

**OPINION 8**  
 SMELL THE COFFEE  
 ALONG THE CHINA BORDER

**WORLD 12**  
 TRUMP TO ORDER MEXICO BORDER  
 WALL, TIGHTEN IMMIGRATION

**SPORTS 16**  
 INDIA FACE ENGLAND  
 IN FIRST T20 TODAY

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# the pioneer

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68<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

## Prez: We need more, not less, democracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday came out in support of simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. "There are talks of simultaneous elections in the political circles. It could be possible if the political parties seriously arrive at a consensus. It may be possible because it can remove a lot of inconvenience in terms of management," he said, while addressing the nation on the eve of the Republic Day.

Underlining the strength of India's democracy and cautioning against disruptions in Parliament and State Assemblies, the President said, "We have a noisy democracy. Yet, we need more and not less of democracy... The settled complacencies have to be questioned. The edifice of trust has to be strengthened."

"The time is also ripe for a constructive debate on electoral reforms and a return to the practice of the early decades



President Pranab Mukherjee addresses the nation on the eve of 68th Republic Day from Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday. PTI

after Independence when elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were held simultaneously. It is for the Election Commission to take this exercise forward in consultation with political parties."

Former Deputy Prime Minister and senior BJP leader LK Advani, Prime Minister Narendra Modi have supported this idea in the past. After the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law supported simultaneous polls in its

December, 2015 report, the Government had sought the views of Election Commission in this regard.

The Commission had made it clear that it would need nearly ₹10,000 crore, more Electronic Voting Machines and more security personnel for the massive exercise. It had also pointed to the amendments in the Constitution.

Congratulating the electorates, the President said

Continued on Page 4

Pranab Mukherjee asks EC to push talks with political parties for simultaneous elections

### Point OF CONVERGENCE

Senior BJP leader LK Advani raised the issue of simultaneous polls in 1995 and said political parties should come together to "restore the synchronicity of Lok Sabha and all Assembly elections" because their de-linking has "not been good either for the health of democracy or that of the administration". He recalled these two elections were last held simultaneously in 1967 and he received immense support from then Chief Election Commissioner HS Brahma

- After Advani, this idea entered the mainstream debate after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for it during an all-party meeting in March 2016
- Chief Election Commissioner

Nasim Zaidi too batted for this and on National Voters' Day and he said holding simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will require Constitutional amendment and additional resources

- Former CEC HS Brahma had said the cost of Assembly elections comes to around ₹4,500 crore and this could be saved if they are held along with the Lok Sabha polls
- The Law Commission of India had seriously deliberated on it and had come up with specific recommendations way back in 1999
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law supported simultaneous polls in its December, 2015 report

## Don calls India 'true friend', invites Modi

PM terms talks 'warm', extends invitation to US Prez; both vow to battle terror, boost eco ties

S RAJAGOPALAN ■ WASHINGTON



Just four days after his inauguration, US President Donald Trump has heaped praise on India, calling it a "true friend and partner" and extending Prime Minister Narendra Modi an invitation to visit the United States later this year. In a late night telephone conversation on Tuesday, the two leaders vowed to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the global fight against terrorism. They also discussed opportunities to strengthen US-India economic partnership and Defence relations, a White House statement said.

with President @realDonaldTrump late last evening," the Prime Minister tweeted. Modi said it was a "warm conversation" during which they both "agreed to work closely in the coming days to further strengthen our bilateral ties", adding, "Have also invited President Trump to visit India."

In a sign of the level of importance he attaches to India, Trump, who even during his campaign had termed the country "a key strategic ally", chose to call Modi ahead of conversations with many other world leaders and long-term US allies.

"President Trump emphasised that the United States

considers India a true friend and partner in addressing challenges around the world," the White House said in a readout of the conversation between the two leaders.

During the call, the two leaders also discussed security in the South and Central Asia region, the White House statement said, adding, "President Trump looked forward to hosting Prime Minister Modi in the United States later this year."

Modi was just the fifth world leader to be called by Trump since he was sworn-in as the 45th President of the United States last Friday. The only other world leaders he had spoken to in recent days

Continued on Page 4

## Katiyar, Sharad Yadav kick up storm with sexist barbs

BJP does not subscribe to such comments, says Venkaiah Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Vinay Katiyar may not be a 'star' campaigner for the party in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh but has managed to force his way to the centre stage by triggering a major controversy with his jibe at the Congress' 'star campaigner' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, saying "there are more beautiful women than her".

Besides the BJP leader, senior JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav landed himself in a sexist controversy by saying that "the prestige of a vote is bigger than that of a daughter."

Priyanka condemned Katiyar, and the Congress sought an apology from him. The BJP, wary of 'hot heads' in the party making 'extreme comments' and giving 'political opportunities' to the Opposition in UP, quickly dis-



tanced itself from Katiyar's comment.

"Nobody is expected to make personal comments, particularly on women. The BJP does not subscribe to it," Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu said regarding Katiyar's remarks. "Whoever it is, whether it is Priyankaji or somebody else, it is a different matter. A woman is a woman. We are all political rivals. We are not enemies. We have to respect in order to get respect. All such comments are not acceptable to the party," he told reporters.

Priyanka lashed out at Katiyar, saying, "If that's all BJP sees in my colleagues who are each strong, brave and beautiful women who have battled through all sorts of hardships to get where they are, then he makes me laugh even more. Because he exposes the BJP's mindset towards the better half of the population of India!!!"

Continued on Page 4

## Avalanches in Kashmir kill Army officer, 4 others

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

An Army officer and four civilians were killed in avalanches triggered by massive snowfall in Kashmir Valley on Wednesday, while another civilian was killed when the roof of his house caved in because of the pile-up of snow. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department, Kashmir, has warned of the possibility of avalanches in the higher reaches as more snowfall is expected in 24 hours.

Earlier, a massive avalanche hit the base camp of the High Altitude Warfare School at Sonamarg on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, burying alive a group of soldiers. While eight jawans were rescued, an officer of the 115-Territorial Army, Major Amit Sagar, could not be saved.

Defence spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia denied reports that five soldiers were buried by the avalanche.

Continued on Page 4

## Joshi, Pawar, Sangma get Padma Vibhushan

Yesudas too gets 2nd highest civilian award; Virat Kohli, Kailash Kher get Padma Shri; India's unsung heroes among 89 Padma awardees

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Political heavyweights Murli Manohar Joshi, Sharad Pawar and former Lok Sabha Speaker late PA Sangma, cricketer Virat Kohli and singer KJ Yesudas are among the 89 people who have been selected for this year's Padma awards. Of them, Joshi, Pawar, Sangma and Yesudas, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and BJP veteran late Sunderlal Patwa, spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev and former ISRO Chairman Professor Udupi Ramachandra Rao have been chosen for Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award.

Bharat Ratna, the highest



civilian honour, will not be conferred on anyone this year. This year's list of 89 Padma awardees is supposed to be the shortest in many years.

This year's list of Padma awardees includes many unsung heroes from various walks of life. "The focus of the Padma awards this year was on recognising and honouring the

talent of unknown heroes in the country," said Home Ministry officials.

Prominent among them are 91-year-old Bhakti Yadav, popularly known as "Doctor Dadi" from Indore, captain of the India Blind cricket team Shekhar Naik, 76-year-old Meenakshi Amma from Kerala, who began her martial art

classes at the age of seven, Karimul Haque (52), a tea garden worker affectionately called "Ambulance Dada" and Dr Subroto Das the "Highway Messiah" who is one of the pioneers in bringing medical relief to accident victims on national highways.

Out of the total 89 people, 19 of the awardees are women. The list also includes five persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs and six posthumous awardees. For the first time, the Padma list does not include any Bollywood star. Two persons, Bharathi

Continued on Page 4

## HEROES OF SURGICAL STRIKE HONOURED WITH GALLANTRY MEDALS

New Delhi: Special Forces teams which carried out surgical strikes inside POK in September last year bag many gallantry medals on Republic Day, including Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and Sena Medal. P5

**MARKETS**  
 SENSEX 27,375.58 ↑ 258.24  
 NIFTY 8,475.80 ↑ 84.30

**WEATHER**  
 MAX 25.6°C (+4)  
 MIN 12.0°C (+2)  
 Generally cloudy sky

**CAPSULE**  
**E-SHOPLIFTING BUSTED, 4 HI-TECH THIEVES HELD**  
 New Delhi: A gang of four digital shoplifters who used to empty promotional e-vouchers has been arrested in Delhi.

**INDIA INKS PACT WITH UAE TO FILL OIL RESERVES**  
 New Delhi: India on Wednesday signed 14 agreements with the UAE, including a deal allowing the Gulf nation to fill strategic storage facility in southern India.

**GOA JAILBREAK BID: INMATE KILLED, JAILOR HURT**  
 Panaji: A prisoner was killed, while a jailor, four security guards and 12 inmates were injured when nearly 49 prisoners took a sub jail in Goa to "hostage" and tried to flee.

## NGT asks JNU to give proof of compliance of SC green order

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday directed Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) to submit the evidence of compliance of Supreme Court order for depositing ₹5.35crore (one third amount of total construction cost) with Ridge Management Board and plan-tation of 1,103 trees with proof of having paid maintenance charges for five years with the Department of Forest, Government of National Capital Territory (GNCT).

Taking the cognisance of the violations, the Supreme Court has ordered FDA and JNU to submit final affidavit on this matter.

On May 12, 2016, The Pioneer had reported this case with headline "7 JNU buildings violate norms, face storm".

Continued on Page 4

# LIC ... Har pal aapke saath

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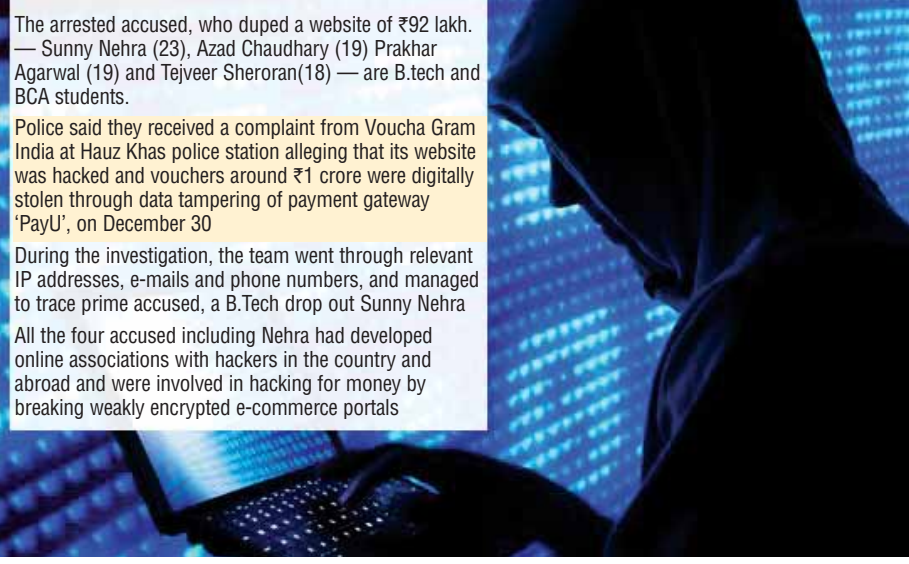
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम  
 LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Gang of e-shoppers busted; 4 held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has busted a gang of digital shoplifters who had developed an expertise in digitally emptying promotional e-vouchers by exploiting security vulnerabilities of famous e-commerce websites.

The arrested accused, who have duped a website of ₹92 lakh — Sunny Nehra (23), Azad Chaudhary (19) Prakhar Agarwal (19) and Tejveer Sheroran(18) — are B.Tech and BCA students.



Police said they received a complaint from Voucha Gram India at Hauz Khas police station alleging that its website was hacked and vouchers around ₹1 crore were digitally stolen through data tampering of payment gateway 'PayU', on December 30.

During the investigation, the team went through relevant IP addresses, e-mails and phone numbers, and managed to trace prime accused, a B.Tech drop out Sunny Nehra

All the four accused including Nehra had developed online associations with hackers in the country and abroad and were involved in hacking for money by breaking weakly encrypted e-commerce portals

The team went through relevant IP addresses, e-mails and phone numbers, and managed to trace prime accused, a B.Tech dropout Sunny Nehra, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South).

same gift card again and again, placing online orders without any actual payment and making small payments. The digital money siphoned off by them was used on living a luxurious life and buying sophisticated proxy servers, virtual private networks, high end laptops used by them.



Hansraj hoists Tricolour atop 207-feet high mast

PARIDHI KHANDELWAL ■ NEW DELHI

political, social or religious affiliations.

Hansraj College became the first college in Delhi University to have hoisted a gigantic Tricolour on a 100-foot tall pole.

The Tiranga unites us in diversity; it is every citizen's pride. I urge all Indians, especially the youth, to proudly display the Tiranga and show love and respect for our National Flag throughout the year.

Former Member of Parliament (MP) and an alumnus of the college, who is the president of Flag Foundation of India (FFOI) Naveen Jindal, unfurled the National Flag on Wednesday, coinciding with the Founder's Day.

Besides India, there are 13 more countries, which have got such monumental flagpoles. The concept of the Monumental flagpoles in India was conceived and introduced by the founder of the Flag Foundation, Naveen Jindal on January 23, 2009.

This is the second monumental flag by FFOI in Delhi after the 207-foot monumental flag installed at Central park, Cannaught Place in 2014.

The FFOI has so far installed 52 monumental flagpoles of 100 feet high and 12 monumental flagpoles of 207-foot high across the length and breadth of the country.

