhile CFO Mr Rajiv Bansal that amounted to 24 months' pay.

The rising demand for buyback forced Infosys board to take up the matter at its Thursday's board meeting where it was decided to seek shareholders' nod for incorporating buyback provision in the AoA or Articles of Association.

A notice seeking ballot response from its stakeholders has been posted on the company's website where it has solicited opinion on "power to purchase its own equity shares or other securities by way of buyback arrangement."

After Cognizant and TCS declared their boards' decision to buyback equity shares from their shareholders, Infosys was under pressure to do the same. Apparently it had earlier resisted the pressure, but now seems to have fallen in line and has taken the first step by way of amending AOA.

Infosys had said that it had been constantly reviewing its fund allocation programme periodically, when there were reports a fortnight ago that it too wants to expend Rs 12,000 to buy back equity shares from its investors that include institutional investors. But Infosys had clarified that any decision on buyback would be announced at "appropriate time."

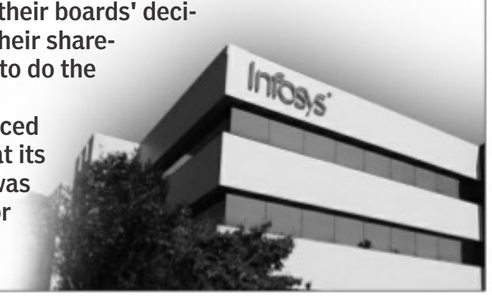
Companies have two options to use piled-up cash on their books ~ either dividend or buyback. The latter is preferred as it is more tax efficient. Moreover, when a company buys its equity shares from stakeholders, it makes them cash-rich since such transactions occur when the company's share is undervalued. Secondly, by liquidating its equity base by a few percentage, the company's profitability increases because equity base shrinks. This also to a certain extent allays investors' apprehensions about company's future.

Any decision on share buyback will be taken once shareholders give their responses to the notice put on the company's website. The price at which shares should be repurchased will be decided by the board. But the quantum of premium over current trading price will be crucial to elicit favourable response from shareholders/investors.

TCS has announced a buyback price of Rs 2,850/per share which, analysts say, should have been a little higher.

BOARD BOWS TO PRESSURE

- Infosys has been under pressure from its co-founders as well as two former chief financial officers ~ Mr Mohandas Pai and Mr V Balakrishnan ~ to return money to its shareholders via buyback programme
- After Cognizant and TCS declared their boards' decision to buyback equity shares from their shareholders, Infosys was under pressure to do the same
- The rising demand for buyback forced Infosys board to take up the matter at its Thursday's board meeting where it was decided to seek shareholders' nod for incorporating buyback provision in the AoA or Article of Association



HYUNDAI TO EXPAND INDIA PRODUCT LINE-UP

Chennai, 24 February: Leading automaker Hyundai Motor has planned to expand its product line-up in domestic market with the launch of eight new products by 2020, a top official said today.

"During the National Dealer Conference in Seoul, South Korea, we had announced new products for the Indian market for the next four years from 2017 to 2020 for a strong market leadership with sustainable growth," Hyundai Motor India managing director and chief executive officer Y K Koo told reporters here.

"We will expand and strengthen our product line with eight new launches equipped with new technologies out of which, three will be new segment products and five will be full model change, apart from regular product enhancements and facelifts," he said. PTI

January IIP growth to remain muted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, 24 February

Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will remain weak and may only grow by up to 0.5 per cent during January on account of various constraints, including subdued domestic demand and an uncertain external demand, according to Dun & Bradstreet's latest economic forecast.

"Industrial sector faces constraints from subdued domestic demand and weak, uncertain external demand on one hand and financing constraints, rising input prices and stalled projects on the other hand," D&B said in a report.

"We expect Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to remain weak and grow by only 0.0 per cent to 0.5 per cent during January 2017," it added.

Besides, the report said firming up of global commodity prices as well as depreciation of the rupee poses significant upward risk to inflation.

D&B said CPI (consumer price index) inflation is expected to be in the range of 3.4 per cent to 3.6 per cent and WPI (wholesale price index) inflation to be in the range of 5.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent in February.

"While wholesale price index inflation is expected to edge further upwards, the second-round impact of the industrial input prices will feed into the inflation in the coming months," the report said.

"Moreover, while cost push pressures are building up, demand pull inflation might be impending as remagnetisation measures gets underway," the report added.

SHOPPERS STOP SELLS 5% IN NUANCE GROUP

New Delhi, 24 February: Retail chain Shoppers Stop has sold almost its entire five per cent stake in airport retail venture Nuance Group Fashion & Luxury Duty Free Private for an undisclosed sum.

"The company's shareholding in Nuance Group Fashion and Luxury Duty Free Private Ltd (NGFL) has been reduced from five per cent to 0.00035 per cent of the paid-up share capital of NGFL," Shoppers Stop said in a regulatory filing.

Started in 2006, Nuance, through its joint venture with Shoppers Stop Ltd, has been present in the Indian travel retail market for over five years now.

The company operates duty-free shops at arrival and departure halls at the Bengaluru airport. PTI

India likely to be less affected by global economic shocks: IMF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Washington, 24 February

India's economy is in a "fairly good shape" and it is likely to be less affected than other emerging economies if there is a further shock to the global economy, according to a senior official of the IMF.

"We've seen pretty tepid global growth rates in the recent past. If there's any adverse shock to the global growth and thereby global demand, we think India will not be unaffected but will be less affected than other countries which rely on exports and trade far more than India does," Mr Paul A Cashin, assistant director in IMF's Asia & Pacific department and mission chief of India, said.

"Until demonetisation there was very healthy consumption spending in India, which was basically propelling economic growth. India has an inward domestically demand-oriented economy, which is good when global growth factors are not exactly healthy," he said.

"That's why we think India will be, I'm not going to say immune, but less affected than other emerging economies if there's a further shock to the global economy, including a general global slowdown," Mr Cashin said.

The International Monetary Fund, this week in its annual report on India, projected the growth to slow to 6.6 per cent in financial year 2016-17 due to "temporary disruptions" caused by the demonetisation of high-value currency notes in November.

It, however, said demonetisation would have only short-term impact on the economy and it would bounce back to its expected growth of more than eight per cent in the next few years.

The near-term adverse economic impact of accompanying cash shortages remains difficult to gauge, while it may have a positive economic impact in the medium term, it added.

Mr Cashin said the IMF is "fairly pleased" with what India has done, certainly over the last couple of years. "They're in a much better fiscal position than they were, much better in terms of their monetary framework and monetary policy."

"The external sector seems to be quite under control these days. Just on the inflation side, because of these eruptions in food prices which happen from time to time, now that they have formal inflation targeting, they need to properly implement a monetary stance to achieve their inflation targets," he said.

"Once the short-term dislocation to consumption from demonetisation passes, there'll be a little bit of a growth downturn this fiscal year, including the first quarter of the upcoming fiscal year. But after that, India should resume its previous above eight per cent growth path in the medium term," Mr Cashin said.

In its report, the IMF said in the absence of disruptive global financial volatility, slower growth in China, Europe and the United States would have only modest adverse spillovers to India, given weak trade linkages.

Comics laugh all the way to the bank

PRASHANT MUKHERJEE
prashantmukherjee10@gmail.com
New Delhi, 24 February

Laughter is not just the best medicine, it's good for one's pocket too. The increasing band of stand-up comedians will vouch for this as big corporate houses and even start-ups are hiring them with good offers to lift employees' mood in their offices, besides creating brand value.

Companies like Nestle India, Amazon, leading mobile and data solutions provider Matrix, Muthoot Group among others, are scouting for good comedians to promote their brand activities through television commercials and giving live performances at their corporate get-togethers. Besides stage shows, stand-up comedians are called for corporate events, dealer meetings, script and content development for brands, columns in magazines and even for weddings, house parties and bachelor parties.

Salaries offered to these comedians are attractive. Once established, a comedian can earn Rs 20-30 lakh a year. A little-known stand-up comedian can bill Rs 5,000-20,000 for a show, while a popular one can get corporates to cough up Rs 1 lakh or more.

Stand-up comedians such as Vir Das, Hussain Dalal, Angad Singh, Sorabh Pant, Rohan Joshi and Amit Tandon have been hired by companies for brand promotions, content development and script writing.

Probably, the best example of a company using a stand-up comedian for brand promotions was initiated by Nestle India in September 2014. It engaged Dalal to promote Nescafe Coffee, where he portrayed the role of a struggling stand-up comedian who stammers. "The biggest strength of a stammering comedian is...suspense," Dalal said in the advertisement. The advertisement ends with, "Thank god for coffee. It kept me go..go...going and kept you a...a...awake." The advertisement not only created laughter but also evoked empathy among viewers about mocking people who are speech-impaired.

"Humour as a route to communicate the brand's message makes a lasting impact. These comedian artists deliver the right message with the right humour," said Balbeer Singh, who conducts comedy shows in and around the Capital.

"It's a tough job and doing public shows isn't enough to sustain a family. One has to look for other day jobs," said Atul Khatri, who started doing stand-up comedy three years ago and quit his day job with an IT company in Mumbai. He now earns handsomely by doing shows for companies.

COMPANIES SCOUTING FOR COMEDIANS

- Companies like Nestle India, Amazon, Matrix, Muthoot Group among others, are scouting for good comedians to promote their brand activities through television commercials and giving live performances at their corporate get-togethers
- Besides stage shows, stand-up comedians are called for corporate events, dealer meetings, script and content development for brands, columns in magazines and even for weddings

IFCI plans stake sale in 4 associate units

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 24 February

State-owned IFCI plans to sell stakes in four associate units, including Tourism Finance Corporation of India, as part of a strategy to focus on its core business of term lending.

"We don't have problem with associates...we have submitted divestment plan to the government. Once we get approval, we will go ahead with the sale in a gradual manner," IFCI deputy managing director Sanjeev Kaushik said.

The Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) board has already approved divesting the entire 45.5 per cent stake in associate firm Hardicon as per its plan to exit from non-core business activities.

Other four associates of the country's oldest financial institution are Tourism Finance Corporation of India (TFCI), Himachal Consultancy Organisation (Himcon), North India Technical Consultancy Organisation (Nitcon) and Kitco (formerly Kerala Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation).

Hardicon is a non-listed associate company of the IFCI. It is owned by financial institutions like IFCI, Sidbi, SBI and several other public sector banks and state-level entities. The company was set up in 1985 to facilitate overall industrial development of the country by addressing technical consultancy needs of industry and corporates and promoting entrepreneurship.