Speaking at the occasion, Jindal, said, "This is a very special moment for me. Being an alumnus of Hansraj College, I am extremely elated that it is the first college in Delhi University to have installed a monumental Flag. Tiranga belongs to all of us equally. When a person displays his national flag, he rises above

When a person displays his national flag, he rises above

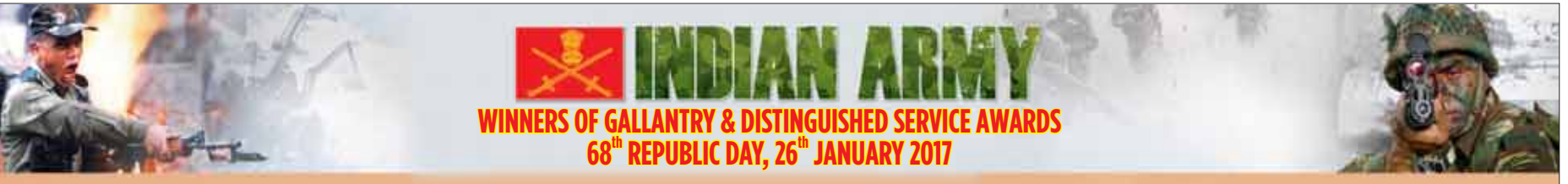


Table listing winners of Gallantry & Distinguished Service Awards for the 68th Republic Day, 26th January 2017. Includes categories like Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Kirti Chakra, Uttam Seva Medal, and Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES HEADQUARTERS 26 SECTOR ASSAM RIFLES c/o 99 APO

II.11014/SPR/ENGR/2016-2017/94 Dated: 18 Jan 2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. Online e-tender with tender fees are hereby invited on behalf of President of India from Assam Rifles approved contractors and enlisted contractors working with other Central Government department/organization meeting eligibility criteria for selection of contractor for the following work:

Table with 5 columns: S/No, Name of works, Approximate cost (in lakhs), Earnest money (in ₹), Tender fee (in ₹). Row (a) details construction of Sedimentation Tank under development works and bulk services for HQ 26 Sector Assam Rifles at Pallel.

2. Last date for uploading the tender documents by bidders duly completed in all respect is at 1130h on 07 Feb 2017 (21 days from the date of publish of E-tender).

3. The lump sum amount to be quoted for the entire work by the tenderers shall include all taxes including WCT and labour cess as applicable till completion of work and processing of final bill.

4. Tender fee is required to be submitted with the application by Bank Draft/ Treasury Challan Only in favour of Director General Assam Rifles, c/o 99 APO under Head of Account 0048 Police (A-5) Assam Rifles, Misc Tender Fee.

5. The Director General Assam Rifles as the CFA reserves the right to reject or accept any application/tender without assigning any reasons.

6. Any inquiries by the tenderer may be obtained from the undersigned on any working day from 0830 hours to 1730 hour. This tender notice is also available on the Assam Rifles website at www.assamrifles.gov.in.

# Follow our revolutionary work: CM to Centre, States

During his speech, Kejriwal emphasises only the praiseworthy work of AAP, sending an indirect message to voters in poll-bound Punjab and Goa where his party has high hopes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed his Government's work as "revolutionary" while he suggested the Centre and States to adopt it as a "model of progress" for the development in the sector of health and education across the country.

While addressing the 'Republic Day' function at

Chattarsal Stadium on Wednesday, Kejriwal focused on Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) "good governance" agenda. During his 23-minute speech, he emphasised only the praiseworthy work of AAP, sending an indirect message to the voters in poll-bound Punjab and Goa where his party has high hopes.

"When our Government was formed in Delhi, we



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Dy CM Manish Sisodia waves as he stands among children performing a cultural programme during Republic Day celebrations at Chattarsal Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ramjan Dimri | Pioneer

focused on education, health and brought revolution in these two sectors. In the first budget, we doubled education funds besides increasing health budget by one-and-a-half times. Some people criticise Government for spending a lot of money on health and education, but I don't consider it as an expenditure, but as future investment," Kejriwal said in his address. The Delhi Chief Minister said if people are educated and healthy, country will progress swiftly.

"I want to send a message on the occasion of Republic Day that if Centre and all State Governments today (Wednesday) vow to focus on education and health our coun-

try will make great strides. "This is good that there are best private schools and hospitals. But, giving quality education and healthcare facilities is also the responsibility of any Government," he stressed.

He also said the Delhi Government is setting up 1,000 mohalla clinics and 122 poly clinics across the city to provide quality health facilities to the people in the national Capital.

Kejriwal, however, said there are several things "we are yet to do and I am very sure we will go long way and succeed with the blessing of people".

Without mentioning BJP and Congress, he said the people of Delhi had uprooted "established" political parties

two years back and given mandate to a new party (AAP) of the common man and "I congratulate Delhiites" for that.

Lauding his deputy Manish Sisodia for works in education sector, the Delhi CM said the Government has constructed around 10,000 rooms to decongest classrooms and also sent teachers and principals of government schools to IIM and abroad for better training.

He claimed the facilities the Delhi Government is providing in its schools are not available in schools across the globe.

He also said the Delhi Government did not allow private schools to increase fee and let education turn into a business.

## Kejriwal gets death threats; top cop informed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has received death threats on his official e-mail following which Police Commissioner Alok Verma has been approached by the city Government to look into the matter.

The case is being investigated by the Crime Branch, confirmed Ravindra Yadav, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) on Wednesday.

Sources in the Delhi Government said the death threat was sent to Kejriwal through email on Wednesday as well as Friday.

Delhi Home Secretary S N Sahay has apprised Police Commissioner Verma about the threat and requested him to look into it urgently.

Sahay has also forwarded the threat emails to the police commissioner, sources said. The sender of the mails has not disclosed identity.

## R-DAY SECURITY

# Cops to look out for stray animals

According to officers of the Delhi Police, they have been alerted that terrorists can hide bombs in cattle's belly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Republic Day celebrations, security agencies have alerted the Delhi Police personnel to look out for stray animals in and around the India Gate area on Thursday. According to senior police officers of the Delhi Police, they have been notified that alleged terrorists can hide a bomb in the belly of cattle.

"According to the security alert issued by the security agencies, as many as 15,000 police personnel, personnel from the Central Police agencies will be solely deployed in the India Gate area.

Sources said the Delhi police, is making all efforts to ensure a safe Republic Day. Police Commissioner Alok Kumar Verma has cancelled leaves of all police officials for January



File photo

26. Cops have been directed to keep sufficient bullet-proof jackets in every PCR van.

Areas around India Gate have been put under a massive security cover. The charge of ensuring security has been completely taken over by security units, both the Delhi Police and the Special Protection Group (SPG), and the Ministry of Defence from the CISF.

Sufficient canine squads from the CISF, ITBP, the Delhi Police and Army are sniffing out each and every inch of the area to look for sabotage devices like IEDs and bombs.

A multi-tier ground-to-air security ring has been thrown to thwart terror attacks at Indian Gate. Drone detectors and paragliders, apart from tyre killers at 44 blockades are also going to be put in place to secure the area. Over 9,000 men will be deployed. Around 500 CCTV cameras will be placed on the rooftops. "The area is sanitised a dozen times daily with the help of the dog squad and bomb detection teams. Quick response teams (QRT) patrol at the periphery. The CISF intelligence wing is sharing inputs with other agencies to strengthen the security rings," said a senior CISF officer.

## Gurugram police braces for Jan 29 Jat quota stir

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In a bid to avoid unwanted situation following the threat of Jat agitation on January 29, the Gurugram city administration has decided to deploy around 4,000 police across the city and had conducted a mock drill last Sunday.

The city police claimed that they are well equipped with anti-riot vehicles, water cannons etc to deal with any unwanted situation during the agitation. The security of all sensitive points like Delhi-Gurugram border, Gurugram-Jhajjar Border and Gurugram-Mewat border has been stepped up.

Also, traffic movement on the NH-8 (National Highway), roadways depots and railway station will be under close watch. Apart from the police personnel, Rapid Action Force (RAF), Quick Response Team (QRT) will also be deployed to handle the protesters. "We have taken all the necessary preparations to deal with an agitation. We have given special training to our several police team to tackle any problem during the protest," said Manish Sehgal, spokesperson of Gurugram Police.

Yashpal Malik, president of All India Jat Arakshan Sangharsh Samiti (AIJSS), had announced that from January 29, peaceful protests would be launched in all districts of Haryana untill the demand fulfilled.

Last year around 19 districts of the State witnessed massive protests over the issue in which 30 people dead and over 200 injured. Sonapat, Jind, Rohtak, Panipat, Jhajjar, Hisar and other districts were the worst affected during the Jat agitation last year. The Government and private property worth hundreds of crores was damaged and set on fire.

## Jamia registrar Siddiqui awarded President's Medal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior police officer and Registrar of Jamia Millia Islamia, AP Siddiqui, has been awarded President's Medal for Distinguished Service on the occasion of country's 68th Republic Day.

Siddiqui, a 1991 batch IPS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre who joined as Registrar JMI on deputation in October last year, is also the recipient of President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2008.

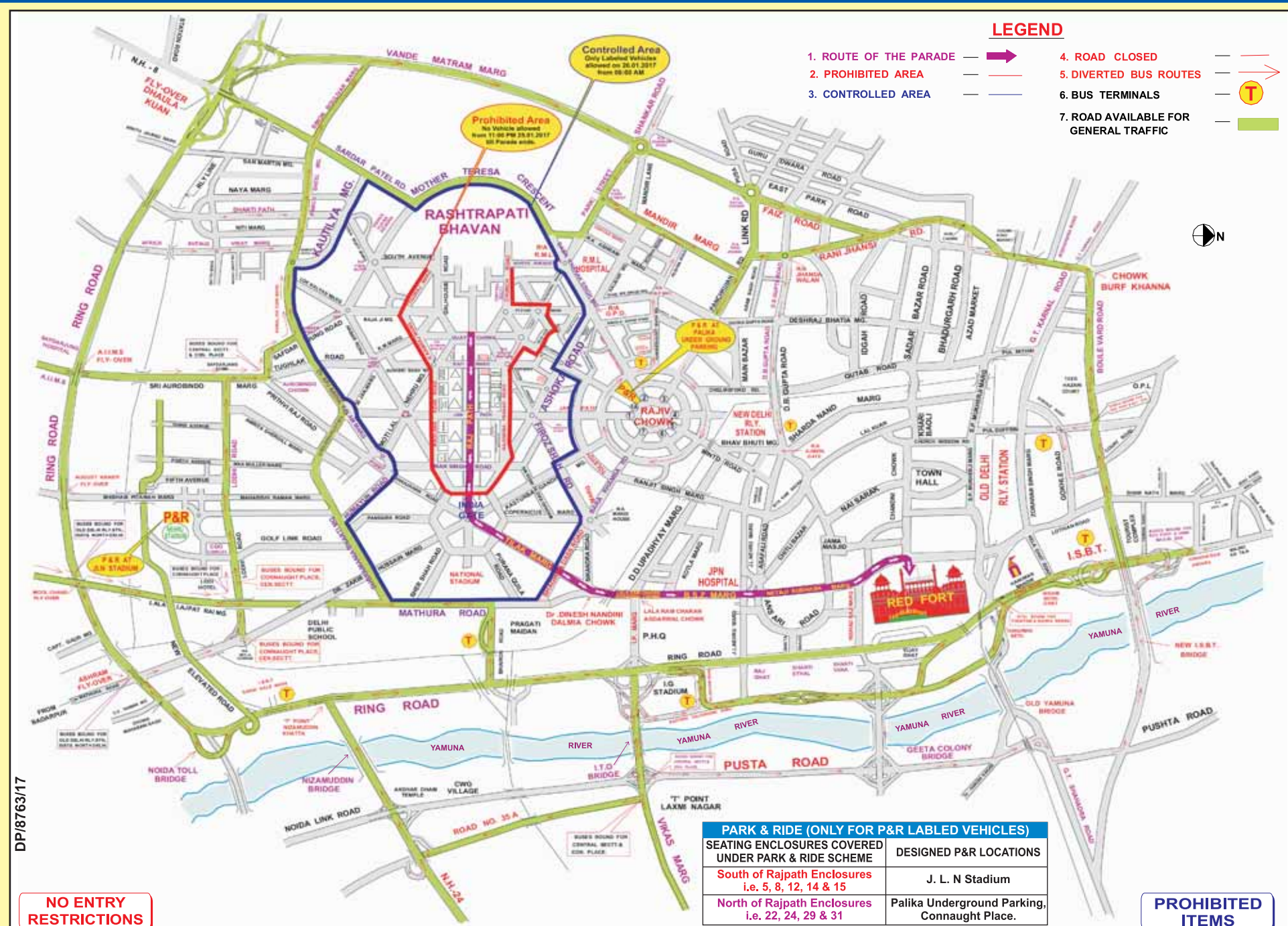
President's Police Medal is a decoration awarded to members of law enforcement in India for distinguished service in the police or in central police or security organisations. Before joining Jamia, Siddiqui was Additional Director General of Police (Headquarter) in Himachal Pradesh.

Besides serving as district police chief in three districts in Himachal Pradesh, he was also Superintendent of Police (Anti Corruption). In 2001 he was part of the UN's Mission in Kosovo. He has also served at the Narcotics Control Bureau in Delhi from 2004-09 on deputation.