IFCI reported a Rs 45.17 crore loss for the third quarter ended December 2016.

MBL'S ₹400 CR IPO TO OPEN ON 6 MARCH

New Delhi, 24 February: Music Broadcast Ltd, a Jagran Group firm that runs Radio City FM channel, will hit the capital markets on 6 March to raise more than Rs 400 crore through initial public offer.

The IPO comprises fresh issue of equity shares of up to Rs 400 crore and an offer for sale of up to 26.59 lakh equity scrips. It will close on 8 March, Music Broadcast Ltd (MBL) said in a statement.

Proceeds from the sale would be primarily used for redemption of listed non-convertible debentures.

MBL, which owns and operates Radio City, has a pan India presence with radio stations in 37 cities.

The red herring prospectus filed by MBL with Registrar of Companies, Mumbai, was approved on Thursday, Jagran Prakashan Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

It had filed IPO papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in November last year and received "observation" from it on 9 February, which is necessary for a company to launch the public offer.

ICICI Securities Ltd is the sole book running lead manager for the offer. The equity shares of the company are proposed to be listed on the BSE and NSE.

D-Mart offer: Avenue Supermarts, the owner and operator of supermarket retail chain D-Mart, will come out with its Rs 1,870-crore initial public offering on 8 March.

This will be the biggest public issue since PNB Housing Finance's offering in October last year, which had garnered Rs 3,000 crore.

It will be open to public subscription from 8 to 10 March, according to the red herring prospectus. PTI

STRICT TIMELINES HAVE BEEN SET TO MEET THE TARGET OF RAISING ₹72,500 CRORE IN FISCAL 2017-18

Govt gears up to meet divestment target

PRASHANT MUKHERJEE
Prashantmukherjee10@gmail.com
New Delhi, 24 February

The government has set strict timelines to meet the ambitious target of raising Rs 72,500 crore in financial year 2017-18 from stake sale in central public sector enterprises. The department of investment & public asset management (Dipam), the government department entrusted with the disinvestment programme, has said the entire process of listing a public sector unit and putting it on the block would be completed within 165 days or in about five-and-a-half months.

"We are aware of our targets. We are putting in place a revised mechanism and procedure to ensure time-bound listing of identified CPSEs on stock exchanges. This is in line with the Budget announcements," Mr Neeraj Gupta, Dipam secretary, said.

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley announced in his Budget on 1 February that the government intends to raise Rs 72,500 crore in fiscal 2017-18 through disinvestment. Of this, Rs 46,500 crore would be raised through disinvestment, Rs 15,000 crore through strategic disinvestment and Rs 11,000 crore through the listing of insurance companies.

The list of eligible CPSEs for listing would be ready within one month from the finalisation of audited accounts for the last financial year, based on the criteria of a positive net-worth, no accumulated losses and having earned net profits in three preceding fiscals, Mr Gupta said. This will be prepared by the concerned ministry or department or Dipam.

Dipam is in the process of setting up an Inter-ministerial Group (IMG) to appoint advisers and intermediaries to guide the process of disinvestment through public offer. The process for the appointment of advisers, including merchant bankers and legal advisers, will be completed within eight weeks of the IMG being set up.

The IMG will be headed by secretary, Dipam. The other members will include secretaries or joint secretaries of the concerned AM or AD, department of legal affairs, department of economic affairs, department of public enterprises, ministry of corporate affairs, financial adviser of the concerned AM/AD and Dipam and CMD of the concerned CPSE.

An Empowered Committee (EC) will be constituted under the secretary of the concerned administrative ministry or department, with the mandate to complete time-bound documentation of the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

In cases of listing through sale of government's stake, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs' approval for listing of identified CPSEs will be obtained by Dipam.

In case of issue of fresh equity in conjunction with the sale of GoI's stake for listing, CCEA approval shall be obtained by the concerned administrative ministry.

The disinvestment proceeds in the current fiscal are Rs 37,696.03 crore at present. The government has set a target of raising Rs 56,500 crore through disinvestment this fiscal.

LIST OF CPSES TO BE READY SOON

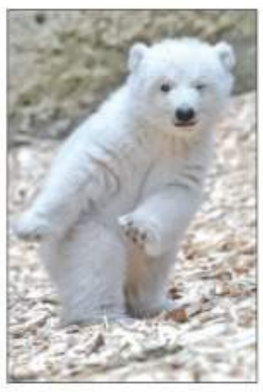
- The list of eligible CPSEs for listing would be ready within one month from the finalisation of audited accounts for the last financial year
- It will be based on the criteria of a positive net-worth, no accumulated losses and having earned net profits in three preceding fiscals
- This will be prepared by the concerned ministry or department or Dipam

It is my honour to be imprisoned for the things I am fighting for. The truth will come out at the right time.

PHILIPPINE SENATOR LEILA DE LIMA

ACCUSED OF ORCHESTRATING A DRUG TRAFFICKING RING WHEN SHE WAS JUSTICE SECRETARY

THUMBNAILS



The 14-week-old polar bear is pictured at the zoo Hellabrunn in the southern German city of Munich, on Friday. ■ AFP

US arrest: Five Indian nationals have been arrested for trying to enter the US illegally near Molson in Washington on Friday. The five Indians were ordered to appear before an immigration judge PTI

Anti-immigrant march South African police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades to break up clashes between local protesters and migrants in Pretoria on Friday at a march against immigration. AP

I.Coast beach attack: Senegalese police have arrested two Malians on Friday suspected of involvement in a jihadist attack on an Ivory Coast beach resort last year that killed 19 people. More than 10 suspects have already been detained. AFP

Pak plane crash : A private trainer aircraft on Friday crashed in Punjab province due to technical problems, killing both the instructor and the trainee pilot of the twin-seater plane. AP

Indonesian jet: An Indonesian passenger plane carrying 192 people from China to Bali was forced to turn back after the crew realised one of its doors was not properly closed ,the airline said on Friday. PTI

Pak militant :Two suspected Islamic State militants were on Friday gunned down by Pakistani security forces in a raid in Karachi. During the raid, the militants opened fire at the security personnel, leaving one policeman injured, SSP West Aftab said. PTI

Saudi king's visit : Indonesia is hoping to ring up investment deals worth billions of dollars when Saudi Arabia's King Salman and an entourage of 1,500 officials, and business men visit the Indonesian capital next week. AFP

Chinese captives: Two hundred striking workers attacked a Chinese-owned garment factory in Myanmar, smashing windows and doors and holding seven Chinese staffers captive for several hours. AP

VX nerve agent found on Kim Jong-Nam face: Malaysia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
Kuala Lumpur, 24 February

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's half brother was assassinated with a lethal nerve agent manufactured for chemical warfare, Malaysian police said today.

Releasing a preliminary toxicology report on Kim Jong Nam's murder at a Kuala Lumpur airport, police said the poison used by the assassins was the odourless, tasteless and highly toxic nerve agent VX. Traces of VX were detected on swabs of the dead man's face and eyes.

Leaked CCTV footage from the brazen attack on February 13 shows the portly Kim being approached by two women who appear to put something in his face.

Moments later he is seen asking for help from airport staff, who direct him to a clinic. Malaysian police said he suffered a seizure and died before he reached hospital.

An autopsy ruled out heart failure, and investigators had focused on the theory that a toxin was applied to his face, in what South Korea has insisted was a targeted assassination.

Malaysian detectives are holding three people -- women from Indonesia and Vietnam, and a North Korean man -- but want to speak to seven others.

North Korea's state media broke a 10-day silence Thursday on the murder launching a ferocious assault on Malaysia for "immoral" handling of the case and for playing politics with the corpse. The North's official KCNA news agency said Malaysia bore prime responsibility for the death, and accused it of conspiring with South Korea.

It also condemned the Malaysian authorities for not releasing the corpse "under the absurd pretext" that it needs a DNA sample from the dead man's family.

North Korea has never acknowledged the victim as the estranged brother of leader Kim Jong-Un and the lengthy KCNA dispatch avoided any reference to the dead man's identity, calling him only "a citizen" of North Korea "bearing a diplomatic passport".

The only known use of VX is as a chemical warfare agent and the US government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes it as the "most potent" of all nerve agents.

"It is possible that any visible VX liquid contact on the skin, unless washed off immediately, would be lethal," the CDC said on its website. All nerve agents cause their toxic effects by preventing the proper operation of an enzyme that acts as the body's "off switch" for glands and muscles.

Without that switch, the glands and muscles are constantly being stimulated, and eventually tire and become unable to sustain breathing.

Use of VX in Kim's kin killing 'blatant violation' of treaty: Seoul

Seoul, 24 February: The use of the banned nerve agent VX in the killing of the North Korean leader's half-brother in Malaysia was a "blatant violation" of an international treaty, the South said today.

"We are shocked by the latest revelation by the Malaysian authorities that VX... was used in the death of Kim Jong-Nam," Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement. It called it a "blatant violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and other international norms". North Korea has up to 5,000 tonnes of chemical weapons, Seoul experts said today, including the toxin used to assassinate its leader's half-brother. AFP

What is VX nerve agent? VX, an extremely toxic organophosphate, is a tasteless and odorless liquid with an amber-like color that severely disrupts the body's nervous system and is used as a nerve agent in chemical warfare. Ten milligrams is sufficient for it to be fatal through skin contact. As a chemical weapon, it is classified as a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) by the United Nations Resolution 687. AGENCIES

TRUMP ATTACKS FBI OVER 'SECURITY LEAKERS'

QUESTIONS PERSIST ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND KREMLIN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS

THE INDEPENDENT
New York, 24 February

Donald Trump has launched a fresh attack on the FBI, claiming it has been giving classified information to media that could have a "devastating effect" on the US. It comes hours after reports emerged that the White House had asked the agency to publicly deny there were links between the President's administration and Vladimir Putin's regime in Russia.

The former reality show host said on Twitter: "The FBI is totally unable to stop the national security 'leakers' that have permeated our government for a long time. They can't even find the leakers within the FBI itself.

The FBI is totally unable to stop the national security "leakers" that have permeated our government for a long time. They can't even.....— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 24, 2017.

"Classified information is being given to media that could have a devastating effect on U.S. FIND NOW."

Trump has previously attacked the intelligence services over a slew of links that have appeared in the media, claiming links between the New York tycoon and members of his team, and Russia. No evidence has been provided of any such links and Trump has continued to deny the assertions. Yet, the issue still clearly irks him. His outburst on Friday morning came after CNN reported that the FBI had rejected a recent approach from the White House to publicly knock down media reports about communications between Trump's associates and Russians known to US intelligence during the 2016 presidential campaign.

A White House official said that the request was only made after the FBI indicated to the White House it did not believe the reporting to be accurate. White House officials had sought the help of the bureau and other agencies investigating the Russia matter to say that the reports were wrong and that there had been no contacts, the officials said. The reports of the contacts were first published by *The New York Times* and CNN on 14 February.

The direct communications between the White House and the FBI were unusual because of decade-old restrictions on such contacts. White House press secretary Sean Spicer told the news channel: "We didn't try to knock the story down. We asked them to tell the truth."

White House Chief of Staff Priebus' discussion with FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe sparked outrage among some Democrats, who said that the chief of staff was violating policies intended to limit communications between the law enforcement agency and the White House on pending investigations.

US should stop being manipulated by Pakistan: Ex-Pentagon official

Washington, 24 February: The US should stop being manipulated by Pakistan and cease all military and financial aid to the country, a former top Pentagon official has said.

"As the first step, the Trump administration should suspend Pakistan's non-NATO ally status and cease military aid and assistance payments," Christopher D Kolenda, a Pentagon senior advisor from 2009-2014, said in an op-ed highlighting the Pakistan policy of duplicity in Afghanistan.

"Let's stop being manipulated by Pakistan. It's time for the United States to restore dignity in its relationship with Pakistan," he said in the opinion piece published in The Hill.

"The United States should be prepared to add more penalties if necessary," he said. "These actions will not compel Pakistan to turn against the Afghan Taliban," he added. Kolenda is currently an adjunct senior fellow at CNAS and a senior fellow at the Center for Global Policy. Even under a robust US-led sanctions regime in the 1990s, Pakistan was supporting insurgencies in Kashmir and Afghanistan, while still pursuing their nuclear program, he noted.

N Korea slams China over coal import ban

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
Seoul, 24 February

North Korea denounced its chief ally and diplomatic protector China for "dancing to the tune of the US" after it banned coal imports in apparent punishment for a missile launch.

Beijing and Pyongyang have a relationship forged in the blood of the Korean War, but ties have begun to fray in recent years, with China increasingly exasperated by its wayward neighbour's nuclear antics.

Last week it announced the suspension of all coal imports from the North -- a crucial foreign currency earner for Pyongyang -- for the rest of the year.

It came days after a missile launch personally overseen by leader Kim Jong-Un in what was seen as Pyongyang's first show of force against new US President Donald Trump.

A bylined essay carried by the North's official Korea Central News Agency slammed Beijing's move.

It did not identify China by name, referring instead to "a neighbouring country".

"This country, styling itself a big power, is dancing to the tune of the US," it said. "It has unhesitatingly taken inhumane steps such as totally blocking foreign trade related to the improvement of people's living standard," it added.

"Righteous voices" had condemned the move, it said, while "the hostile forces are shouting 'bravo' over this".

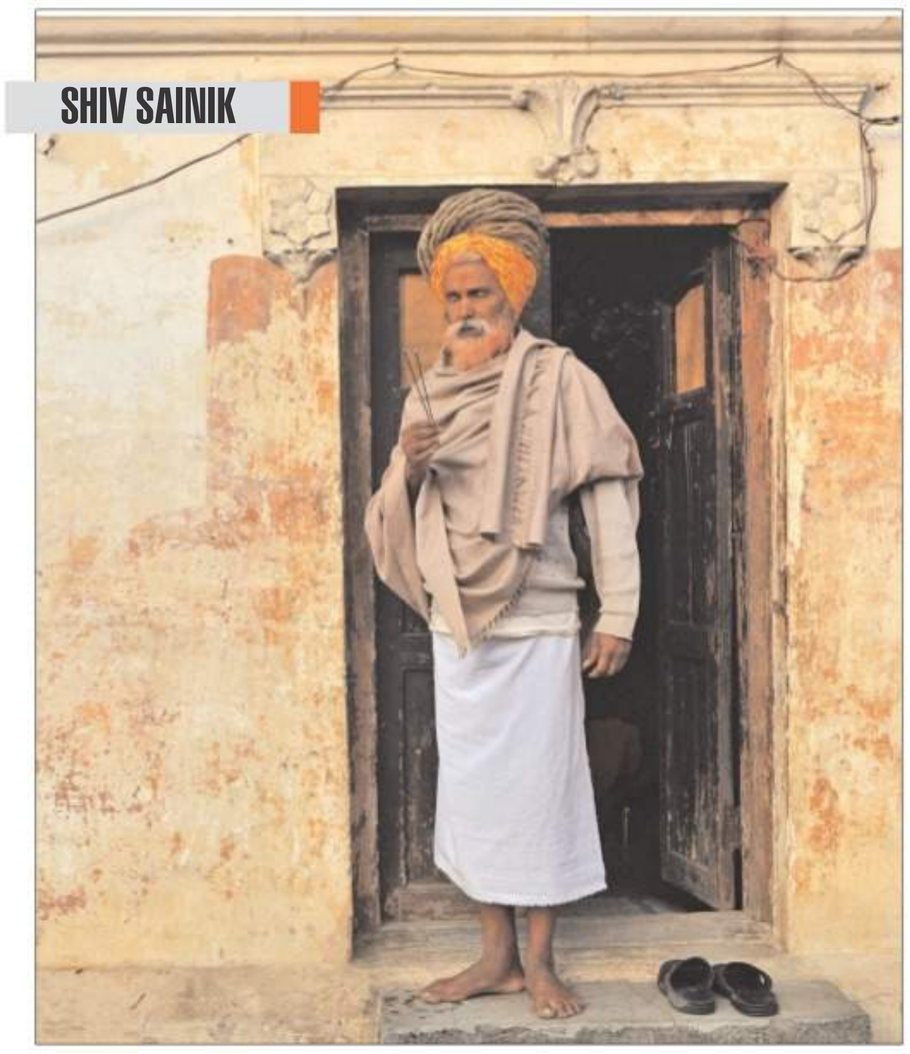
The format was unusual for KCNA, which tends not to carry editorials or commentaries of its own, preferring to reproduce those of Rodong Sinmun, the official mouthpiece of the ruling Workers' Party.

The tone was also more akin to Pyongyang's denunciations of the US. It was "utterly childish" to think that the North would stop its nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missile programmes if a few pennies of money were cut off, said the KCNA essay.

Its scientists and technicians were "working hard in do-or-die spirit", it added.

The latest launch -- the first since Trump took office -- showed some progress in Pyongyang's missile technology, Seoul's military said.

SHIV SAINIK



A Nepalese Sadhu prays at the Pashupatinath Temple area in Kathmandu on Friday, on the eve of Maha Shivaratri. ■ afp

Victory for May as Labour suffers historic defeat

AFP/THE INDPENDENT
London, 24 February

Britain's main opposition Labour Party defeated UKIP's leader in a Brexit bastion, but in a second by-election suffered a landmark defeat to Prime Minister Theresa May's governing Conservatives today.

The results saw the Brexit-championing UK Independence Party fail to capitalise on the June referendum vote to leave the EU. But while Labour celebrated fending off UKIP's bid to replace them in their traditional post-industrial heartlands, the historic loss elsewhere of a seat to the Conservatives was a big blow to their prospects in the 2020 general election.

In yesterday's two parliamentary by-elections, Labour clung on to its Stoke-on-Trent Central seat, in the British city that registered the highest vote for leaving the EU.

Labour's Gareth Snell took 37 per cent of the vote, beating new UKIP leader Paul Nuttall who garnered 25 percent. In a town where voter apathy runs deep, turnout stood at 38 percent.

Both parties had ploughed huge resources into the contest in west central England, which had been pitched as make-or-break for both sides.

Nuttall insisted the defeat did not mark the end of UKIP. "This seat was 72 on our target list. There's a lot more to come from us," he said. "There are other issues beyond Brexit."

But Labour's relief at retaining Stoke-on-Trent Central could not mask the impact of their loss of the rural seat of Copeland on the northwest English coast.

Conservative Trudy Harrison hailed a "truly historic event" after winning the by-election with 44 per cent to 37 per cent for Labour's Gillian Troughton.

It was the first time a governing party has taken an opposition-held seat in a by-election since 1982.

Many jobs in the constituency depend on the Sellafield nuclear processing facility, and veteran leftist Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's strong anti-nuclear stance may have damaged the party's fortunes.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Corbyn has rejected any suggestion that he should stand down as Labour leader following a painful result for his party at the Copeland by-election.

Labour lost the Cumbria seat to the Conservatives despite holding it since its creation in 1983. It is very rare for a governing party to win a seat off an opposition party at a by-election.

The Labour leader was asked on the morning of the results whether he should "fall on his sword" following the set-back.

"I was elected to lead this party, I was elected to oppose austerity and to oppose the redistribution of wealth in the wrong direction, which is what this Government is doing. We'll continue our campaigning work on the NHS, on social care on housing," he said.

Corbyn said he was "very disappointed" when he found out the result. The party held onto a second seat in Stoke despite a challenge from Ukip, though it was returned with a reduced share of the vote.

Labour MPs – including many longtime critics – have refrained from publicly calling on Corbyn to quit following the result.

MILITANTS FORCING CHILDREN, DISABLED INTO SUICIDE CARS: US GENERAL

Innocent weapons in ISIS kitty

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
Washington, 24 February

Islamic State jihadists are forcing children and disabled people into explosives-laden trucks and making them drive at Iraqi security forces in Mosul, a general from the US-led coalition has said.

The barbaric tactic, coupled with other increasingly desperate battlefield measures, is a sign the IS group knows defeat is inevitable, officials say.

The jihadists have used exploding trucks, known in military circles as VBIEDs -- vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices -- and pronounced "Vee-Bids," to devastating effect in numerous engagements during the Mosul offensive and elsewhere in Iraq. Speaking to AFP and other reporters in Baghdad this week, US Air Force Brigadier General Matt Isler said the IS group had adopted coercive new techniques in its use of suicide car bombs because the jihadists appear to be running out of willing drivers.

"We saw people being led to a VBIED, being put in (it) and being chained in the VBIED," he said.