# TRAFFIC ADVISORY

## Republic Day Parade 26th January, 2017

ROUTE OF THE PARADE: - VIJAY CHOWK » RAJPATH » INDIA GATE » TILAK MARG » BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG » NETAJI SUBHASH MARG » RED FORT



SUGGESTED ROUTES	
<b>NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR</b>	
• Ring Road - Ashram Chowk - Sarai Kale Khan - I.P. Flyover - Rajghat - Ring Road.	
• From Aurobindo Chowk - Safdarjung Road - Kamal Ataturk Marg - Kautilya Marg - Sardar Patel Marg - Mother Teresa Crescent - R/A RML - Baba Kharak Singh Marg.	
• Prithvi Raj Road - Rajesh Pilot Marg - Subramania Bharti Marg - Mathura Road.	
<b>EAST-WEST CORRIDOR</b>	
• Ring Road - Bhairon Road - Mathura Road - Subramania Bharti Marg - Rajesh Pilot Marg - Prithvi Raj Road - Safdarjung Road - Kamal Ataturk Marg - Panchsheel Marg - Simon Bolivar Marg - Vande Matram Marg.	
• Ring Road - Bhairon Road - Mathura Road - Lodhi Road - Aurobindo Marg - Safdarjung Road - Teen Murti Marg - Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Shankar Road - Ring Road.	
• Ring Road - Boulevard Road - Barf Khana Chowk - Rani Jhansi Road - Faiz Road - D.B. Gupta Road.	
<b>FOR NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION</b>	
• From South Delhi:- Mother Teresa Crescent - R/A RML Hospital - Baba Kharak Singh Marg - Outer Circus Connaught Place - Chelmsford Road for Paharganj side or Minto Road - Bhavbhuti Marg for Ajmeri Gate.	
• From East Delhi:- Boulevard Road via ISBT Bridge - Rani Jhansi Road via Jhandewalan - D.B. Gupta Road - Sheela Cinema Road - Paharganj.	
<b>FOR OLD DELHI RAILWAY STATION</b>	
• From South Delhi:- Ring Road - Ashram Chowk - Sarai Kale Khan - Ring Road - Rajghat - Ring Road - Chowk Yamuna Bazar - S.P. Mukherjee Marg - Chhatta Rai - Kauria Bridge. Though there will be no restriction for people from North Delhi going to wards New Delhi Railway Station or Old Delhi Railway Station yet it is advised that they plan their journey in advance and take sufficient extra time to reach their destination to avoid possible delay.	
<b>BUS TERMINATING POINTS</b>	
Movement of the City Bus Services will be curtailed at the following Terminal points:-	
1. Park Street/Udyan Marg	2. Aram Bagh Road (Pahar Ganj)
3. R/A Kamla Market.	4. Delhi Sachivalaya (IG Stadium)
5. Pragati Maidan	6. Hanuman Mandir (Bhairon Road)
7. Mori Gate	8. ISBT Sarai Kale Khan
9. ISBT Kashmiri Gate	
<b>INTER STATE BUSES</b>	
i) Buses from Ghaziabad bound for Shivaji Stadium shall take NH-24, Ring Road and terminate at Bhairon Road.	
ii) Buses coming from Ghaziabad side will be diverted at Mohan Nagar towards Bhopura Chungi for Wazirabad Bridge.	
iii) Buses coming from NH-24 shall take right turn on Road No. 56 and terminate at ISBT Anand Vihar.	
iv) All buses coming from Dhaula Kuan side shall terminate at Dhaula Kuan.	
<b>METRO SERVICES</b>	
Metro Rail Service shall remain available, except Entry/Exit will not be allowed for following Metro Stations.	
⊖ Metro Station	Entry / Exit Closed on 26.01.2017
⊖ Central Secretariat	From 0000 Hrs to 1230 Hrs.
⊖ Udyog Bhawan	
⊖ Patel Chowk	From 0845 Hrs to 1230 Hrs.
⊖ Race Course	
Central Secretariat station will only be used for interchange of passengers between Line 2 and Line 6.	

**NO ENTRY RESTRICTIONS**

No Entry for HTVs/LGVs in Delhi from Borders from 2200 hrs on 25.01.2017 till parade is over.

No Entry for HGVs/LGVs between Sarai Kale Khan to I.S.B.T. Kashmiri Gate on 26.01.2017 from 0730 hrs till 1230 hrs.

**RESTRICTION ON ROUTE OF THE PARADE:**

- No traffic will be permitted from Vijay Chowk to India Gate on Rajpath w.e.f 03.00 PM on 25.01.2017 till Parade is over.
- No cross traffic on Rajpath from 11.00 PM on 25.01.2017 at Rafi Marg, Janpath, Man Singh Road till Parade is over.
- 'C'-Hexagon-India Gate will be closed for traffic from 02.00 AM on 26.01.2017 till parade crosses Tilak Marg.
- Traffic on Tilak Marg, will not be allowed from 10.00 AM on 26.01.2017 on both directions. Cross traffic will only be allowed depending on the movement of the Parade.

**EATABLES ITEMS**  
Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans

**ELECTRONIC ITEMS**  
• Pen, Bag, Briefcase  
• Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder  
• Camera, Binocular, Handycam  
• Digital Diaries, I-pod Palm-top Computers  
• Remote Controlled Car, Pagers, Lock Keys

**SHARP INSTRUMENTS**  
• Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms/Toy Gun  
• Dagger, Sword, Cutting, Sharp/Pointed, Edged Material, Screw Driver  
• Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire

**INFLAMMABLE ITEMS**  
• Cigarettes, Bidi's, Lighter, Match Boxes  
• Alcohol, Spray, Perfumes  
• Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive Etc

**PROHIBITED ITEMS**

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# 'Bofors probe stopped to save Rajiv blushes'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sweden terminated investigation into Bofors arms scandal in an attempt to shield then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi from embarrassment as it felt further probe may throw up more revelations of bribes to Indian officials in the deal, a declassified CIA report said.

It said details of the bribery payments were kept secret under a "scheme" as Sweden wanted to "save" Gandhi from troubles caused due to a Swedish leak while the Nobel Industries, the main company, wanted to avoid an indictment.

"Stockholm wanted to save Gandhi the troubles caused to him by the Swedish leak, and Nobel Industries wanted to avoid a bribery indictment.

"The two sides cooperated, therefore, on a scheme to keep the details of the payments secret. Stockholm eventually called off the entire bribery investigation," the secret CIA report on Bofors arms scandal said.

The report dated March 4, 1988 by the American spy agency said a separate police investigation into the scam was

## 'Soviets did not take seriously Indra pushing Sanjay as heir: CIA reports'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indira Gandhi's efforts to promote her younger son Sanjay as her successor were not taken seriously by the then Soviet Union and it anticipated that Rajiv would be her heir apparent, as per declassified CIA documents.

In a report prepared a day after Indira Gandhi's assassination on October 31, 1984, the CIA assessed that Moscow will be well placed to manipulate India's heightened security concerns in the wake of her killing and Rajiv's success in containing retribution against Sikhs would strengthen Soviet influence over India.

The American spy agency was of the view that the assassination of India's then Prime Minister had cost the USSR one of its "most important" allies in the third world holding her role in forging close ties was "pivotal" though the Soviets had worked painstakingly to institutionalise the relationship.

"The Soviets did not take seriously Gandhi's effort to promote her younger son Sanjay as her successor but did not make the same mistake when Rajiv became the heir apparent after Sanjay's death in 1980," said the report made public recently along with nearly 12 million declassified pages.

terminated in late January 1988 following a trip by the Indian Prime Minister Gandhi to Stockholm.

"Sweden claimed inability to track the payments through Swiss bank accounts after mak-

ing a half-hearted request for Swiss assistance," it said.

Nobel Industries AB was created in 1984 after the merger of the Swedish chemical firm KemaNobel with the Swedish weapons maker Bofors.

# Ministry: 45 sabotage bids on railway tracks reported last year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ringling alarm bells, the Railway Ministry on Wednesday said it reported 45 cases of attempted sabotage and tampering of railway tracks last year. The Ministry's claims come amid increase in train accidents, one of which is even said to be a sabotage carried out by Pakistan's ISI through Bihar-based Indian operatives.

In a hurriedly-convened Press conference, Railway Board Member Mohd Jamshed said that of the 45 cases -- 18 of them were extremist activities in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and other states. "In 13 cases, IEDs were recovered by the side of the tracks, 7 cases were of explosion and three cases were of tampering of equipments like removal of fishplates etc reported," Jamshed said.



He said there has been an increase in derailments this year. "An investigation is done by zonal, divisional and commissioner railway safety (CRS) to assess the cause of an accident," Jamshed said at the Press briefing which he had to address at the Delhi Division DRM office since Rail Bhawan premises was sealed in view of Republic Day security.

Hinting at the possibility of sabotage in the recent spate of train derailments, Jamshed said intensive safety campaigns have been launched with inputs of teams from Japan and Korea to stop such incidents.

# Burj Khalifa lit up in Tricolour to mark India's Republic Day

PTI ■ DUBAI

Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, lit up on Wednesday night in Tricolours - saffron, white and green - to mark 68th Republic Day of India.



"Tonight we celebrate India's 68th Republic Day with a spectacular LED illumination of the Indian National flag on #BurjKhalifa! #India," the official Twitter account of Burj Khalifa tweeted in both English and Arabic languages.

The building in Dubai, which stands at 823 metres, was

World's tallest building Burj Khalifa lit-up in Tri-colours to celebrate India's 68th Republic Day, in Dubai on Wednesday

named in honour of the ruler of Abu Dhabi and president of the United Arab Emirates Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

## INSHORT

### PUTIN GREETES PM MODI, PRESIDENT ON R-DAY

**New Delhi:** Russian President Vladimir Putin has wished President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the Republic Day. In his letter he said: "Your country plays an important and constructive role in solving pressing issues of the regional and international agenda. Special and privileged strategic partnership with India is an invariable priority in Russia's foreign policy. I would like to reiterate our readiness to further strengthening of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in various areas."



### 'EVERY CHILD CAN BECOME GENIUS' ON REPUBLIC DAY

**New Delhi:** On Republic Day, the Grameen Prithabha Vikas Samiti and Sahil Viklang Sahayarth Samiti will hold 'Every Child can become Genius' competition at Sonapat on Thursday. According to Chief Patron of the society, Satish Raj Deshwal, the questions will be based on the curriculum of regular study with over 75,000 students from four districts of Haryana likely to participate. Of them, 35,000 will be girl child.

### WORKSHOP FOR DOCS ON WRITING PAPERS

**New Delhi:** With an aim to help doctors and surgeons to gain expertise in writing well analysed scientific research papers, a workshop is being organised on January 29 by Journal of Clinical Orthopaedics and Trauma (JCOT) in collaboration of Delhi Orthopaedic Association (DOA) and Elsevier, a provider of scientific, technical, and medical information.

### BIGGER PIE FOR HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING SOUGHT

**New Delhi:** Noting that percentage share to family planning in the Budget allocation has remained same between 2013-14 and 2016-17, ie, at 2 per cent of the total Health Ministry's budget, Poonam Mutreja, Executive Director, Population Foundation of India on Wednesday called for higher investments in health and specifically family planning in the upcoming budget announcement. Adequate and proportionate resources invested now will bear positive dividends for the country's future, she said.

### NEW TN LEGISLATION ON JALLIKATTU CHALLENGED

**New Delhi:** The new Tamil Nadu legislation enacted after popular demand to allow bull-taming sport of Jallikattu during Pongal festival was on Wednesday challenged by the Animal Welfare Board of India and rights bodies in Supreme Court, which is likely to hear the matter on January 30.

# 'Central institutes may get more autonomy like IIMs'

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Wednesday announced that more Central institutions could be given increased autonomy and freed from Government's "micro-management" on the lines of the IIM Bill which was given its full autonomy a day earlier.

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said that the IIM Bill

2017 is an indication that other institutes, which excel in their field, could get more autonomy. He said it was being considered that best institutions are given maximum autonomy, those which are average get some autonomy and some regulation while a different system is there for those which are not performing too well.

As he emphasised on the importance of giving more autonomy, Javadekar said that Modi government is a very democratic one where decisions are taken on the basis of consultations. "In this Government, no letter comes from somewhere," he said in what appeared a dig at political rivals.

# EC to RBI: Increase cash withdrawal limit to ₹2L/week for candidates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has requested the RBI to enhance cash withdrawal limit of candidates contesting Assembly polls to Rs 2 lakh per week from the ₹24,000 imposed post demonetisation as they would find it difficult to meet their campaign expenditure. In a letter to RBI Governor Urjit Patel, Director General (Election Expenditure) Dilip Sharma said that this enhanced limit may be kept in place only till the date of declaration of

results on March 11, 2017.

"The ECI has been apprised of the problems being faced by the candidates from different political parties due to imposition of limits on withdrawal of cash from banks," the letter said. The poll panel said despite paying amounts through cheques, candidates still need hard cash for petty expenses.

The Commission said with a weekly withdrawal limit of ₹24,000, a candidate would be able to withdraw ₹96,000 in cash during the election process which lasts three to four week.

# Phase III: No STB deadline extension for cable TV users

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of information & broadcasting on Wednesday said that cable TV users in phase III urban areas will not be able to watch television after 31 January without set-top boxes. Phase III areas include 630 districts across 34 states and union territories including Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar.

As per a statement from the Ministry, cable subscribers in the aforesaid areas are to start

using set-top boxes (STBs), "failing which they would not be able to watch TV services through Cable TV Networks after 31 January, 2017."

The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2011 had mandated a switchover of the existing analog cable TV networks to digital addressable system (DAS) in four phases. Digital switch-over has already taken place in phase I and II areas, while it was scheduled to be completed in phase III and phase IV areas by 31 December 2016.

# Joshi, Pawar, Sangma get Padma Vibhushan

**From Page 1**

Vishnuvardhan (Karnataka), Sadhu Meher (Odisha) were selected from the film fraternity. Yoga Guru Swami Niranjananda Saraswati, father of laparoscopic surgery in India Tehemton Udawadia, Grammy award winner and Hindustani classical instrumentalist Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn were among the seven people selected for Padma Bhushan. Other awardees in this category included Sanskrit scholar Devi Prasad Dwivedi, Jain spiritual Guru Ratna Sundar Maharaj and editor and political satirist Cho Ramaswamy, on whom the award will be

conferred posthumously. Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli, Sakshi Malik, the first woman wrestler from the country to win an Olympic medal, former Lok Sabha Secretary General T K Vishwanathan, Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, former diplomat Kanwal Sibal and singer Kailash Kher are among 75 people chosen for this year's Padma Shri awards.

Well known endocrinologist MM Godbole, film critic Bhawana Somaaya, Farsi writer KN Pandita and French historian Michel Danino, settled in Pudhucherry, engaged in the research of Saraswati River were among others who were selected for the Padma Shri awards.

According to Home Ministry officials more than 18,000 nominations were received for the civilian awards this year.

# Don calls India...

**From page 1**

included Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. When Trump stunned America and the world with his victory over Hillary Clinton in the November 8 elections, Modi was among the first few world leaders to congratulate him. Three weeks earlier, Trump, speaking at an event organised in his honour by the Republican Hindu Coalition in Edison, New Jersey, had let it be known that he, if elected, would push for a strong relationship with India. Touting himself as "a big fan of Hindu and a big fan of India", Trump had declared his intention

to make India and the United States "best friends" with a "phenomenal future together" if he were to emerge victorious.

"Under a Trump Administration, we are going to become even better friends, in fact, I would take the term better out and we would be the best friend," Trump had told a cheering crowd of Indian-Americans, adding, "We're going to have a phenomenal future together... I look forward to working with Prime Minister Modi." However, with Trump pushing ahead with his protectionist "America First" policy, it remains to be seen how the next phase of US-India relations pan out, given the speculation that the Trump administration could deal a hard blow to H-1B work visas that have greatly benefited Indian professionals and IT companies with US operations.

clear whether JNU land falls under South Central Ridge or not," said Sood.

The buildings, under the scanner were 24 type-III flats for staff at Paschimabad, STP in Saraswatiapuram, New hostel building near Shipra hostel, Trans-Disciplinary academic building and Yamuna hostel warden flats and dining on JNU campus.

It may be noted that JNU, the Central University was founded in 1969 and at that time no Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Law was established. However, during the construction of new buildings for School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, EIA Law was fully established which came in existence in 1986.

# NGT asks JNU...

**From Page 1**

After the intervention of the NGT on illegal construction of seven hostel buildings on JNU campus, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) on May 2016 had submitted a site inspection report to the Supreme Court. Anil Sood, president "Chetna", an organisation for environment, said that JNU land comes under the South Central Ridge (Reserve Forest) category and any type of construction is prohibited, "I had filed an RTI in July, 2015 and asked the JNU authorities about the construction of the seven buildings. What was more shocking was the fact that the JNU higher authorities are not

clear whether JNU land falls under South Central Ridge or not," said Sood.

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# Prez: We need more, not...

**From Page 1**

They have the maturity and the 2014 election was an example when after 30 years the electorate gave clear verdict in favour of a particular party. He said simultaneous polls can remove lot of inconvenience both in terms of expenditure and management and hailed the role of the Election Commission in helping the voters and providing them with the necessary infrastructure to come out and vote in large numbers.

Mukherjee noted that in the 2014 general elections, 66 per cent of the voters used their franchise, the highest ever.

His remarks appreciating the role of the Commission in voter awareness comes against the backdrop of some politicians claiming that the EC has overstepped its mandate of election management by getting into the realm of voter awareness and

education. The President said despite having a small set up at Nirvachan Sadan — the Election Commission headquarters — the Commission has in the past held elections in trying circumstances. He said it takes the help of the bureaucracy and teachers in the State told elections.

Mukherjee conferred national awards for best electoral practices for 2016 on 12 officers. On the occasion, the President gave election photo identity cards (EPICs) to five new young voters and felicitated six future voters. The President said he was confident the Election Commission can maintain its existing standards and continues to improvise and evolve.

In his address, Chief Election Commissioner Dr Nasim Zaidi said last year, the poll panel enrolled 1.32 crore voters on its registry. The electoral roll is considerably purified. About 3.5 million voters have been removed from the roll due to various reasons. The Chief Election Commissioner

released the book 'Unfolding Indian Elections - Journey of living democracy' and presented first copy to the President. Dr Zaidi hoped that the first time and future voters will get encouraged to be part of electoral process. Election Commissioners DP Rawat and AK Joti, Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi, Chandra Bhushan Kumar, representatives of political parties, former CECs, heads of 15 Election Management Bodies, international organisations and officers of ECI attended the national level function.

Delhi CEO also conferred an award for opening of electoral museum that is first in the country. Tamil Nadu has been awarded for best electoral practices this year.

Zaidi said new citizens in recently exchanged enclaves between India and Bangladesh for the first time joined the electoral process. The oldest voter Mohd Asghar Ali (104) got to vote for the first time in his entire life time. Ali passed away recently.

# Avalanches in...

**From Page 1**

In the second incident, four members of a family including 19-year-old girl died after an avalanche hit their house in Tulail area of north Kashmir's Gurez Valley along the Line of Control. Sources said the avalanche hit the wooden house of Habibullah Lone at Badugam Village in Bandipora district early on Wednesday morning, smashing it. One male member of the family who could be rescued is in a critical condition.

In Kupwara's Kralpora Village, Abdul Gani died, while his son was injured under the roof of their house collapsed under the weight of the snow. Two houses collapsed in Rafiabed belt of north Kashmir also but there were no reported casualties. Director, Meteorological Department Sonam Lotus said, "The danger of avalanches will increase as we are expecting more snow in the next 24 hours in Kashmir." He asked people living in Gurez, Keran, Machil, Uri and Sonamarg to be vigilant. Meanwhile, the third spell

of snowfall this month has affected normal life as surface and air links between Kashmir Valley and the outside world remained suspended for the second consecutive day. Vehicular movement remained suspended on the vital Srinagar-Jammu National Highway as more snowfall hampered the efforts of highway restoration. All flights to and from the Srinagar International Airport also remained suspended on Wednesday. In capital Srinagar, fresh snowfall has disrupted inter-district road connectivity between Srinagar and other district headquarters. The main roads and other district headquarters were cleared in the morning. However, reports from rural areas and interiors of Srinagar city said link roads remained closed due to snow accumulation. Electricity supply in the Valley has been affected. The authorities are working round the clock to ensure supply of essential items, services besides restoration of electricity. The divisional administration of Kashmir, has appealed people not to worry and take safety measures.

# Katiyar, Sharad...

**From Page 1**

Priyanka's husband Robert Vadra also attacked the BJP leader and demanded that Katiyar publicly apologise for his "misogynistic and atrocious" comments.

Earlier, asked about Priyanka being named as a star campaigner by the Congress for UP polls, Katiyar had said, "It doesn't matter... there are girls and women who are more beautiful than her and are also star campaigners. Some of them are artistes and heroines... They are more beautiful than her. I think Smriti Irani is beautiful and she is also campaigning."

The BJP leader, associated in the past with the Ramjanmabhumi movement, said, "I only said beauty does not get votes and what is

wrong if someone is beautiful. I respect women and there is no question of apologizing."

In the recent weeks Priyanka has played a key role in sewing together an alliance between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party for UP Assembly elections.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the BJP has "insulted" India's womanhood and such conduct, behaviour and words prove the BJP's mentality.

The Congress leader also said that if Modi and Shah have any respect left for women, they should display courage by initiating action against Katiyar for his remarks otherwise women will show their power by voting against the BJP in the upcoming Assembly polls in

five States.

Katiyar, later said, "I have huge respect for women...I haven't said anything wrong. I was only replying to a journalist's question. Priyanka is like my niece."

Meanwhile, Sharad Yadav, who made his controversial remarks at a function in Bihar to emphasise the importance of votes, has been sent a notice by the National Commission for Women.

Yadav had in the past come in for criticism over his comments about BJP leader Smriti Irani in Rajya Sabha and also making light of "bal kati" (short-haired) "modern women."

The JD(U)'s general secretary KC Tyagi reacted saying the party was "sorry" if Yadav's remarks had hurt anybody. Yadav who was apparently speaking on importance of a vote reportedly compared it to a "woman's hon-

our".

"The importance of the ballot paper has to be told to everyone and everywhere... Vote's prestige is bigger than the prestige of a daughter. If a daughter's prestige is compromised, it will only affect a village. But if the vote's prestige is compromised or sold, then it impacts the entire nation," Yadav said.

Subhashini Ali, senior CPI(M) leader and All India Democratic Women's Association president, said politicians needed to be cautious when talking about women.

"Sharad Yadav is a mature politician, but off and on he makes comments like these which reflect his warped understanding of women. Politicians need to exercise great caution while talking about girls and women in this country as they are quite unsafe," she said.

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03	BMC/TENDER NO - 5908	Development of Green Space and Garden Near Airport Bhopal under Amrut MPUADD Building Work 2012	1,80,44,784/-	1,80,500/-	12,500/-	06 months

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**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Monday, the 6th February, 2017 at the registered office, to consider inter alia, and take on record, the un-audited provisional financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 31st December, 2016.

For & on behalf of the Board  
Sd/-  
Place : New Delhi (Sanjeev Aggarwal)  
Date : 24.01.2017 (Whole Time Director)  
DIN No. 00309457

# Kirti Chakra for Major Suri who led surgical strikes



**TERRORIST LAUNCH PADS WERE DESTROYED IN THE CROSS BORDER ACTION BESIDES 35-40 TERRORISTS WERE KILLED IN THE OPERATION. SURI IS FROM 4 PARA (SPECIAL FORCES)**

border action besides 35-40 terrorists were killed in the operation. Suri is from 4 Para (Special Forces).

Besides Kirti Chakra, officers and jawans of the Special Forces teams of 4 and 9 Para, who took part in the surgical strikes, also bagged at least five Shaurya Chakra, the third highest gallantry medal. Twelve personnel got Sena Medal (gallantry) apart from Yudh Seva medals for commanding officers of 4 and 9 Para Special Forces. The recipients are Colonel Kapil Yadav (9 Para) and Colonel Harpreet Sandhu (4 Para).

The Shaurya Chakra

awardees included Major Rajat Chandra (4 Para), Major Deepak Kumar Upadhyay (9 Para), Captain Ashutosh Kumar (4 Para), Naib Subedar Vijay Kumar (4 Para) and Abdul Qayum (9 Para).

In all, two Kirti Chakras and 10 Shaurya Chakras were announced while there is no Ashok Chakra this year. It is the highest peacetime gallantry medal.

Lt General Praveen Bakshi and Lt General PM Hariz, who were superseded by General Bipin Rawat in the race for Army chief, were amongst those awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM).

## CBI officers among 28 chosen for service medals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI officers who probed Satyam, Vyapam and demonetisation-related cases are among the 28 officers who have been awarded with distinguished and meritorious service medals on the occasion of Republic Day. Officers and jawans from BSF, CRPF, ITBP, NSG, SSB and CISF were also awarded with distinguished and meritorious police medals on the eve of the Republic day.

AYV Krishna, Joint Director of CBI from Hyderabad unit, had probed the infamous multi-crore Satyam scam by investigating complex maze of accounts books and other details and managed to file charge sheet



within three months. His probe saw conviction of Satyam Chief Ramalinga Raju and others along with severe fine. Krishna has been awarded President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service this year.

Tarun Gauba, DIG, posted in Chandigarh was involved in the probe of Vyapam scam which had rocked the political scene as allegations of corruption were levelled in the selec-

tion of candidates through Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board also known as Vyapam.

Other officers who have been awarded with President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service include SP Sushil Prasad Singh, PC Thenmozhi, Additional SP Devendra Singh, Deputy SP Kishan Singh Negi, Inspector Bansi Dhar Tiwari and Assistant Sub Inspector G Satyanarayana.

A daredevil BSF jawan Abhijeet K Singh has been decorated with the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) for single-handedly killing two heavily-armed Pakistani drug smugglers in the dead of night along the International Border in Punjab.

The country's largest border guarding force was awarded a total of 53 medals this Republic Day with the distinguished decorations going to Deputy Inspector General Ram Awatar and IG Pankaj Goomer. Awatar, a veteran of anti-Naxal operations, has led his troops in Jammu and Kashmir and will soon take over as the new commander of the BSF in Jammu region.

Four NSG officers Sanjay Pant, Ish Aul, Vivek Bhandral and Virendra Singh Rautela were also awarded for meritorious services.

Fifteen ITBP personnel have been awarded the President's Police Medal for their distinguished and meritorious services on the eve of

the Republic Day. The awardees for the distinguished service medals include Deputy Inspector General Devinder Singh and Inspector Joginder Singh, while those in the meritorious service include Sub-Inspector Gambhir Singh among others.

Thirty-four CISF personnel were decorated with the Presidents Police Medals for distinguished and meritorious service. Among the six awardees under the distinguished medals category are IG Anant Kumar Singh, who has also been decorated with the police medal for gallantry in 2009, for leading an operation that unearthed a Naxals' weapons making factory in Bhopal.

# India, UAE sign Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

VINEETA PANDEY ■ NEW DELHI

Upgrading their relationship to a special status, India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday signed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) agreement that will see closer collaboration and synergy between the two countries particularly in the areas of defence, cyber space and counter-terrorism.

The agreement was part of the 14 pacts signed between the two nations in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the visiting Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, following their bilateral talks. The other agreements included joint defence production, cyber space and maritime cooperation. In a special arrangement, the two leaders also decided to cut down on procedural delays

and work expeditiously in prevention of human trafficking and speeding up rescue, recovery and repatriation of victims particularly women and children.

"Our Strategic Partnership Agreement will make our relationship stronger at the political, security and economic levels," Al Nahyan said in a joint press conference with Modi after the bilateral talks.

Modi said transforming energy ties in strategic direction and Afghanistan also came up for discussions. "Our shared concern on growing threat from radicalisation and terrorism is shaping our cooperation. The MoU on defence cooperation will help steer our defence ties in right direction. We also feel that our growing engagement in countering violence and extremism is necessary for securing our societies. Our closer ties are of importance, not just to both our

countries but to the entire neighbourhood. Our convergence can help stabilise the region," the PM said.