"We've seen children put in VBIEDs as drivers, people that aren't able to walk... I don't know if they signed up for this service." The coalition has often seen VBIEDs depart on missions, only for their drivers to veer

off course and attempt to hide behind structures.

"We see a VBIED going to its attack, going off and hiding," Isler said. "We see a party going to find the AWOL VBIED driver, we see (IS) command and control trying to figure out where their VBIED driver's gone, we've seen multiple VBIED drivers going AWOL."

The coalition first saw drivers being chained into trucks when Iraqi security forces approached the Tigris river as they cleared eastern Mosul, Isler said.

The operation to free Iraq's second city of IS control began in October. After clearing the east side, Iraqi forces on Sunday launched an operation aimed at flushing the jihadists from Mosul's west bank. Yesterday, they thrust into Mosul airport on the southern edge of the IS stronghold for the first time since the jihadists overran the region in 2014.

Iraqi troops backed by jets, helicopter gunships and drones blitzed their way across open areas south of Mosul before entering the airport compound. As its fighters are killed off and it loses ground, the IS group has developed new ways to counter-strike, including by steering hobby drones fitted with grenades and bombs at troops and civilians.

IS is using schools to brainwash children and train them with weapons, according to a report by activist group Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently. The terror group has "worked systematically on sabotaging education process in Raqqa province and rebuilt it based on the group's rules and radical methodology," the report states.

The IS group closed all schools, burnt students' books, and forced teachers to take repentance courses and pledge not to teach the old curriculum. Although the schools were later reopened, several subjects "such as physics, chemistry, philosophy, biology and Christian religious education" were banned.

Our land must be returned to them. That is our birth right. You cannot hold back from doing that. That must be done

SRILANKA LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT R SAMPANTHAN

IN AN INTERVIEW

THUMBNAILS

Argentina's President Mauricio Macri delivers a speech after receiving the Nueva Economia Forum prize for debating during an award ceremony at the Teatro Real in Madrid on Friday. ■ AFP

Syria conflict : A 24-year-old Indian-origin South African Muslim man,Sadiq Vawda, the son of renowned South African Indian advocate has been reportedly killed in Syria where he had gone to join a militant group. PTI

Jordon plane: A Jordanian F-16 warplane crashed in Saudi Arabia on Friday but its pilot survived, the Saudi-led military coalition fighting Shiite Huthi rebels in neighbouring Yemen said. PTI

Afghan flight: The German government admitted on Friday it deported fewer than half the Afghans who were due to be repatriated on a charter plane earlier this week, after some went into hiding. AFP

Lanka migrants: Sri Lanka on Friday arrested 18 people trying to leave the country illegally for New Zealand, a navy spokesman said. Lan kans have sought asylum in New Zealand in the past, most of them are from Tamil minority. AFP

Pakistan temple : Security was on Friday stepped up at a Hindu temple in Peshawar in view of the Maha Shivratri festival observed by the minority community in Pakistan. PTI

IS SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 51 IN SYRIA

AL-BAGHDADI'S DOGS COULD NOT BEAR THEIR HUGE LOSS, AND SUICIDE BOMBERS HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE REVENGE : FIELD COMMANDER

AGENCE FRNACE-PRESSE
Beirut, 24 February

A suicide bomber attacked Turkish-backed rebels just outside the Syrian town of Al-Bab today, killing 51 people in a major blow just hours after they hailed its capture from the Islamic State group.

The bomber blew up a vehicle packed with explosives outside a rebel command centre in the village of Susian, eight kilometres northeast of Al-Bab, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The blast devastated the twin command posts and also seriously wounded a large number of fighters, the Britain-based monitoring group said.

It had earlier said that 42 people, mainly rebels, had died, but later clarified to say the majority of those killed were civilians.

There was no immediate claim for the attack, but rebels blamed it on IS, which had put up fierce resistance in Al-Bab for weeks.

"(Abu Bakr) al-Baghdadi's dogs could not bear their huge loss, and their suicide bombers have begun to take revenge," said field commander Abu Jaafar of the Mutasem Brigades.

He said rebel fighters, Turkish soldiers, and civilians from Al-Bab had called a meeting in Susian "to organise a security apparatus and set a plan for rebuilding al-Bab."

"This information reached the (Islamic State) sleeper cells, which prepared a car bomb" that detonated at Susian around 0800 am (local time), he told AFP.

Birds fly in front of Turkish-backed Syrian rebels walking in the northwestern border town of al-Bab on Friday 2017 after they fully captured the town from the Islamic State (IS) group. ■ AFP

Abu Jaafar, who was near Susian at the time of the attack, said hospitals in the area were full of wounded.

Separately, two Turkish soldiers were killed in a suicide attack in Al-Bab today as they were carrying out road checks, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said.

The strategic town, just 25 kilometres south of the Turkish border, was the jihadists' last stronghold in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo.

Turkey sent troops into Syria last August in an operation it said targeted not only IS but also US-backed Kurdish fighters whom it regards as terrorists.

With its support, the rebels launched an offensive to take Al-Bab last year.

It has proved the bloodiest battle of Ankara's campaign accounting for most of the 71 Turkish losses so far.

Turkish Defence Minister Fikri Isik said yesterday that its rebel allies now had "near complete control" of the town.

The town was also seen as a prize by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces, who had advanced to just 1.5 kilometres from its outskirts in recent weeks.

Yesterday afternoon, an AFP correspondent heard intermittent gunfire as rebel units continued to clear the heavily damaged town.

The battle against IS around Al-Bab is just one front line in Aleppo province.

West of the second city, which government forces took full control of in December, fighting flared with rebels in its western suburbs even as peace talks got under way in Geneva.

Israel denies visa to HRW official for spreading Palestinian propaganda

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Jerusalem, 24 February

Israeli authorities have rejected a request from Human Rights Watch to grant a work permit to its regional director, accusing the group of engaging in Palestinian "propaganda," the group said today.

The decision was Israel's latest step against human rights groups and other advocacy organizations that it accuses of bias against the Jewish state.

Israel's Interior Ministry issued its ruling this week, some six months after Human Rights Watch asked for permission for its New York-based Israel and Palestine director, Omar Shakir, to be able to work in the country.In a letter dated Monday, the ministry said the group's reports "have engaged in politics in the service of Palestinian propaganda, while falsely raising the banner of "human rights." The decision, it said, was based on a recommendation from Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon called Human Rights Watch a "blatantly hostile anti-Israeli organization whose reports have the sole purpose of harming Israel with no consideration whatsoever for the truth or reality."

He said "there is no reason" to give a visa to a person or organization that wants to hurt the country. "We are not masochists and there is no reason we should keep doing that," he said.

He said the decision was connected solely to the group's activities and had nothing to do with the ethnicity of Shakir, a US citizen of Iraqi descent.

Shakir, a Stanford-educated lawyer, has also done work on human rights in Egypt, Pakistan and at the US detention center at Guantanamo Bay, according to his biography.

The New York-based group monitors human rights in over 90 countries, including nations throughout the Middle East.

It said it has direct access to most of these countries, but said a small number of them, including Cuba, Egypt, Iran, North Korea, Uzbekistan and Venezuela, have blocked access to its staff.

"The denial letter came as a shock, given that we have had regular access to Israel and the West Bank for nearly three decades and regularly engage Israeli authorities," Shakir said in an email.

"Branding us as propagandists and fake human rights advocates puts Israel in the company of heavily repressive states like North Korea, Iran and Sudan that have blocked access for Human Rights Watch staff members."

ART TIME

Art pieces by French brut artist Michel Nejar during an exhibition titled "Michel Nedjar, introspective" devoted to his work at the LaM museum in Villeneuve d'Ascq, northern France on Friday. ■ AFP

Trump backs concept of Palestine-Israel state solution

THE INDEPENDENT
Wahington DC,24 February

US President Donald Trump has said he likes the concept of a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, expressing his preference on the issue for the first time since sparking international criticism for appearing to back away from the long-standing bedrock of Middle East policy.

But in an interview with Reuters, Trump stopped short of reasserting a US commitment to eventual Palestinian statehood and instead said again that he would be "satisfied with whatever makes both parties happy".

Trump's comments put a new twist on a statement he made at a February 15 joint news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggesting that his administration would no longer insist on the creation of an independent Palestinian state as part of any future peace accord.

It could also send a signal to both sides, as well as the international community, that the principle that has long underpinned US-led peace diplomacy will not be discarded if the Trump administration moves forward, as he has promised, with an initiative to restart long-stalled peace efforts.

"No, I like the two-state solution," Trump said when asked whether he had backed away from the concept during his joint White House appearance with the right-wing Israeli leader. "But I ultimately like what both parties like.""People have been talking about it for so many years now. It so far hasn't worked, he added. But he then repeated his revised position, saying: "I like this two-state solution, but I am satisfied with whatever both parties agree with."

Trump's comments provided nuance to his earlier comments.

"I'm looking at two states and one state, and I like the one both parties like," he said at last week's news conference. "I can live with either one."

Those words were welcomed at the time by the Israeli right but denounced by Palestinians, who seek a state of their own.

A one-state solution would be deeply problematic for both sides. One concept would be two systems for two peoples, which many Palestinians would see as apartheid and endless occupation. A second version would mean equal rights for all, including for Palestinians in an annexed West Bank, but that would compromise Israel's Jewish character.United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cautioned against abandoning the idea of a two-state solution, saying there was "no alternative," and Egyptian and Jordanian leaders also renewed their commitment to that goal.

Trump's revised language could soften such criticism, but still fails to meet demands that he explicitly re-commit to seeking a two-state solution.

At the news conference, Trump pledged to work toward a peace deal but said it would require compromise on both sides. He also surprised Netanyahu by urging him to hold back on settlements for a little bit, a vague appeal to curb construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Israel report on Gaza war: A report expected to criticise Israel's prime minister and the armed forces command over their conduct in the runup to the 2014 Gaza war is to be released next week, officials said today.State comptroller Yossef Shapira's report, the result of a two-year inquiry, will be published on Tuesday, a spokesman for his office said. PTI

Palestinian demonstrators throw old shoes at a poster of US President Donald Trump as they protest against his support of Israel and demand for the Israeli army to re-open Shuhada Street near a Jewish settler enclave in the heart of the flashpoint West Bank city of Hebron on Friday. ■ afp

LAHORE BLAST WAS NOT AN ACT OF TERRORISM: PAK

***Lahore, 24 February*:** A deadly explosion that killed 10 people here was "not an act of terrorism" and was caused by gas leakage, the government in Pakistan's Punjab province today said.