The agreement on defence paves way for deeper collaboration including joint ventures in defence production and research while the Cooperation on Maritime Transport will provide a framework for enhancing bilateral maritime trade ties through facilitating maritime transport, free transfer of monies between contracting parties and reciprocal recognition of ships' documents.

Prior to their delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House, Modi and the Crown Prince held a one-on-one meeting for nearly one hour discussing issues pertaining to counter-terrorism and security situation in the South Asian region. Sources said PM hosting Al Nahyan at his residence was a special honour bestowed on the crown prince. The two leaders

## DEALS SEALED

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership</li> <li>MoU on cooperation in the field of Defence Industry. The two sides will cooperate in areas of armaments, defence industries and transfer of technology.</li> <li>MoU on Institutional Cooperation on Maritime Transport</li> <li>MOU on Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Competency of marine officers, engineers and crews to deepen maritime economic activities</li> <li>MoU on Bilateral Cooperation in the Road Transport and Highways Sector</li> <li>MOU on cooperation in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prevention and combating of human trafficking and expediting rescue, recovery and repatriation especially of women and children.</li> <li>MoU on promoting cooperation in MSMEs Sectors</li> <li>MoU for cooperation in various agricultural fields</li> <li>MoU on mutual exemption of entry visa requirements to the holders of Diplomatic, special and Official Passports</li> <li>MoU between Prasar Bharati and Emirates News Agency (WAM), for cooperation in programme exchange</li> <li>MoU on trade remedial measures to promote cooperation in areas of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mutual interest particularly anti-dumping and allied duties</li> <li>Agreement on Oil Storage And Management between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company for storage of crude oil</li> <li>MOU between National Productivity Council and Al Etihad Energy Services Co. LLC for cooperation in Energy Efficiency Services</li> <li>MOU between National Security Council Secretariat of India and National Electronic Security Authority of the UAE for technology development and cooperation in cyberspace.</li> </ul>
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later also took a small stroll in the lush Hyderabad House lawns prior to their delegation

level talks. In Dubai, as a special honour, the Burj Khalifa was decorated with the Indian

tri-colour with a spectacular illumination through special LED lights.

# Justice MB Lokur reinstated as head of SC's E-committee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI


Chief Justice of India (CJI) JS Khehar has reinstated Justice Madan B Lokur of the Supreme Court as the head of the E-committee after he was removed without notice by former CJI TS Thakur and replaced by a retired judge of Rajasthan High Court.

The E-committee of the Supreme Court, set up in 2004, was formed to implement computerization of all courts across the country and to equip courts with the latest Information Technology and Communications tools.

By an order dated January 20, the E-committee's Patron-in-chief CJI Khehar made Justice Lokur as Judge-in-Charge, replacing the appoint-

ment of former Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Sunil Ambwani. The e-Committee also consists of Supreme Court judges Justices AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud and two others. The invitee members include Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi, Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar, and Justice BD Ahmed of Delhi High Court among others.

In 2012, Justice Lokur was made the judge in-charge of the panel for the first time. Under him, the Committee successfully launched the National Judicial Data Grid for district courts across the country. While he was working on developing a similar Grid for High Courts, the previous CJI removed him without reason.



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# No more Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Kinley in TN from March 1

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**

All soft drinks and mineral water manufactured by multi-national companies like Coca-Cola Company and PepsiCo will disappear from nearly 16 lakh shops across Tamil Nadu from March 1. This was announced by AM Vikramaraja, president of Associations of Tamil Nadu Merchants on Wednesday. This means that brands like Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Kinley will disappear from all retail counters in the State from March 1. "We will launch a massive awareness programme from February 1 to educate customers about the ill-effects of the soft drink products manufactured by the MNCs. The end users will be educated about the presence of hazardous chemicals in the soft drinks and mineral water brands manufactured by these companies. We will encourage

the customers to switch over to Desi products," Vikramaraja told reporters at Chennai on Wednesday.

Vikramaraja said the decision was a fallout of the Jallikattu demonstration held all over TN last week. "One of the demands by the protesters was the ban on these soft drink brands as they were drawing water from the State and taking away huge profits," he said. According to Vikramaraja, one of the MNCs itself came forward recently and announced that its products contained chemicals hazardous for children.

While the soft drink and mineral water bearing the MNC brand would face ban in retail outlets, the products would be available in hotels and restaurants. "We will plead with the hotels and restaurants not to sell these products. The decision of the traders will boost the sales of brands manufactured by local companies," said Vikramaraja. "It has been



found that these locally manufactured soft drinks are safer and better than that of the MNCs," he added.

But Vellaiyan, president, Tamil Nadu Traders Federation, said all shops

owing allegiance to his federation would stop selling these products from Thursday, which happens to be Republic Day.

"This decision is not going to affect the revenue of the traders as the sales of the MNCs

constitute hardly 5 per cent of our income. Once the MNC products disappear from the shelves, there will be a surge in the demand for locally manufactured products and this in return will compensate for the

ONE OF THE DEMANDS BY THE PRO-JALLIKATTU PROTESTERS WAS THE BAN ON THESE SOFT DRINK BRANDS AS THEY ARE DRAWING WATER FROM THE STATE AND TAKING AWAY HUGE PROFITS. THIS DECISION IS NOT GOING TO AFFECT THE REVENUE OF THE TRADERS AS THE SALES OF THE PRODUCTS MADE BY THESE MNCs CONSTITUTE HARDLY 5 PER CENT OF OUR INCOME. ONCE THE MNC PRODUCTS DISAPPEAR FROM OUR SHELVES, THERE WILL BE A SURGE IN DEMAND FOR LOCALLY-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS AND WILL COMPENSATE FOR THE FALL IN REVENUE

**—AM Vikramaraja, president, Associations of TN Merchants**

fall in revenue," said Vellaiyan. Agitation against soft drink manufacturers are gathering momentum in Tamil Nadu. Last year an agitation led by EVKS Elangovan, the then TNCC president against drawing Bhavani River water for a MNC's plant forced the Government to cancel the manufacturing licence issued to the company. There are reports of agitation from Tirunelveli against drawing water

from Thamirabarani River by MNCs as the State is facing severe water shortage following the failure of the Monsoon. For the first time in the recent history of Tamil Nadu, all shops across the State had downed the shutters last Friday to express solidarity with the Jallikattu ban protesters and this seems to have made the traders to take a decision like this.

## Ulfa's Baruah slams Sri Sri, calls guru 'agent of India'

**ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI**

Attacking country's spiritual leader and founder of Art of Living Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for his comment on the outfit, Ulfa commander-in-chief Paresh Baruah alias Paresh Asom has termed the former as an 'agent of India' and said that Ulfa faction is not going to sit for peace talks with the Central Government unless the core issues are discussed.

Baruah's reaction came a day after the spiritual leader told a section of media that Paresh Baruah had not reciprocated to the peace process due to pressure from China.

"There is no question of reciprocating to the peace offer by 'agent of India' Ravi Shankar. I want to make it clear that Ulfa does not go by anyone's edict. We are an independent liberation front and we act as per our conscience," the Ulfa chief told a local news channel in Assam.

"We had already made our stand clear to Ravi Shankar in April last year. We have made it clear to him that we are not interested in peace talks unless the agenda is the core issue, (which according to Ulfa faction is the sovereignty of Assam)," said Baruah while adding that the spiritual leader's statement is a result of his frustration as he failed to rope in the outfit for his trap for peace talks.

"Our revolution is not for peace as perceived by the spiritual leader. Our revolution is for ascertaining our birth right, we are struggling for freedom of our race. We had informed Ravi Shankar then that our issues are political and only a political solution could solve the problem. The proposal of so called peace talks of Ravi Shankar might interest the dacoits of Chambal and not us," he said adding that sovereignty is the birth right of the people of Assam.

## Top Maoist leader, wife surrender in Bengal

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

In a major success for the Special Task Force of Kolkata Police 'most wanted' Maoist leader Ranjit Pal laid down his arms on Wednesday. His surrender literally breaks the last hope of an ultra-Leftist revival in Bengal.

Pal surrendered before State DGO Surajit Karpurakayastha and Kolkata Commissioner of Police Rajiv Kumar along with his wife Jharna also a top Maoist leader along the Bengal-Jharkhand border mostly in Purulia district.

Arguably the most "potent" leader of the Maoist movement after the death of Kishenji, the surrendered Maoist leader was a CPI(Maoist) State committee member. He remained elusive for the past more than a decade

despite repeated attempts made by the security forces to nab him.

Both Pal, 45 and Jharna alias Anita surrendered with a self-loading rifle (SLR).

"There are several cases against him," said the DGP adding, he was involved in some major Maoist raids including the Jhalda attack. "He has realized that armed insurgency has no future and that development can be achieved only through peaceful means," the officials said.

Pal's surrender is considered as a major success for the Mamata Banerjee Government as the Chief Minister had vowed to bring back peace in Jangal Mahal area comprising three districts of the State. With Pal still at large the desired peace process still remained elusive.

Pal was the 219th militant who surrendered ever since Banerjee came to power. After his surrender the only major Maoist leader who is still on the loose is CPI(Maoist) State secretary Akash.

"I am surrendering before Kolkata Police STF and beginning a new life and appeal those who are wrong path to join the main stream," Pal, who wore a black outfit read from a statement. He added, in past 17 years he had realised that taking up arms was not a solution to people's problems and the issues had been sorted out in Bengal to a large extent.

Pal's sudden surrender indicated that the Maoists were under immense pressure in Jharkhand too, experts said adding "demonetisation might have gone a long way in getting the militant's surrender."



Students of Everwin School form the Tricolour during an event to mark Republic Day at the school. In the background a massive poster supporting Jallikattu can be seen in Chennai on Wednesday

## DG brings cheer to BSF men at Jammu frontier

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Ahead of the Republic Day Celebrations Director General BSF KK Sharma on Wednesday visited BSF jawans deployed along the forward border outposts across Jammu frontier to boost their morale. Braving heavy downpour the BSF chief visited several border outposts in Arnia and Samba sectors of Jammu frontier and also broke bread with the jawans.

He ruled out the possibility of banning use of smart phones claiming if attempts were made to spread misinformation campaign they can revisit the issue to take an appropriate decision. This is for the first time a senior most BSF officer visited Jammu frontier after a video posted by BSF constable Tej Bahadur Yadav went viral in the social media.

The video was shot by the BSF jawan, posted on ROP duty in Poonch, to highlight the poor quality of food being served to

jawans posted in high altitude posts. Interacting with the jawans on the occasion DG BSF announced that the Ministry of Home Affairs have sanctioned ₹184 crores for constructing 15 room Guest Houses at all Battalion Head Quarters to accommodate the family members of jawans who intends to visit them.

In the evening addressing a Press Conference DG BSF told reporters, like previous years BSF jawans are maintaining high alert along the International border in Punjab and Jammu frontier. He said, "In this season infiltration bids increase along the IB after snow closes down mountain passes along the line of control in Kashmir valley. We are maintaining highest level of operational alertness to prevent any such attempts.

Responding to a straight question on use of technology in preventing infiltration bids along the International border KK Sharma told reporters BSF is in the process of running a pilot project on introducing latest technology. He said, "At present two pilot projects are on and gadgets are being tested along 5 km long patches. Once completed we will install selected gadgets along vulnerable areas and gradually spread it along the entire length of border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, heavy downpour through out the day failed to deter the security personnel standing on guard across vital installations in and around Jammu where the State function is being organised.

## Guj to celebrate R-Day at 'milk capital of India'



**NAYAN DAVE ■ GANDHINAGAR**

The State level function for 68th Republic Day will be organised at Anand town in Central Gujarat better known as the 'Milk Capital of India' where headquarters of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Amul Dairy is situated.

Unlike other States in India, State level functions of Republic Day, Independence Day and Gujarat Day (May 1) are organised in district headquarters instead of the State capital. The new tradition was started in the year 2005 by then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, who decided to organise Gujarat Day func-

tion at Surat in that year. This year, the State Government decided to organise Republic Day function at Anand, the district headquarter of Kheda district. To mark the Republic Day celebration, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani dedicated over ₹100 crore public works in Kheda district on Wednesday.

On the eve of Republic Day, Gujarat Chief Minister addressed farmers' rally at Karamsad village, the birthplace of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel situated around 7 km from Anand. Later on Rupani attended Gujarat Governor OP Kohli's 'At Home' program at police parade ground.

### Only bright girl students to unfurl Tricolour

Bright girl students in 34,000 villages of Gujarat will have honour to unfurl national flag at their respective schools on this Republic Day. The District Primary Education Program (DPEP) has issued a Government resolution to schools to identify the most educated girl of the village to be invited as chief guest along with her parents.

The girl will also be felicitated in the presence of villagers and given a memento. She will also be asked to unfurl tricolour during the flag hoisting ceremony.

The initiative has been taken by DPEP to promote Prime Minister's campaign-Beti Bacho, Beti Padhao.

All the Government buildings, important monuments in Anand and Karamsad have been decorated with colourful lights which were renovated and painted recently in wake of the State level function.