Ten people were killed and 30 others injured after the explosion hit a market in a posh locality in Lahore yesterday.Earlier, local police and administration officials had stated that explosion was caused by a "planted device".

"Yesterday's explosion was not an act of terrorism. Forensic experts have not found any explosive material from the site. It was an accident and caused by gas leakage," Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah told a news conference.

Sanaullah further said a number of gas cylinders were present on the site and leakage has also been confirmed."The explosion is caused by sub-standard gas cylinders. Police will take action against those who provided these cylinders," he said.The Law Minister also blamed private TV channels for airing rumour of another blast in the Gulberg area that caused panic in the city."I will request the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to take strict action against the TV channels for spreading rumour," he said.

PEMRA has issued notices to 31 private TV channels for airing the blast rumour.To a question whether the Pakistan Super League (PSL) final will be held in Lahore on March 5, the Minister said, "We will decide about it." AFP

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS FACING 'MEGADROUGHT' AS COLORADO RIVER SHRINKS TO ALARMING LOW

Future effect of climate change

THE INDEPENDENT
New York, 24 February

The south-western United States is almost certain to experience a "megadrought" lasting decades if global warming continues unchecked, researchers have warned.

The once-mighty Colorado river, which has regularly failed to reach the ocean since the 1960s, is already in the grip of the worst 15-year drought on record with the flow of water in the 21st century nearly a fifth lower than the 20th-century average, a new study found.

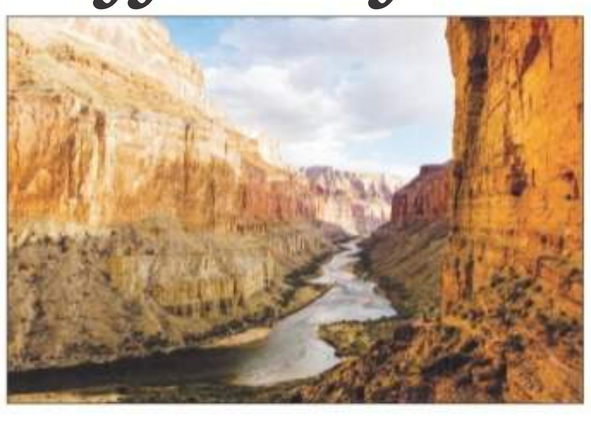
And scientists warned the river could be reduced by anything from 35 to 55 per cent by the end of this century if nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Rising temperatures cause increased evaporation from the river, but also prompt plants to use more water.

A paper about the study in the journal Water Resources Research said: "With continued anthropogenic [human-caused] warming, the risk of multi-decadal megadrought in the Southwest increases to over 90 per cent over this century if there is no increase in mean precipitation.

"Even if modest precipitation increases do occur, the risk will still exceed 70 per cent."

In the event of "huge and unlikely" increases in rainfall, there would still be a megadrought risk of just under 50 per cent.Some 40 million people in seven US states and more in Mexico rely on the Colorado river for water.But the researchers found that the river's flow between 2000 and 2014 was 19 per cent lower than the average from 1906 to 1999 – equivalent to the amount of water used by two million people over a year.



One of the paper's lead authors, Bradley Udall, of Colorado State University, said: "The future of Colorado river is far less rosy than other recent assessments have portrayed. "Current planning understates the challenge that climate change poses to the water supplies in the American Southwest.

"A clear message to water managers is that they need to plan for significantly lower river flows."However he added that a prolonged drought – such as has occurred in the past – could make things substantially worse.

"A megadrought in this century will throw all our operating rules out the window," Udall said.The paper said the current rate of warming was faster than seen during previous megadroughts.

"During the 12th century, flow reductions of approximately 16 per cent occurred during one 25-year period," it said.

"Evidence indicates that hemispheric and Southwest temperature anomalies were significantly smaller during past megadroughts than the rapid ongoing current warming that could easily exceed 4C to 5C by the end of century under business-as-usual emissions."

The researchers said there was one way to stop the rapid reduction in the size of the river.

"Temperature-driven threats to the flows of the Colorado are large and real," the paper said. "The only way to curb substantial risk of long-term mean declines in Colorado river flow is thus to work towards aggressive reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

"The record warm nature of the ongoing Colorado River drought indicates that this drought is not just a natural drought, and our work demonstrates that flows are unlikely to return to the 20th-century averages if we only wait.

"Unusually wet periods like the 1920s and 1990s will still continue to occur, but they will co-occur with higher temperatures that will increase water demand from plants, soil, snow and humans."

CRAFTS BAZAAR

THE ANNUAL SURAJKUND INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS MELA IS A UNIQUE SHOWCASE OF INDIA'S HANDICRAFTS AND HANDLOOMS. THE LARGEST CRAFTS FAIR IN THE WORLD, IT ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF VISITORS. THIS YEAR JHARKHAND WAS CHOSEN AS THE THEME STATE. **SUBRATA DUTTA** VISITED THE MELA AND CAPTURED ITS DIVERSITY

THUMBNAILS

Rooney's future: Wayne Rooney's agent Paul Stretford held talks in China on Thursday amid speculation over the Manchester United captain's future. Rooney, 31, has been sidelined by manager Jose Mourinho, heightening expectations he could leave United.

Cazorla recovering: Arsenal midfielder Santi Cazorla's recovery from ankle surgery could see the Spain international ruled out of the rest of the English season. He has been sidelined since being forced off during the second half of Arsenal's win against Ludogorets.

Transfer target: Emmanuel Petit has claimed that countryman Antoine Griezmann will definitely leave Atletico Madrid to join Manchester United in the summer. Griezmann has been reported as Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho's primary transfer target.

Pacquiao v Khan: The Philippines' boxing hero Manny Pacquiao on Thursday said he was "in negotiations" to face British fighter Amir Khan, after weeks of conflicting reports over his next bout. "My team and I are in negotiations with Amir Khan for our next fight," he said.

Harika loses: Grandmaster D Harika lost momentum and went down to Tan Zhongyi of China in the first semi-final game of the world women's chess championship in Tehran. It was a tough day at work for Harika as nothing worked right for the Indian.

GHATKAR WINS 10M AIR RIFLE BRONZE

SHE NARROWLY MISSED OUT ON AN OLYMPIC QUOTA BERTH LAST YEAR

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 24 February

Pooja Ghatkar **(in file photo)** saved the hosts blushes as she won a bronze in the 10M Air Rifle while her other well known team mates fell by the wayside on the opening day of the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here today.

This was the 27-year old Pooja's first World Cup medal. Ghatkar, who had missed out on a Rio Olympic Games quota berth by a whisker last year, said she was looking ahead, having got past that chapter.

Earlier in the day, she had shot 418, to finish second behind eventual Gold medalist from China, World No. 11 Mengyao Shi, who shot 418.6 to finish on top of the qualification charts.

In the eight woman 24-shot final, which had names like former Olympic Bronze medalist Snjezana Pejcic of Croatia and reigning Asian Games Gold medalist Najmeh Khidmati among others, Pooja started confidently and remained among the top three throughout.

At a point when it looked like the third Chinese shooter Mingyang Wu would catch-up with her, she scored a confident 10.8 in the 19th shot and a 10.7 in the 21st ensured India got on the medal tally on day one of competition itself.

She was unable to stop a Chinese 1-2 at the top however, with Mengyao shooting a finals score of 252.1 to win gold and compatriot Lijie Dong shooting a 248.9 to clinch silver.

In the Women's Trap, Rajeshwari Kumar finished 17th in qualifying with a score of 64, while Seema Tomar shot 60 to finish 22nd. Manish Keer, the third Indian in the fray finished 29th shooting a score of 51.

Australia's Penny Smith won the gold shooting 40 in the final to leave Italy's Jessica Rossi, who shot 38, content with a silver medal. Finland's Veromma Mo won the bronze shooting 27 in the finals.

In the 10M Air Rifle Deepak Kumar and Ravi Kumar made the eight-man final but could only finish fifth and eighth respectively.

However, they did well to reach their first ever World Cup final. Deepak finished fourth in qualifying with a good score of 625.8 and Ravi shot 624 to qualify for the Finals in sixth place. Deepak in fact was in contention for a medal at one stage of the Final, but faded away.

China's Buhan Song causing an upset win over Hungary's Peter Sidi, the current world No. 4 and a former world champion and multiple world cup gold medalist. Buhan shot 249.5 to Sidi's 249.1 in the final which went down to the wire. Japan's Atsushi Simada won the bronze.

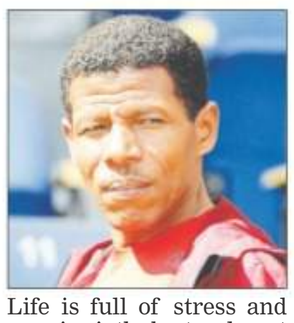
The Men's Rapid Fire Pistol Stage 1 of qualification also ended today with Neeraj Kumar placed fifth with a score of 290. China's Zhiming Lu topped the first Precision stage with a score of 295.

Olympian Gurpreet Singh lay in 12th position with a score of 285 and the third Indian Harpreet Singh will go into the Rapid Fire stage in 17th position with a score of 281. Only the top six qualify for the final.

In the first day of the Men's Trap qualifiers, India's Zoravar Singh Sandhu shot 70 to lie in sixth position. Spain's former world champion and World No. 9, Alberto Fernandez led the field with a perfect score of 75, in an event, which also has the reigning Olympic Champion, Josip Glasnovic of

GEBRSELASSIE PREDICTS BRIGHT FUTURE FOR INDIAN RUNNERS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 24 February



Legendary distance runner Haile Gebrselassie today predicted a bright future for Indian athletes saying they have the potential to be among the best in the world.

"There is tremendous potential but what India lacks is a sporting icon in this discipline. Youngsters all over the world look up to their icons. I am confident that India will soon have icon(s) because so much potential can not go untapped and unheralded."

Talking to media persons this afternoon Gebrselassie who is here to attend the New Delhi Marathon, which will be flagged off by cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on 26 February said "Given the enthusiasm among the youngsters in India regarding long distance running, it is a matter of time before we will see Indians winning medals in marathon and other long distance events."

The former world champion said that he never approved of African athletes shifting their basis to other countries, taking citizenship to win medal for their adopted countries "I am happy that World body had disapproved of this practice. Even in India you will not like even me to run for your country for a medal because you will like to have your own hero. His advise to youngsters was to "keep running, not only medals or victories but for your health. Life is full of stress and running is the best and most effective way of de-stressing.

He came out strongly against the menace of drugs in sports and advocated stringent punishment for the guilty. "We need clean sports, we need clean runners, we need clean athletes."

He admitted that recent doping scandals involving athletes especially from Russia has dented the image of the sport and shaken the confident of the fans but said "I am sure that this sordid episode will soon be a thing of past and athletics will again regain its glory."

Gebrselassie, winner of gold medal in the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games said he was happy that, "The IAAF is looking at new ideas and coming up with new competitions for more spectators to come out and watch and that will make athletics grow further."

The 43 year old runner dominated the 10,000m race from 1993 to 1999. He broke 27 world records in different long distance races ranging from 5,000m to marathon in his two decade long (1993 to 2013) career .

SPURS SLUMP TO SHOCK EXIT

Paris, 24 February: Unheralded Gent stunned Tottenham at Wembley as their more illustrious fellow Belgians Anderlecht, Ajax and Lyon also progressed to the Europa League last 16 on Thursday.

Among those joining this quartet in Friday's draw at Uefa's headquarters in Nyon were Roma, Besiktas and Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Tottenham failed to match Manchester United's progress 24 hours earlier when slumping to a shock Europa League exit as Gent's 2-2 draw at Wembley gave the unfancied Belgians a stunning 3-2 aggregate success in the last 32 second leg. AFP

East Bengal go up against reigning champions

AGENCIES
Bengaluru, 24 February

In a fight between the arch-rivals from Bangalore and Kolkata in Hero I-League, reigning champions Bengaluru FC take on the table-topper Kingfisher East Bengal tomorrow at the Shree Kanterava Stadium.

Though Bengaluru have defeated the Red & Golds at home convincingly in past two seasons, they have tasted a 1-2 defeat in their away game this season.

In what may be termed as a mid-season slump, which seems to be far from over, the Blues are winless in last 6 rounds, and yet to win an away match.

East Bengal's recent drop in form after six consecutive wins witnessed them picking only 2 points from last three matches. Their woe compounded when they lost the previous match to Aizawl FC. East Bengal still manage to stay at the top with a better goal difference than Mohun Bagan, the later, having played a match less.

Talking to the media, Bengaluru FC coach Roca termed it as a tough game, "We have a lot of positives from the last three games, the way we have played, creating more chances, we were on our way to winning, unfortunately, we were not so lucky!"More than a month ago, Bengaluru's fall started against the same team, which coach terms as 'Pain'.

"We expect East Bengal coming hard on us. From three bad results, I am sure even for them this is an important game." said the

Spaniard.

Goals have eluded Bengaluru and Roca is wary of this, "It (goal) is the most important thing in football, we are creating chances but not efficient enough to score a goal, we are working on it."

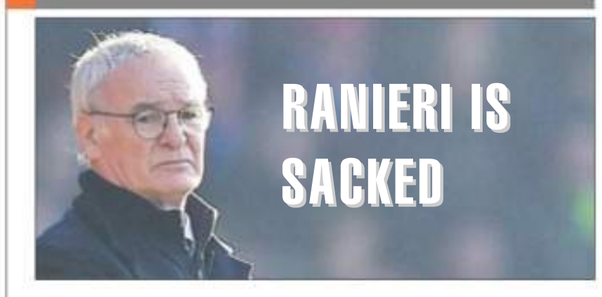
The visitors will be without their injured striker Willis Plaza and Didika Ralte, who is out owing to the automatic yellow card suspension. Bengaluru will go out without John Johnson. East Bengal Coach, Trevor James Morgan ***(in photo)*** realises a 'tough game' is awaiting his troop. "Bengaluru is a good side with good players. I think we have to we have to perform well and get a result.

He added, "We are quite disappointed with the last two games we played against Shillong Lajong and Aizawl FC. We need to start winning and tomorrow's game will be a tough one!"

As Harmanjot Singh Khabra set to cut loose against his former teammates tomorrow, so is Robin Singh who's gearing up to take on Sunils and Eugenes, his ex co-players.

Also, Mohun Bagan go up against Shilong Lajong FC and Aizawl FC will take on Chennai City.

CONTROVERSY CORNER



IAN HERBERT
London, 24 February

It was the statement from Leicester City's vice chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha on Thursday night which spoke for his utter lack of comprehension of what Claudio Ranieri ***(in photo)*** has delivered to the club.

Srivaddhanaprabha's words, published by his propagandists as football struggled to comprehend the idea that Ranieri had actually been sacked, 297 days after delivering the club to a place beyond all expectation, did not even state that Leicester had won the Premier League title under his management and been shepherded into the last 16 of Europe. "It was never our expectation that the extraordinary feats of last season should be replicated this season," 'said' the faceless Srivaddhanaprabha and his go-to men, purposefully avoiding the very accomplishment which – in all but the most extreme circumstances – should have rendered Ranieiri immune from this most despicable act of sacking.

Ranieiri will leave with his usual good grace, of course, because he possesses qualities beyond the remotest imagination of his former Leicester City masters, though what we witnessed when the Italian was sent to the door was the ultimate manifestation of how football, with its rapacious desire for wealth and status and the next plate of success, has lost touch entirely with the qualities which once connected it to so many and made it the people's game.

Qualities like loyalty, patience and – dare it even be said – compassion.There can be no doubt that Leicester's struggle to regain a modicum of last season's success has been a source of grief, no less, for some of the players. Though the team returned from Sevilla with their Champions League tie alive, they had not played well in the 2-1 defeat and Danny Simpson's discussion of the season before he left Estadio Ramon Sanchez Pizjiuan revealed the pain within.

"When you enjoy the heights of last season and when you go onto the pitch you think you aren't going to lose.... I think most of us have said it has been disappointing," Simpson said, barely able to connect these thoughts. "We look at ourselves in the mirror and it is hard after a game when you have gone home after you have been beat."

Yet the interior struggles of the players do not provide a reason to cast out what Ranieri delivered: an experience and joy for the ages, which joined the club and the city to every corner of the globe. If Srivaddhanaprabha possessed the remotest intuition for football and its rhythms, then the memory of such moments as Ranieri's post-match Press conference at Sunderland last Spring would have stood in the way of such felony as this.

Ranieri's players win over the home side in the sunshine was a giant stride towards the title and there was an indelible emotion as the Italian reflected on an elderly woman he had seen in a Leicester City shirt from his seat on the team bus. "An old lady with a Leicester shirt outside the stadium... I say: 'Unbelievable. They come from Leicester to support us.' This is my emotion. It is fantastic. I was on the bus. I saw them, unbelievable, and I want to say thank you for the support. They are dreaming and we want to continue to dream."

If Leicester had been staring down the barrel of relegation, then perhaps there might be a remote justification for Srivaddhanaprabha tearing at the basis of such spontaneous talk as that – though hardly. Such have been the Italian's accomplishments that to take the side all the way down a division would not justify an axe being wielded. But the factor which loses Leicester so many of the friends last season made them is that survival is by no means beyond them, despite their five match losing run since they collected four points from six over the New Year. THE INDEPENDENT

Green light for three Russian athletes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
Monaco, 24 February

Three Russian athletes have been given the green light to compete internationally under a neutral flag by athletics' world governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations.

Pole vaulter Anzhelika Sidorova, sprinter Kristina Sivkova and hammer thrower Aleksei Sokirskii all met the "exceptional eligibility criteria" to compete in international competition as neutral athletes, the IAAF said yesterday, on the same day as the entry deadline for the March 3-5 European Indoor Championships in Belgrade.

The trio joins long jumper Darya Klishina and doping whistle-blower and former drugs cheat Yuliya Stepanova, who were previously declared eligible to compete. The Russian athletics federation (RusAF) remains suspended from competition because of widespread state-sponsored doping, but individual athletes can compete as neutrals if they are proved to be drug-free.

"Their participation as neutral athletes in international competition is still subject to acceptance by the individual athlete and the organiser of the competition in question, in accordance with the rules of that competition," the IAAF added in a statement.

The IAAF has received a total of 48 applications from Russian athletes, 28 of which have been endorsed by RusAF. Six applications have also been declined whilst the remaining applications, "many for competitions later in the year, are currently under review," it added.

IAAF president Sebastian Coe ***(in photo)*** said "The application process to compete internationally as neutral athletes is about our desire to support the hopes and aspirations of all clean athletes, including Russian athletes who have been failed by their national system.

"While prioritising applications based upon the entry deadlines of the competitions concerned, the primary responsibility of the Doping Review Board must always be to safeguard the integrity of competition."

ZULPIKAR REFUSES TO FIGHT

New Delhi, 24 February: WBO Oriental super middleweight champion Zulpikar Miamiatiali, who was set to fight WBO Asia Pacific Super middleweight champion Vijender Singh in Mumbai on April 1, has backed out of the bout, the promoters IOS Boxing announced on Friday.

According to IOS Boxing Promotions, the talks with the Chinese promoters have fallen flat, but the fight will take place as scheduled with another boxer, who will be announced soon.

"Zulpikar has refused to fight Vijender Singh, but that does not mean that the fight will not take place... it is likely to happen later in the year. However, the bout, set for April 1 in Mumbai, has not changed. We are talking to other boxers in the same category as Vijender and we will announce the opponent soon... Later in summer," IOS Boxing Promotions promoter Neerav Tomar said in a statement.

Vijender, who is currently training in Manchester under his trainer Lee Beard said: "I like to take things positively, I am sure Zulpikar has his reasons for not fighting. However, I am ready to fight whoever is my next opponent." IANS

THE FOXES HAVE LOST THEIR LAST FIVE LEAGUE GAMES WITHOUT SCORING A SINGLE GOAL

Hazard warns Chelsea, Leicester face storm

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
London, 24 February

Eden Hazard ***(in photo)*** has warned Chelsea not to lose their focus as the runaway Premier League leaders approach the final furlong in the title race, while crisis-torn champions Leicester face up to life without sacked boss Claudio Ranieri.

Antonio Conte's side are eight points clear at the top with just 13 games remaining and they have a golden opportunity to extend that lead when they host lowly Swansea on Saturday.

Second-placed Manchester City are not in action this weekend because their derby against Manchester United was postponed because of their rivals' League Cup final showdown with Southampton on Sunday.