Security personnel frisking a passenger ahead of Republic Day celebrations in Jammu, on Wednesday



DG BSF breaks bread with the jawans



Indian paramilitary soldiers take shelter from snow inside a tent as they stand guard on the eve of the Republic Day in Srinagar

**EXTENSION OF e-TENDER NOTICE**  
No.SSA/MDM/Container/101/2016/8547 Dated 24th January 2017  
The notice inviting e-tender vide No SSA/MDM/Container/101/2016/8069 Dated 02.01.2017 for supply of MDM container is hereby extended upto 6th February 2017.  
The bids can be uploaded till 06.02.2017 upto 1.00 pm and will be opened at 2.00 pm on 06.02.2017.  
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Mission Director  
SSA, Assam cum Nodal Officer, MDM

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Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued to demand notices dated 11/11/2016 calling upon the borrower(s) 1. MR. DILIP KUMAR S/O SHRI. IQBAL CHAND. 2. MR. VICKY KUMAR S/O SHRI. IQBAL CHAND. 3. MRS. JANAK DULARI W/O SHRI. IQBAL CHAND. 4. MRS. MADHU BALA W/O SHRI. VICKY KUMAR. 5. MRS. NAVJOT KAUR W/O SHRI DILIP KUMAR. To pay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs. 50,14,273 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Three Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on her/him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act on the read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 23rd day of January, 2017.  
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of HDFC Bank Ltd. for an Rs. 50,14,273 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Three Only) and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc less amount paid if any. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
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PROPERTY ENTIRE GROUND FLOOR PORTION WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, OF PROPERTY BEARING NO. 96, BUILT ON LAND AREA MEASURING 80 SQ. YARDS, IN THE LAYOUT PLAN OF PRIVYADARSHANI VIHAR - I, SITUATED IN THE LAYOUT PLAN OF REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME OF KINGSWAY CAMP, DELHI.  
Date - 25/01/2017  
Place: New Delhi  
Authorised Officer  
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**E-Tender Notice**  
E-tender under two bid system i.e. technical and financial bids are invited from the Manufacturers/ Suppliers of Inkjet Printer 5 Line with Accessories through online bids on the website- <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> for the item detailed in the table.  

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of the Tender (In. Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Bid Document Fee + E-service Fee(Rs.)	Tender Download Start Date	Tender submission End Date	Tender Opening Date
1	Inkjet Printer 5 Line with Accessories	250000	5000 each	500 + 1000 = 1500	28-01-2017 at 1:00 PM	17-02-2017 at 11:00 AM	17-02-2017 at 11:30 AM

  
Qty: 02 Nos.  
Note:- If the tenders are cancelled or recalled on any ground(s), the tender document fee & E service fee will not be refunded to the agencies / agencies.  
All the tenders will be received through e-tendering only. Tenders will be opened on the prescribed date as mentioned above in the presence of the agency or their representative, who would like to be present in the office of The Hisar-Jind Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd. The other terms and conditions regarding above tender notice can be read/seen on website <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>. For any query may contact on this no. 01681-225776  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Milk Union Hisar-Jind  
RO No. 45902 Dt. 25-01-2017

# Jail break bid in Goa: One killed, 16 hurt

Two separate probes ordered into incident by State administration

MAYABHUSHAN ■ PANAJI

One history-sheeter was killed and 12 inmates, as well as four prison guards, were injured after violence erupted during an attempted jail break in South Goa's Sada sub-jail, following which authorities here have ordered two probes into the incident which occurred late on Tuesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Vinayak Korbarkar, a history-sheeter who was declared dead on arrival at a local Government hospital in the wee hours of Wednesday.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* on Wednesday, Additional

Inspector-General of Prisons Siddhivinayak Naik said that a probe had been ordered into the lapse, which led to a law and order situation in the port town of Vasco da Gama, where the sub-jail is located. "Yes, a probe has been ordered into the incident," he said. The official however refused to go into the details of the jail break attempt.

Police sources, however said, that the jail break bid occurred after a slugfest between two rival groups of inmates. "Korbarkar's group started a fight with a rival group. When the jail guards rushed to stop the fight, the mob of inmates turned on the

guards and overpowered them because of the sheer numbers," sources said. After overpowering the guards, the inmates headed for the main gate of the prison, but were halted by police personnel who had rushed to the site following the commotion.

The incident occurred at 11:30 pm, but it took the police nearly two hours to bring the situation under control and locate all inmates.

Four prison guards and 12 inmates received injuries as a result of the incident and they were later sent to a local Government-run health facility for treatment under police guard. South Goa District Magistrate Swapnil Naik told reporters a judicial probe had been ordered into the death of the inmate Korbarkar.

## battleground Uttar Pradesh

# SP-Cong's Chunav Rath ready to roll

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the Samajwadi Party and Congress are battling to identify seats to be contested, particularly in the Gandhi family bastions Amethi and Raebareilly, the alliance partners will soon launch a joint election campaign.

A 'Chunav Rath' mounted on a commercial vehicle is ready in the State office of the Samajwadi Party. The Rath carries pictures of Akhilesh Yadav, his wife Dimple Yadav, Priyanka Gandhi and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi besides having a picture of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. However the CM's estranged uncle Shivpal Yadav is conspicuous by his absence from the frame.

The slogan on the rath has been changed from the previous

**A 'Chunav Rath' mounted on a commercial vehicle is ready in the State office of the Samajwadi Party. The Rath carries pictures of Akhilesh Yadav, his wife Dimple Yadav, Priyanka Gandhi and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi besides having a picture of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. However the CM's estranged uncle Shivpal Yadav is conspicuous by his absence from the frame**

'Vikas se vijay ki aur' to 'Umeed ki cycle aur ekta aur vishwas ki shakti'. A slogan also seeks to dub Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an 'outsider' in UP. The slogan reads 'Apne Ladke, Bahari Modi'. The Rath is expected to tour all Assembly segments across the State.

SP spokesman Rajendra

Chaudhary said in Lucknow on Wednesday that both Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi will jointly address over 12 meetings across the State during campaigning. "Leaders of both the Congress and Samajwadi Party are preparing a tour plan," said Chaudhary.

However the SP

spokesman had no information whether Akhilesh Yadav would campaign in the 105 Assembly seats which are being contested by the Congress.

SP sources said that the schedule of joint campaign is likely to be announced once the seats to be contested by each partner were identified.

"There is no dispute on the number of seats to be contested by each party and only the seats are to be identified. The SP is likely to withdraw its candidates to accommodate Congress candidates," said a SP leader.

In 2012 Assembly polls, Samajwadi Party had won seven out of the 10 seats in Amethi and Rae Bareilly districts. Congress wants to contest all 10 seats in both districts and wants the SP to withdraw its candidates.

# JD(U) not to contest UP polls

FAIZAN AHMAD ■ PATNA

The JD(U) will not contest Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh. The party took this decision after taking into confidence the leaders of the neighbouring State and the probable candidates. The JD(U) leadership has however, blamed both Congress and Samajwadi Party for ignoring the party while stitching alliance. The two day meeting of JD(U) which discussed various issues besides UP polls was chaired by party president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Briefing about the discussion on Wednesday JD(U) national secretary general K C Tyagi also said that Nitish would not go to campaign for the secular alliance if he was invited by the leaders of SP and Congress.

"We have decided to keep away off the UP election in order to avoid any division of secular votes which might indirectly help the BJP. But we wished that the experience of Bihar's grand alliance experience be followed in UP. It is unfortunate that it could not happen," said Tyagi who had been instrumental in arranging over half a dozen meetings of Nitish in various parts of UP before the announcement of the polls.

Bihar Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lalan who was also present at the press conference added sarcastically, "We will pray for their success from Patna." "For making a grand alliance the parties should heartily agree to fight against the communal and divisive forces like we did in Bihar," said Tyagi and added that this could not be achieved in UP.

# Int'l call exchange spying on Army busted; 11 held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sluths of Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Wednesday arrested 11 people and claimed to have busted an international call racket involved in spying on Army units in the country.

Giving details on the operation on Wednesday, IG (ATS) Aseem Arun said that following a tip-off and through electronic surveillance, a team dropped the net on 11 people from Lucknow, Sitapur, Hardoi and New Delhi who were found to be operating an international call racket by running parallel exchanges.

Arun said that action was taken on information by Jammu Kashmir Military Intelligence that Army units were getting calls for spying from these exchanges.

An FIR in this regard was registered in Gomti Nagar police station. A large number of SIM cards, mobile phones and laptops used in the clandestine operations were recovered from the accused.

Sources said that the gang used to gather information about vital Army installations, troop movements and deployments. The accused made calls to various Army stations posing as government officials and spying was done using mobile numbers with Direct Inward Dialing Network to route the calls.

The IG said that the spying agents were skipping legal international phone gateways to make such calls (for spying) and with the busting of the racket, it would now be difficult for them to operate.

"It will now make the work of terrorists or any spies difficult. The government and mobile companies will also be able to avoid losses due to the tune of crores of rupees due to these dubious exchanges," Arun said.

The IG explained that such exchanges provide facility to those sitting abroad to make calls through internet. These calls are then converted to voice calls through SIM box and connected to receivers in India. However, the receivers could only see Indian numbers on their telephone screens.

Aseem Arun said that action would be intensified against such persons with the help of Army and TERM (Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring). The ATS is likely to take custody remand of the accused to grill them further.

# Setback for Ansari brothers as BSP loath to entertain them

Lucknow: Spurned by the new dispensation of Samajwadi Party (read Akhilesh), desperate efforts by Ansari brothers-Afzal and Mokhtar, on being fielded by Bahujan Samaj Party has so far hit a road block, with image-conscious BSP chief Mayawati refusing to give an audience to the duo, so far.

The Ansari brothers suffered major embarrassment after the change in guard in the SP as they were denied tickets in the Assembly polls. Sources in the BSP confirmed that the delay was deliberate as senior leaders were weighing political options. The refrain is that if the BSP gives five seats to the Quami Ekta Dal (QED), it could help in garnering Muslim votes in some east UP districts.

PNS

# Akhilesh: 'Bicycle' will run faster with help of 'Hand'

Lucknow: Lauding the virtues of his party's alliance with the Congress, Samajwadi Party president and Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav said that the 'Bicycle' will run faster with the help of the 'Hand'.

Flanked on the dais by former Congress MP leader Zafar Ali Naqvi and his son who is a Congress candidate from Palia segment of the district, Yadav addressed three election meetings in Lakhimpur on Wednesday.

On Sunday last, the SP and Congress sealed a pre-poll alliance for the Assembly polls. The ruling party will field candidates in 298 seats while the Congress will contest the remaining 105 seats.

During his address at these meetings, Akhilesh targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi

accusing him of being a 'dream merchant' who made false promises to the people during the last Lok Sabha polls in 2014.

Outlining the significance of the Assembly polls, Yadav said, "Though it is the election for a State Assembly, its results will decide the direction of national politics." Explaining the importance of the SP-Congress truck, Yadav said, "I know that you are bicycle riders. Now there is a hand (election symbol of the Congress) to support it and the cycle will run faster."

Former Congress MP from Lakhimpur Zafar Ali Naqvi along with his son Saif Naqvi were also present on the dais with the Chief Minister. Naqvi Junior is the Congress candidate from Palia Assembly segment of Lakhimpur.

District Congress chief

Raghevendra Bahadur Singh however stayed away from the CM's functions. On being contacted, Singh said, "I was not invited by the Samajwadi Party for the function. Zafar Ali Naqvi was. So how could I attend the event. It is a question of honour and prestige of the party."

Addressing the whistle stop meetings, Yadav hit out at the BJP prophesying that the saffron party would have to do an 'ulta asana' as people would vote against it in the upcoming Assembly polls. "The people will come out in large numbers to vote against the BJP and make the party do 'ulta asan. Countrymen were forced to stand in queues to withdraw money from banks and ATMs following demonetisation of highvalue notes," asserted the Chief Minister.

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## Reduced to bit player

In Uttar Pradesh, Congress at Akhilesh's mercy

The Congress should thank its stars that it has got more than 100 seats to contest in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. The party has been so marginalised in the State over the years that it has ended up as a bit player from being the pre-dominant political force since independence. The fact that it has forged an alliance with the ruling Samajwadi Party is only a confirmation of its second rank status. In the coming election, therefore, it will play second fiddle to the Samajwadi Party, with Akhilesh Yadav calling the shots. The Congress would not have received these many seats had the Chief Minister been less willing to accommodate it. But Akhilesh Yadav, after having sidelined the seniors in the party, including his father and party supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav, and to a greater extent his powerful uncle Shivpal Yadav (ousted by the Chief Minister's faction as State party chief), did not want to take chances by going alone. He probably thinks the alliance will to a large extent dilute the negativity that has come into his party after the internal fracas. Had the Samajwadi Party been united in letter and spirit and Mulayam Singh Yadav had the final say, the tie-up with the Congress would probably not have taken place. But even so, the coalition almost did not happen, with the Congress pushing its luck too far, thinking that,



given the 'compromised' position Akhilesh Yadav was, the Chief Minister would relent to its outrageous demand for close to 120 seats. Now that the deal has been sealed, it remains to be seen if individual advantages of the two partners will prevail in totality or their respective weaknesses will get the better of the sum of plus factors.

The Congress is virtually a spent force in Uttar Pradesh, and it desperately needed oxygen to survive. Akhilesh Yadav has come as a saviour — at least this is what some Congress leaders in the State and at the central leadership believe. The Congress calculates that it can gain from the alliance, just as it did in the Bihar Assembly election when it tied up with the Janata Dal (United) and the

Rashtriya Janata Dal combine. But even after it did well in Bihar, nobody is saying today that the party has revived itself in that State. It still remains a marginal player and at the mercy of the big two. The same is likely to repeat in Uttar Pradesh. In fact, as many experienced leaders in the Congress will hold, unequal alliances end up further hurting the party. Such arrangements demoralise workers and reduce the space for expansion and consolidation. The Congress has seen this happen in Tamil Nadu, for instance, where it has been rendered as a near non-entity due to its alliances with regional outfits at various times. This is not to say that electoral understandings are always fatal. They can and do fetch immediate electoral gains, but at least national parties must bear in mind the costs such alliances demand.

Given that the Congress has conceded primacy in Uttar Pradesh, the only national party which is contesting the election as a lead player is the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP too has partners in the State, such as the Anupriya Patel-led Apna Dal, and a couple of others. But unlike the Congress, the BJP is in the driver's seat in the partnership.