That gives the Blues a chance to pull clear against a Swansea side who will be heavy underdogs despite their impressive rise out of the relegation zone under the management of former Chelsea assistant coach Paul Clement.

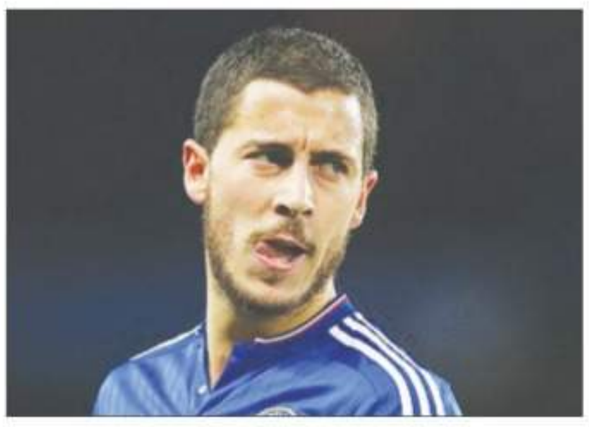
However, Chelsea showed a rare sign of vulnerability in a 1-1 draw at Burnley in their previous league match and Belgium playmaker Hazard insists his team can take nothing for granted as they look to regain the title.

"We just need to keep the same concentration. It's more difficult to play away because of the fans, but we are ready, we are professional. We can deal with the pressure. Everything is going good," Hazard said.

"We know if we want to be champions, in our home stadium we have to win most of our games. We can't say all 19 because we have already lost to Liverpool, but we have to win 16 to 17 because it is our place and we are ready to deliver."

On Monday, Leicester will start the post-Ranieri era as the troubled champions host Liverpool in their first match since the Italian's shock dismissal.

Ranieri was brutally axed on Thursday, just



nine months after Leicester's incredible title triumph, because the club's Thai owners feared relegation was an increasingly realistic prospect.

The Foxes have lost their last five league games without scoring a single goal, plunging them to with one point of the relegation zone less than a year after the fairytale success that captivated the world.

A 2-1 midweek Champions League last 16 first leg loss in Sevilla, a defeat that could have been much heavier, was the last straw amid growing talk of player unrest at Ranieri's tactical tinkering.

"It was never our expectation that the extraordinary feats of last season should be replicated this season. Indeed, survival in the Premier League was our first and only target at the start of the campaign," Leicester vice-chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha said.

"But we are now faced with a fight to reach that objective and feel a change is necessary to maximise the opportunity presented by the final 13 games."

Assistant manager Craig Shakespeare and Mike Stowell have taken caretaker charge ahead of Monday's clash at the King Power Stadium.

Liverpool can't afford any sympathy for Leicester's plight as they aim for a win that would take them back into the top four.

Jurgen Klopp's fifth placed team ended a run of five games without a win by beating Tottenham and Reds midfielder Adam Lallana, who signed a new contract this week, is confident of a strong finish to the season. "We have a world-class manager and coaching staff and because it's Liverpool there is that added X-factor of the supporters and what success would mean to them when we achieve it here," Lallana said.

Third placed Tottenham must beat Stoke at White Hart Lane on Sunday to keep alive their slender hopes of overhauling Chelsea.

Mauricio Pochettino's side are 10 points adrift of their London rivals after winning only one of their last four league matches.

"When we start a game, if you only watch 50 seconds, you don't need to be a genius to know we may struggle and have some problems in that game," Pochettino grumbled.

"The problem is when you start not in a good way, it's too difficult to change that perception and then you give a very good signal to the opponent that you are not focused on the game."

Sunderland manager David Moyes takes his bottom of the table side back to his old club Everton, while second bottom Crystal Palace face a crucial clash with fellow strugglers Middlesbrough.

Fixtures

On Saturday
Chelsea v Swansea, Crystal Palace v Middlesbrough, Everton v Sunderland, Hull v Burnley, Watford v West Ham, West Brom v Bournemouth

On Sunday
Tottenham v Stoke

On Monday
Leicester v Liverpool

The Statesman Sport

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THUMBNAILS

New duo: Kolkata Knight Riders' Manish Pandey said on Friday new recruits Chris Woakes and Trent Boult would make a lot of difference for the franchise in the Indian Premier League. Woakes and Boult were bought for Rs 4.2 crore and Rs 5 crore, respectively.

Duckett's demand: England cricketer Ben Duckett has called for shifting the final of the Pakistan Super League back to Dubai in the wake of the Lahore blast on Thursday. Duckett is a member of the Islamabad United squad being led by Misbah-ul-Haq.

Third arrest: British police have announced that a third suspect had been arrested in connection with their investigation into international cricket spot-fixing. Officers arrested a British man in his 30s on Thursday in the Sheffield area as as part of probe into spot-fixing.

Top choice: Undeterred by the criticism of a member of the committee tasked with recommending a coach for the Indian U-17 team, the All-India Football Federation today asked the panel members to meet Portugal's Luis Norton de Matos, the top choice.

Lahiri third: In Palm Beach, Florida, Anirban Lahiri registered his best start of the season with a five-under 65 that put him in a tied-third place at the end of the first round at the Honda Classic. The 28-year-old Indian has been giving himself good starts.

Hockey league: The stage is set for the semi-finals of the fifth edition of the Hockey India League with a clash between Kalinga Lancers and Uttar Pradesh Wizards in Chandigarh on Saturday. Dabang Mumbai are to take on Delhi Waveriders after that.

DIFFERENT STROKES

Sania Mirza (*photo, left*) is quite improbably in the news in Pakistan as the country's cricket officials try to persuade high-profile international players to participate in the Twenty20 Super League's final in trouble-torn Lahore. Mirza's husband, Shoaib Malik, has been reported by the *Dawn* to be telling the reluctant cricketers that she comes to Pakistan without requesting official security.

IT'S ADVANTAGE AUSTRALIA ON DAY TWO

INDIA BUNDLED OUT FOR 105 AS STEVE O'KEEFE TAKES 6-35 IN SECOND-DAY HIGH DRAMA

AGENCIES
Pune, 24 February

Left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe (*in photo*) grabbed a career-best haul of 6-35 to put Australia on top before skipper Steve Smith compounded India's misery with an unbeaten fifty in the first Test in Pune Friday.

The visitors reached 143-4 at stumps on day two, which saw a total of 15 wickets fall at Pune's Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium. O'Keefe, whose six wickets came off just 24 balls, helped Australia bundle India out for 105 in the afternoon session before the visiting batsmen rammed home their advantage against the world's top Test team. Smith on 59 and Mitchell Marsh on 21 were at the crease as Australia stretched their lead to 298 runs on a turning track at India's newest Test venue.

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed three wickets, including the early scalps of openers David Warner and Shaun Marsh.

Smith, who was dropped three times, went on to register his 21st Test half-century in his 51st match.

First innings top-scorer Matt Renshaw, who did not open the batting after staying off the field with nausea during most of India's innings, hung on with Smith for a 52-run partnership.

Renshaw (31), who also had to temporarily retire ill with a stomach upset during his first innings knock on Thursday, once again found it hard to cope with the heat as he suffered from bouts of dehydration.

But the Indian fielders were also left feeling the heat as they dropped four catches. Ishant Sharma finally clung on to a skier at long-off after Renshaw mistimed a hit off Jayant Yadav. Smith then steadied the innings with Mitchell Marsh as the duo tackled the spinners with aplomb. But it was O'Keefe who stole the show earlier in the day with a blitz of wickets after lunch that saw India's middle and lower order crumble as the hosts conceded a 155-run first innings lead.

O'Keefe went well past his previous best of 3-53 against Pakistan at Sydney in just the fifth match of his Test career. The 32-year-old's stunning exploits put Australia in charge of the first match of the four-Test series but it was a day to forget for Indian captain Virat Kohli, who was dismissed for a rare duck. Kohli, who has hit four double centuries since July last year, walked after just two deliveries for his first duck in a Test since playing against England in August 2014. Paceman Mitchell Starc, who had already made an impact with his gritty 61 in Australia's first innings score of 260, took two wickets including the prized scalp of Kohli. Indian opener Lokesh Rahul top-scored for the home side with a gritty 64 but hurt his shoulder while going for a mistimed heave at long-off and did not take field. The number-two ranked Australia, who lost their last nine Tests in Asia, are looking for an upset win against the world's top side.

SCOREBOARD

Australia 1st innings (Overnight: 256-9)

Starc c Jadeja b R. Ashwin	61
Hazlewood not out	1
Extras (lb-6 nb-9)	15
Total (all out, 94.5 overs)	260

Fall of wickets: 1-82, 2-119, 3-149, 4-149, 5-166, 6-190, 7-196, 8-205, 9-205.

Bowling: I. Sharma 11 - 0 - 27 - 0(nb-1), R. Ashwin 34.5 - 10 - 63 - 3, J. Yadav 13 - 1 - 58 - 1(nb-1), R. Jadeja 24 - 4 - 74 - 2(nb-2), U. Yadav 12 - 3 - 32 - 4(nb-1).

India 1st innings

Vijay c Wade b Hazlewood	10
Rahul c Warner b O'Keefe	64
Pujara c Wade b Starc	6
Kohli c Handscomb b Starc	0
Rahane c Handscomb b O'Keefe	13
Ashwin c Handscomb b Lyon	1
Saha c Smith b O'Keefe	0
Jadeja c Starc b O'Keefe	2
J Yadav st Wade b O'Keefe	2
U Yadav c Smith b O'Keefe	4
Sharma not out	2
Extras (nb-1)	1
Total (all out, 40.1 overs)	105

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-44, 3-44, 4-94, 5-95, 6-95, 7-95, 8-98, 9-101.

Bowling: M. Starc 9 - 2 - 38 - 2(nb-1), S. O'Keefe 13.1 - 2 - 35 - 6, J. Hazlewood 7 - 3 - 11 - 1, N. Lyon 11 - 2 - 21 - 1

Australia 2nd innings

Warner lbw R. Ashwin	10
Marsh lbw R. Ashwin	0
Smith not out	59
Handscomb c Vijay b R. Ashwin	19
Renshaw c I. Sharma b J. Yadav	31
Marsh not out	21
Extras (lb-3)	3
Total (for 4 wickets, 46 overs)	143

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-23, 3-61, 4-113

Bowling: R. Ashwin 16 - 3 - 68 - 3, R. Jadeja 17 - 6 - 26 - 0, U. Yadav 5 - 0 - 13 - 0, J. Yadav 5 - 0 - 27 - 1, I. Sharma 3 - 0 - 6 - 0.

Relaxed Dhoni takes fresh guard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Kolkata, 24 February

Now in the twilight of his career, a relaxed Mahendra Singh Dhoni (*in sns photo*) will lead Jharkhand against Karnataka in a group D fixture of the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Eden Gardens tomorrow.

Dhoni has relinquished national captaincy in all formats and, in the Indian Premier League, he recently suffered a shocking ouster from the leadership of Rising Pune Supergiants, with Steve Smith being named captain.

Dhoni was at an empty Eden Gardens for practice today and there was a reunion of sorts as he ran into Karnataka wicket-keeper Robin Uthappa. Nearly 10 years ago, they won the inauguaral World Twenty20 championship together. Quite unsurprisingly, the duo had a long chat.

Dhoni has an exciting bunch of youngsters at his disposal with Saurabh Tiwary, Virat Singh, Ishank Jaggi and Ishan Kishan compelling popular attention, fresh from winning the Syed Mushtaq Ali Twenty20 title for East Zone.

The opposition camp is equally exciting with Indian top-order batsman Manish Pandey leading the side and the skipper has already made plans to target the former Indian captain.

"We all know, how great a batsman MS is... He's been an inspiration to all of us. It will be always nice to get MS out as early as possible," Pandey said.

"If we're able to do that it would be a great thing. It will be a real advantage for us as a team. We do have our plans to deal with MS. It will be all about disciplined bowling and how we conduct ourselves."

Pandey was hit on the left leg at the nets but the batsman shrugged it off, saying it was a minor injury. "It should be fine by tomorrow. There's a little swelling but it's not a major hit."

Pandey, who won the Indian Premier League with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2014, scoring a match-winning 94, said it was akin to coming home for him.

"Having played for KKR for three seasons, it's like homecoming for me. The feel of the grass, the dressing room... it's an amazing feel out here. We spent about two and a half months here during the IPL."

All eyes will also be on K Gowtham, an off-spinner with a T20 strike rate of 166.66 in batting. Mayank Agarwal, who hit two half-centuries in the Mushtaq Ali competition, will hope to give them a good start.

Saturday's matches: Baroda v Railways, Haryana v Odisha, Punjab v Vidarbha, Delhi v Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh v Maharashtra, Kerala v Tripura, Andhra v Bengal, Gujarat v Mumbai, Madhya Pradesh v Rajasthan, Hyderabad (India) v Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand v Karnataka, Saurashtra v Services.

Indian batsmen were unlucky: O'Keefe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Pune, 24 February

Left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe today said India's batsmen had been unlucky to nick the ball and being caught.

"It's amazing how things can quickly change over here. I was none for 30 off nine overs, probably didn't bowl very well at all in my first six overs. And then, it all just happened really quickly, and I guess that's the sort of wicket it is.

"We played and missed a lot of balls and, fortunately for us, they nicked them and we caught them. So it was a good day to be a part of and it was well finished off by the batters," said O'Keefe after finishing with figures of six for 35.

The 32-year-old said India, who were shot out for 105 in reply to Australia's first innings score of 260, could still fight back with three days left. "It hasn't really sunk in yet. It will, if that contributes to a win. Right now, we'll enjoy we had a good day, but that's all it is. It was a good day's cricket. We all know how good this Indian team are, how well they can bat, and even in spinning conditions they are exceptional players.

"They're all match-winners, they're the top seven, you'd even cite Ravindra Jadeja, and that would make it the the top 8, so we have our work cut out for us. We are nearly 300 ahead, let's get more and let's create 10 chances tomorrow and hold on to these," he said.

ASWHIN SETS RECORD

Pune, 24 February: Ravichandran Ashwin today broke Kapil Dev's 37-year-old Indian record of most Test wickets taken in a domestic season on the second day of the first Test against Australia here.

Ashwin, the fastest in the world to have taken 250 Test wickets, dismissed overnight batsman Mitchell Starc with the fifth ball of the first over of the morning to end the visitors' first innings at 260 and take his tally of wickets in the current home season to 64 in 10 Test matches.

Ashwin thus eclipsed Kapil Dev's earlier mark of 63 wickets in 13 Tests, taken in 1979-80.

His first innings figures of three for 63 in 34.5 overs took the 30-year-old's tally to 257 in 46 matches. PTI

'ANY TEAM COULD HAVE ONE BAD DAY'

Kumble defends performance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Pune, 24 February

India head coach Anil Kumble (*in photo*) sprung to his team's defense after they sensationally surrendered to Australia's inexperienced left arm spinner Steve O'Keefe to be bowled out for 105 and concede a big first innings lead on day two of the first Test on Friday.

The leg spin ace said any team, including India which is having a glorious 19-Test unbeaten streak, was bound to have one bad day even in this successful phase.

"Like you said, you are bound to have one bad day. It was disappointing. We were in a pretty decent position when KL Rahul and Ajinkya Rahane were batting out there. But once Rahul got out, we lost those four wickets in five or six balls. That certainty pushed us back. It was one of those things with a couple of soft dismissals," said Kumble after Australia took command of the opening skirmish of the four-game series at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium. Malaysia-born O'Keefe, in only his fifth Test and first in India, scalped six for 35 in a sensational spell of 6 for 5 in 24 balls to run through the home team's first innings as they lost 7 wickets for 11 runs to be 105 all out.

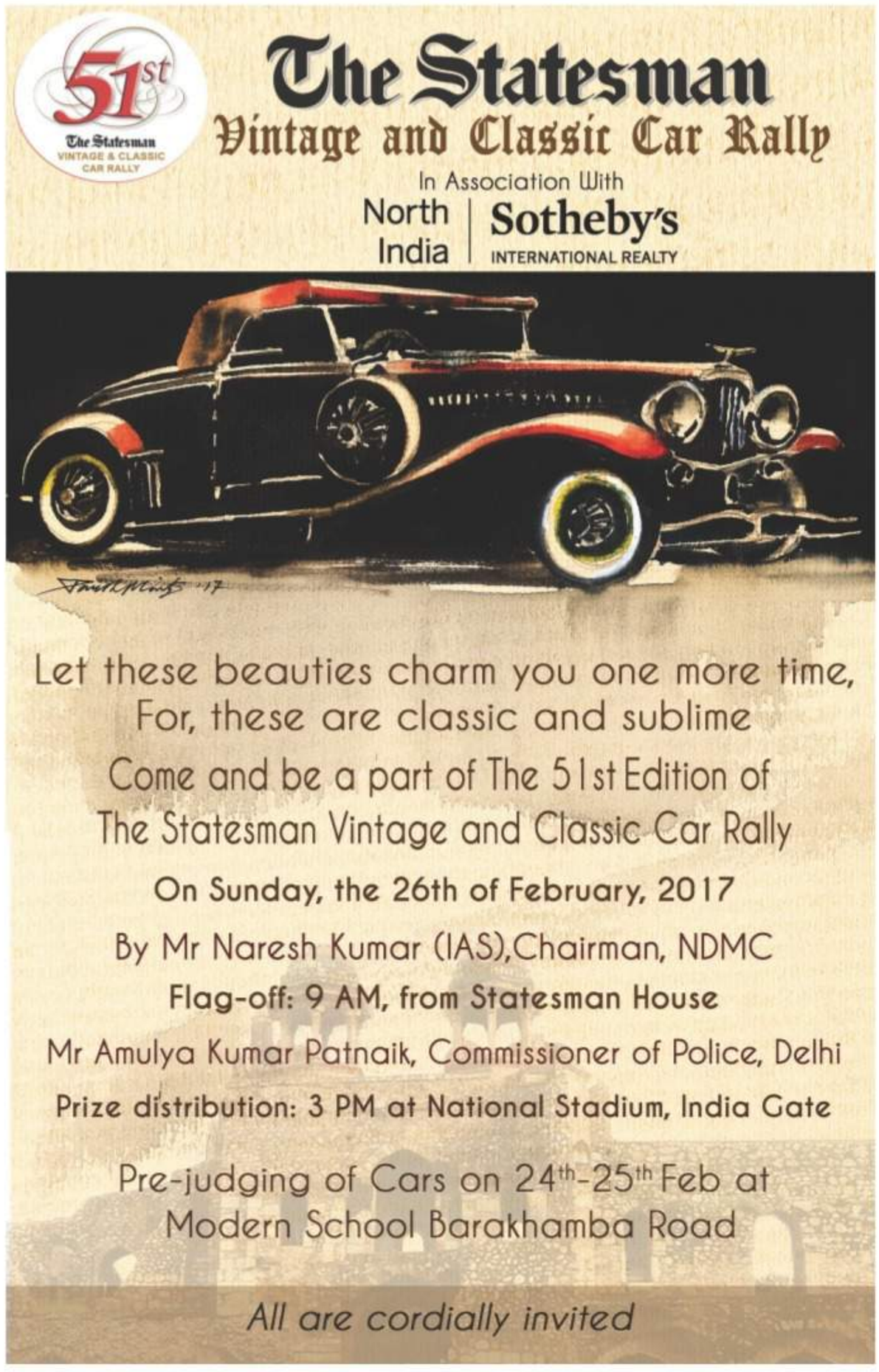
"And this pitch was certainly challenging, so we needed a lot more restraint and showed that if you put your head down, you could make those runs. It was unfortunate that once Rahul got out, we seemed to lose the bearing at that point of time," Kumble explained.

He described the surface, which has been at the focus of attention, as a challenging one.

"It is a challenging surface which requires application, aggression and a bit of caution as well. You need a mix out of that. And today was not our day. We have to give credit to the Australian bowlers as well. It was one of those days when you go back and start, 'Ok, how do we come back and pick those six wickets?'

"It's a surface where you needed to adapt. We didn't adapt really well. Probably if you look at yesterday, the first 80 runs in the first session and the last 60 runs for the last wicket - that slightly took us away from what we were wanting to restrict Australia to. And like I mentioned, we are bound to fail (at times). A couple of batsmen are bound to fail, having been scoring exceptionally well. (Captain) Virat (Kohli) got out today and Pujara got out cheaply; and so did Vijay.

"Once Rahul and Ajinkya had that partnership of 50, that's when we could have consolidated and probably got closer to the target or probably even got a lead. But once we lost that wicket, the lower order has performed brilliantly over the last year or so, just had a poor day. I still feel there's a lot of cricket to be played in this Test."



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