## Kejriwal's callous remark

AAP leader should have respect for poll panel

Am Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal's remarks against the Election Commission of India are unfortunate, more so since they come from a person who holds the constitutional post of a Chief Minister. Kejriwal took offence at the poll panel censuring him for telling voters in Goa that they should accept money from the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party but vote for the Aam Aadmi Party. Other politicians have made similar comments during election campaigning before, but they too had been rapped. The difference here is that the Delhi Chief Minister has responded with a callous and irresponsible retort, wondering if the Election Commission of India was taking orders from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). His penchant for dragging the PMO and Prime Minister Narendra Modi into every issue is known. If legal action is taken against his Legislators because somebody files a complaint against them, the Prime Minister is held responsible; if his favourite bureaucrat is arrested on *prima facie* charges of corruption, the Prime Minister is behind the move; if the Lieutenant Governor sends back files or refuses to endorse certain decisions of the Delhi



Government, he acts at the behest of the Prime Minister. So much so that Kejriwal brings in Modi's name into even bipartisan issues such as enforcing checks on pollution levels and traffic management. His obsession with the Prime Minister, whom he once called a "psychopath", has reached destructive levels. In the case at hand, Kejriwal should not have in the first place exhorted voters to accept money. Has he forgotten that he has come to power on the strength of an anti-corruption movement? By asking voters to take money from candidates, he is encouraging them to indulge in corruption. When there is talk of electoral reforms, Kejriwal would do well to refrain from making frivolous remarks. While accusing the Election

Commission of India of taking directives from the PMO, he said, "The Election Commission actually waits for Modi's speech in Lucknow to announce the dates (for State Assembly elections). Its independence is under question." For the Delhi Chief Minister to ridicule the poll panel's autonomy, is shocking. This is obnoxious because, like the courts, the Election Commission is a truly independent institution and has over the decades played a stellar role in the conduct of free and fair polls across the country. Parties and leaders can have their occasional grievances but those cannot be used to malign the poll panel. Kejriwal should remember that the Election Commission of India has been recognised the world over for its performance and its advice has been sought by many countries on the conduct of elections. But then, maligning reputations is Kejriwal's habit. He has cast his net far and wide, now saying that the Central Information Commission, the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Reserve Bank of India etc, have all become "a joke". His diatribe is no laughing matter.

# Smell the coffee along the China border

While Beijing has been pressing with remarkable speed in developing infrastructure along its borders with India, the latter has shown equally remarkable laxity over the same. Hopefully, things will now change



CLAUDE ARPI

The Army Commanders' Conference was recently held at the Indian Military Academy at Dehradun. Led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Minister for Defence Manohar Parrikar, dignitaries were given an extensive briefing by the three Services chiefs, particularly on infrastructure development along the China and Pakistan borders.

At a time when China is investing billions of yuan to develop its 'Indian' frontiers, it was a timely review. On January 23, the website, *China Tibet Online*, announced that a road leading to the last two townships without road access in Tibet, would soon be completed. Both roads in Metok County of Nyingchi town, started in 2015, are expected to be soon operational. The Metok County is situated north of the Tuting Circle of Upper Siang of Arunachal Pradesh, where the Yarlung Tsangpo enters India to become the Siang (and later the Brahmaputra).

The Chinese article says: "The geological conditions are complex with high mountains and deep valleys, leading to high road construction costs and long construction periods." In 2017 alone, a total of 52 billion yuan (nearly six billion dollars) will be invested in infrastructure assets on the plateau, and "355km of high-grade highway [will be added], leading to a total highway mileage of more than 90,000 km."

The Chinese website adds that these roads could not be built earlier "due to the high mountains and deep valleys". It was only in October 2013 that Metok Highway was officially opened to the public: "Metok waved goodbye to China's last county without road access", said *China Tibet Online*.

On the other side of the range, the situation is different. A recent article in *The Arunachal Times* describes the sad state of affairs. Journalist Tongam Rina recounts her 'memorable trip' to Tuting; she had joined an all-women team from the Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies of Rajiv Gandhi University in Itanagar. Rina writes: "After a few kilometres of good roads, we hit the typical Arunachal road; forever under-construction, chopping off hills that inevitably result in landslides during the monsoon, at the same time destroying whatever is left of an existing road."

She continues her narration after a first night on the way: "...The next morning, the caretaker of the guesthouse prompted us



to eat, "Tuting ka rasta bahut dur hai, khana jaldi nehi milega... After a few kilometres out of town, we were on bumpy, narrow road again. The only saving grace was the mighty beautiful Siang, flowing majestically below."

The description is vivid: "And a bad jerk forced me to look at the road again. The road is so bad that one can't drive more than 15 kilometres per hour. One bad move from the driver because of the bad road could literally end the journey."

On the other side, China is planning to build a Gangdise International Tourism Cooperation Zone in Ngari Prefecture, adjoining Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh, 'to serve as an opening window to South Asia' (sic). Gangdise or Trans-Himalaya is a term coined by Swedish explorer Sven Hedin in the 19th century. It is the space on both sides of the main Himalayan range, following the Indian border.

*Kangba TV*, a Chinese site about Tibet, explains that the zone will cover areas around the Himalaya, mainly in Ngari area, but it will also include Shigatse, Lhoka (southeast of Lhasa), Purang (near

will be 107 km; it is designed for a speed of 80 km/h. The construction should be completed by August 2019. The second highway, the G365, will connect the G219 to Tholing and Tsaparang. The ancient monastic complexes are presently being restored to bring a large number of Chinese tourists to the famous ruins of the Guge Kingdom.

Another important development is the construction of a second highway between Tibet and Xinjiang, via Minfeng. The road will be 558 km long. The deeply-worrying aspect of the project is that it crosses the highly eco-sensitive Changthang National Nature Reserve. It will run for 110 km in the main reserve, about 270 km in the buffer zone and some 100 km in the 'experimental area'. More than one billion American dollars is invested in the project. The road should be put into operation by early 2021.

All this comes at a time when Beijing has announced the creation of a new Central Commission for Integrated Military and Civilian Development. It was launched on January 22, and according to *The People's Daily*, experts have declared it vital for China's national defence "The commission will decide and coordinate affairs on civil-military integration". It will function directly under the Politburo's Standing Committee with President Xi Jinping as the Chairman.

In the meantime, Delhi still lives in the Middle Ages, with an antediluvian Inner Line Permit and hardly any cooperation between the Armed Forces and the civil administration (at least in Ladakh).

But India has perhaps a chance. For the first time, the National Security Advisor, the Army Chief and the Director of the Research & Analysis Wing are all natives of Pauni Garhwal in Uttarakhand. One can hope that the *paunaris* will understand better the issue of mountain development.

*The Indian Express* recently noted: "Pauni Garhwal district has the distinction of sending three men to topost positions in the current security establishment. At the same time, it suffers high migration out of the hills, thanks to near-zero irrigation, declining farming, zero employment, poor education and health facilities."

And no highways of course! Let us hope that this will be remedied soon. It's of vital interest to the country's security and stability.

(The writer is an expert on India-China relations and an author of several books on the subject)

“ DELHI STILL LIVES IN THE MIDDLE AGES, WITH AN ANTEDILUVIAN INNER LINE PERMIT AND HARDLY ANY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION (AT LEAST IN LADAKH) ”

Mt Kailash), Zham (landport with Nepal), Yatung (in Chumbi Valley), Kyirong (border between Nepal and Tibet) and Tsona (north of Tawang). But the main development will focus on western Tibet. The website adds: "Scenic spots in Ngari area are all featured. With the drive of the main scenic spots, travelling routes of other tourist spots have been gradually developed, which will make Ngari tourism a growth-pole of Tibet's tourism."

China is planning to transform the Trans-Himalayan region into a mega tourist spot. For the purpose, Beijing announced that two new highways will soon be constructed leading to the Indian border and that Highway G219, the main artery connecting Tibet to Xinjiang (also known as the Aksai Chin road) will be upgraded. All this will be done during China's 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020).

The first new highway, known as G564, will branch off from the G219, near Mount Kailash (Tharchen) and head south, passing between Mansarovar and Rakshas lakes before reaching Purang, near the tri-junction Nepal-India-Tibet. The length of the road

### SOUNDBITE



I feel scared to say too much. I fear being dropped from the team because I have seen what happened to some other players.

Pakistani cricketer —Safraz Ahmed



Delhi has hardly interfered in the selection of candidates in Goa. For once, there was hardly any revolt in the party.

Senior Congress leader —Digvijaya Singh



People of Uttar Pradesh have absorbed the culture of Maharashtra without forgetting their own, which is a great virtue.

Maharashtra CM —Devendra Fadnis

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Pandora's box

Sir — Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has opined that an Ordinance can be brought to allow the conduct of buffalo race, Kambala, in coastal areas after seeking legal opinion. The Supreme Court had banned Jallikattu out of concern over cruelty on the bulls involved in the fight. A public outcry in Tamil Nadu defying the Supreme Court verdict ended up in an Ordinance issued to restart the sport. Kamabala was also banned. But everybody meekly submitted to the ban order and it was not protested as much as the ban on Jallikattu was in Tamil Nadu.

Now the clamor for the revival of Kambala in Karnataka is more at not falling behind Tamil Nadu in getting an Ordinance issued, than on the seriousness to preserve the coastal culture of Karnataka.

Moreover, Siddaramaiah's appeal to the Prime Minister for the revival of Kambala is not appealing. Siddaramaiah wants Kambala to be on par with Tamil Nadu for having restored Jallikattu. Such nonsensical approach without the people's support cannot achieve the

## Bridging the gulf with the UAE and others

This refers to the editorial, "New India-UAE warmth" (January 25). The three-day visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to India as the chief guest at the Republic Day event, marks an extraordinary movement of relations between the India and the Arab Gulf countries, and in particular the United Arab Emirates. Another highlight that enhances the India-UAE friendship is the participation of a UAE contingent at the Republic Day parade. Now, security is a major area of cooperation between India and the UAE, as even the Gulf countries are taking seriously the danger posed by the Islamic States.

India's historical relations with the Gulf region, especially with the UAE, date back to 5,000 years. They were cemented when maritime trade started in small Arab dhows across the Arabian waters. The UAE is home to 2.6 million Indians who remit \$12 billion dollars back home. The UAE is India's third largest trading partner and the sixth largest source of oil imports.

Ramesh G Jethwani  
Bangalore



desired results. Had the people of Karnataka, supported by the Chief Minister, taken the ban on Kambala seriously and fought for bringing it back earlier, Karnataka would have had the credibility to question the Centre for not considering its case. Siddaramaiah has placed Karnataka's case on Kambala on a weak pedestal.

KV Seetharamaiah  
Hassan

#### Sexist comments

Sir — This refers to JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav once again making a deliberately controversial statement on daughters of India, wherein he said that any loss of prestige of daughters is loss of prestige for the streets or cities where they live. His comparison between prestige of daughters and the streets was totally uncalled for, because the two are not comparable.

Sharad Yadav is known for making insulting remarks for women of India which, though being a significant part of of population, have unfortunately remained subdued in a male-dominated society. Politicians such as Sharad Yadav are a hindrance to women getting their

legitimate right of 33 per cent reservation in legislatures. Sharad Yadav had also once used the term, "parkati" for women demanding reservations. He had also commented adversely on the complexion of south India women, apart from remarking in an undignified manner on Union Minister Smriti Irani.

It is indeed unfortunate that our political system allows such politicians to remain in the legislatures. It is high time that the Supreme Court and the National Commission for Women takes cognisance of regular women-insulting remarks.

Madhu Agrawal  
Delhi

#### People's right

Sir — A republic is headed by the President and governed by politicians elected by the people. So, we need to realise our responsibilities and importance. Unfortunately, our entitlements are branded as freebies. Such a mindset is dangerous

Sujit De  
Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

**Shah Rukh Khan lives in India, but his heart is in Pakistan. His films make crores here but he finds India intolerant.**

—BJP leader  
**KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA**



**I didn't intend to hurt anyone. I take back my tweets on the actor. They were misunderstood by some people.**

—BJP leader  
**KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA**

**FIRST COLUMN**



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

**Cricket on field or on television?**

Viewing sports on the idiot box can, well, turn you into more of an idiot! But there are advantages. You can watch the game up really close, sitting in your room

Is it better to watch cricket on the television or sitting on the stands in the ground? The question occurred to me while watching the recent India-England series — so far Tests and one-day internationals — currently on its last legs. To this was added another dimension when a friend grandly commented that watching cricket on television could turn one into a “couch potato” — one who sits on a sofa or couch watching television for hours and losing one’s capacity or will for doing anything else.

The more I reflected the more I realised that there were positive and negative sides to the question I had asked myself. Before that, however, I felt that I should explore my friend’s assertion and that of those who might hold an opposite view. The more I tickled by brain, the more I felt that the possibility could not be dismissed off-hand. Watching television is an exercise in passivity. It does not require one to do anything physically or mentally, and to just be entertained.

This is all the more so because entertainment, as Neil Postman points out in *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, “is the supra-ideology of all discourse on television. No matter what is depicted and from what point of view, the overarching preservation is that it is there for our amusement and pleasure”.

While it is true that television tends to turn everything into entertainment and, hence, can be addictive, one can argue that not just cricket matches but any programme — a serial, a film or even commentaries on social, political and economic issues — can make one a small-screen addict. So, why blame the king of games?

The question dispatched, at least for the time being, one can return to the one that started it all. Whether watching cricket — or for that matter any spectator sport — on television or directly at the ground, is better. Those who argue in favour of the former, say that it shows close-up views of shots by a batter, a bowler running up to bowl overs, catches taken and dropped, spectacular pieces of ground fielding, and so on. One does not see any of these from close quarters when watching from the stands.

This is a loss for any ordinary viewer. For cricketers, particularly the budding ones, it is loss plus. To cite an example why it is so, watching a batter coping with a ball rising awkwardly from just short of good length—playing back, lifting his/her bat, straight and shoulder high, and either relaxing the grip of the right hand (the other hand in the case of a left-hander) on the handle or taking it off altogether—can be helpful in showing how to cope with such deliveries.

Equally beneficial can be watching a top-drawer fast bowler running up to bowl, particularly how he/she jumps at the end of the delivery to bowl, bends back his/her torso from the waist, and bring it forward with the end of the jump to lend to the delivery the momentum of the run-up and the weight of his/her entire body.

One can, of course, watch these things at the nets. But seeing them in match conditions is an entirely different matter because one can see them in full perspective of the field. Watching through binoculars, which we did when we were young, helped. We, however, could not hold a binocular endlessly to the eye and had to lower one’s hands from time to time, which meant missing out on a shot or delivery or a catch or a run-out when the binocular was down.

Of course, watching indoors on television, one misses out on the atmosphere of the cricket ground—the cheering and jeering, the shouting of observations and comments with other spectators, the forming of bonds, fleeting but nevertheless warm, with strangers supporting or opposing the same team as oneself. Also, one misses out on the thrills and excitement, the sights and sounds, of being there in person.

But then there it is. You cannot have everything. As Clint Eastwood said in the course of one of his more memorable dialogues, “You win some, you lose some.”

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

**Two wheels of healthcare cart**

While it is good to see Niti Aayog championing the cause of increasing public health spending, it will be heartening to see the organisation promoting the need for public healthcare delivery too. That’s how the healthcare system can be transformed meaningfully



RAJEEV AHUJA

“**A three-fold increase in Central health budget over a three-year period implies an increase of health funding by over 40 per cent each year. That such a steep increase is unprecedented, is not really a matter of concern. The Government has to do it. The real matters of concern are the risks associated with such a steep increase**”



A three-fold jump in Central health outlay from over ₹30,000 crore now to one lakh crore rupees in the next three years is what the Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog is reported to have proposed, among other things, in its presentation to the Prime Minister and senior Finance Ministry officials, on its broad approach to the action plan. It is good to see Niti Aayog championing the cause of public health spending which is abysmally low regardless of the indicator used — as a share of GDP (1.3 per cent) or as a share in total Government spending (4.8 per cent in 2014-15) or as a per-capita Government health spending (less than \$20).

Undoubtedly, the Government needs to increase its health spending. But public health spending is only one of the constraints facing the Indian health sector.

Health service, like any other sector, has two sides to it: The healthcare delivery side and the financing side. With an acute shortage of medical personnel (for example, doctors, including specialists) and weak institutional architecture, there are some binding constraints on the public delivery of healthcare. Constraints such as improving the supply of doctors that have a longer gestation period, can only be eased gradually with time. Easing of these constraints would definitely need some public funding, but not huge funding.

Like the two wheels of a cart, both the funding and the healthcare delivery have to move in tandem. If one of the wheels starts moving faster, the

cart will move in a circular fashion rather than straight ahead.

A three-fold increase in Central health budget over a three-year period implies an increase of health funding by over 40 per cent each year. That such a steep increase is unprecedented, is not really a matter of concern. The real matters of concern are the risks associated with such a steep increase. Some of these risks are:

**Risk of under-utilising funds:** Given limited capacities of States, particularly of the poorer States, to execute programmes, will mean that such an increase will not get absorbed effectively even if States were somehow able to spend it. Indeed, both under-utilisation and ineffective utilisation of funds have repeatedly been noticed during the implementation of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Further, in the presence of limited capacity, States tend to substitute Central funding for its own. So the actual increase tends to be lower than expected. In the implementation of the NRHM, the Government took 10 years to spend ₹1.3 lakh crore cumulatively, from 2005-06 to 2013-14. And this spending was significantly below what had been envisaged under the mission.

**Risk of distorting priorities:** If the objective is just to ramp up public health spending, there is no dearth of avenues to achieve that objective. Hospital care, for example, is one such area that can potentially guzzle any amount of public funding. It is said that hospital care is a bottomless pit! However, a public funding programme for hospital care will not make a huge demand on the exchequer if it is well-managed and if the

health conditions of the people covered under the scheme are well-supervised. Managing the health conditions of people requires investing in primary care facilities.

For a huge step-up in its health spending, the Government needs to get the delivery system — particularly at the primary care level — right. The Government has a vast network of healthcare facilities which is not only broken but has also turned obsolete due to the changing disease burden, rising public expectations, and advancing knowledge on new ways of delivering such care. In keeping with the changing healthcare needs and demands of the population and the advancing knowhow, India needs to re-design its public healthcare delivery system.

How can the public health delivery system be re-designed? The current knowledge of best global practices is somewhat in a state of flux. Even the developed countries are having a re-think on the design of their healthcare systems, partly because of cost imperatives and partly to leverage IT-enabled new solutions for better performance. While the Indian States have much to learn from the experience of countries such as Thailand and Turkey, they also need to build on those experiences through their own experiments and experiences.

The idea that States conduct healthcare pilots was actually mooted in the 12th Five Year Plan but it never got off the ground in any meaningful way. But that doesn’t diminish the relevance of the idea.

To re-design the public healthcare system, the importance of systematically piloting transformative and

affordable models of healthcare cannot be over-emphasised.

India is currently in a sweet spot where public health spending is low and the constraints on the healthcare delivery allow the Indian health planners/policymakers the much-needed time and space to invest in the discovery of appropriate care delivery models. India needs to seize this moment before the stakeholders mount further pressure on increasing public health spending.

In succumbing to such pressures before the healthcare delivery is sorted out, India runs the risk of missing the opportunity to address the much-needed transformation of the public healthcare delivery system. And, in addressing this delivery system, if India bypasses the necessary pilot phase, it runs the risk of choosing a sub-optimal path and paying a price. To conclude, the need for a huge step up of public health funding is not in doubt; nor is the merit of making such investments. But let the discussion on public health financing not blind us from the imperatives on healthcare delivery. And in addressing the delivery challenges, let’s not continue thinking incrementally in a piecemeal fashion when the opportunity is to think of transforming the healthcare delivery system.

While it is good to see the Niti Aayog championing the cause of increasing public health spending, it will be heartening to see the organisation championing the cause of public healthcare delivery too.

(The writer is a development economist, formerly with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank)

**Lives, not just business, at stake**

India must take stock of the pesticides under use and ensure that they are replaced by less hazardous products and better integrated pest management approaches. It must take a leaf out of the US’ book in checking harmful chemicals

A recent report by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), United States of America, has brought to light the hazardous impact pesticides have on nature. The report released on January 18 has helped decipher and understand the effects of pesticides particularly on endangered species. The EPA study conducted on a wide-ranging parameters has found that about 97 per cent of over 1,800 animals and plants protected under the Endangered Species Act in the US are threatened by two commonly used pesticides, Malathion and Chlorpyrifos. The study also claimed that another 78 per cent could be harmed by the pesticide, Diazinon.

The findings of the study echoed the World Health Organisation (WHO) advisory in 2016, that listed Malathion and Diazinon as probable carcinogens. As usual, the US has reacted to the EPA report in

record time and has already initiated measures to ban Chlorpyrifos, which is currently used on food crops in the US.

The pesticides mentioned in the EPA report are organophosphates that are widely used on crops like watermelon, wheat and corn. The EPA report has once again made it absolutely clear that it is crucial to understand the adverse impacts of pesticides prior to using them, as they not only harm wildlife and nature in general but also have an irreversible impact on human health.

India has been fighting its own battles with pesticides over the past few decades. The Endosulfan pesticide-poisoning episode spanning over two decades in Kerala, took a major toll on the environment and human health. On January 10, the Supreme Court directed the Kerala Government to pay ₹500 crore in three months as

compensation to over 5,000 victims of the use of Endosulfan. The pesticide was used widely on crops like cashew, cotton, tea, paddy, fruits and others until 2011, when the Supreme Court banned its production and distribution.

The health effects of the chemical include neurotoxicity, late sexual maturity, physical deformities, poisoning, among others. Newborns have been the worst hit due to the health complications arising out of the exposure to the agrochemical.

The issue of risks associated with the use of Endosulfan came to light over decades of growing international opposition against the organochlorine pesticide. India eventually woke up to the ill effects of Endosulfan, but by then the damage was done. Widespread cases of deformed births, coupled with spiraling cases of can-

cer and cerebral diseases, were reported rapidly in the affected regions of Kerala where Endosulfan wreaked havoc. In addition to this, the flora and fauna of the region suffered immeasurable damage during the two decades of the use of the pesticide. In the face of growing scientific evidence against the pesticide and visible impacts on health of the people and environment, Endosulfan was banned in Kerala in 2005, with the Centre issuing a notification withholding the use of Endosulfan in the State, on the basis of reports of the National Institute of Occupational Health and various committees.

However, the ban has been ineffective as, according to recent reports, Endosulfan is still under use in Kerala. Nearly 300 large plantation holders of Palakkad are known to use Endosulfan and other pesticides extensively during the

flowering season to kill pests — leaf-miners and leaf-hoppers. Acting on available information, NGOs conducted enquiries and found that Endosulfan was easily available across the district borders in Tamil Nadu, where it is not banned. Due to the State borders being manned by the police, excise officers and commercial tax personnel, but having no official from the horticulture department, the identification of Endosulfan infiltrating into Kerala has become a growing challenge. This shows the difference between responses in India and the US. Based on an EPA report, US authorities have already tightened the noose around the usage of harmful pesticides as mentioned in the report, but India, in spite of two decades of suffering, is yet to learn the right lesson or implement the ban properly.

Endosulfan is a known carcinogen, neurotoxin and geno-

toxin that damages the DNA. The Insecticides Act of 1968 recommends restricted use of Endosulfan. The Stockholm Convention, a global treaty to protect human health and environment from such chemical compounds, has declared Endosulfan a persistent organic pollutant and 73 countries have banned its use. India must take stock of the pesticides under use and ensure that they are replaced by less hazardous products and better integrated pest management approaches.

Urgent steps are also needed to protect the small-scale farmers who do not have protective gear and mostly use backpack sprayers that pose high risk of exposure. These measures will not only reduce the risks to users, consumers but will also benefit the environment.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



KOTA SRIRAJ

**think now**

**We, rich nations, have an obligation not only to the poor nations, but to all the grandchildren of the world, rich and poor. We have not inherited this earth from our parents to do with it what we will. We have borrowed it from our children and we must be careful to use it in their interests as well as our own. Anyone who fails to recognise the basic validity of the proposition put in different ways by increasing numbers of writers, from Malthus to The Club of Rome, is either ignorant, a fool, or evil.**

—Moss Cass

Australian parliamentarian



**Cairn Energy would like the Government of India to take the opportunity to repeal the legislation on retrospective taxation in the forthcoming Budget. This positive move would allow India to rid itself once and for all of this detrimental legislation which continues to create a barrier and question mark for international investors considering India as a place to do business**

**CAIRN ENERGY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SIMON THOMSON**

## BUZZ FROM CORPORATES

**In the current year, we believe clarity will emerge and we expect an uptick in the change investments. We do not expect customer budgets to change drastically. However, we do expect that there could be more momentum on the change spends, although it is a bit early to call it out**

**WIPRO CEO ABIDALI Z NEEMUCHWALA**



# Apple ready with blueprint for manufacturing unit in India

**NEW DELHI:** Apple Inc on Wednesday indicated to the Government that it is ready with a blueprint to begin manufacturing iPhones in India, but wants fiscal concessions, including Customs duty waiver on import of components.

Apple executives made a detailed presentation on its road map for setting up a manufacturing unit in India to an inter-ministerial group headed by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Secretary Ramesh Abhishek, sources privy to the development said.

The presentation was made by senior executives of the company, including Global Vice-President (iPhone operations) Priya Balasubramanian.

It cited the country's business friendly ecosystem for keenness to start local manufacturing.

With sales tapering in the US and China, Apple is eyeing India -- the fastest growing smartphone market in the world -- and looking to set up a local manufacturing unit to cut costs.

It, however, does not manufacture devices on its own and rather does it through contract manufacturers.

Besides exemption from the Customs duty on imports of components and equipment for 15 years, Apple wants relaxation in the mandated 30 per cent local sourcing of components.

When contacted, Apple



spokesperson told PTI: "We have been working hard to develop our operations in India and are proud to deliver the best products and services in the world to our customers here."

The spokesperson added: "We appreciate the constructive and open dialogue we have had with the Government about further expanding our local operations."

On the duty and tax-related concessions being sought by the company, the sources said most of them are within the policy domain and decisions will be taken by the respective departments.

"They are seeking certain duty exemptions and other concessions. Respective departments will look at those demands," they added.

The official also said the company has indicated that it would gradually make India a major manufacturing hub for its products.

"The company setting up its manufacturing unit in India is going to be a reality. They have full-fledged plans. There

is no policy impediment. They would also bring their supply chains," the sources divulged.

The company executives yesterday called on Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

In a communication to the Government, the Cupertino-based technology major has asked for several tax and other incentives, including long-term duty exemptions, to enter the manufacturing sector in India.

Currently, the Government provides support by way of benefits under the Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (MSIPS) to boost electronic manufacturing.

The company sells its products through Apple-owned retail stores in countries like China, Germany, the US, the UK and France, among others. It has no wholly-owned store in India and sells its products through distributors such as Redington and Ingram Micro. **PTI**

# Sebi bars Vijay Mallya, six others from securities market



**NEW DELHI:** Cracking the whip, regulator Sebi on Wednesday barred beleaguered businessman Vijay Mallya and six others from the securities market in a case related to alleged fund diversions from United Spirits Ltd.

Besides, Mallya and former United Spirits' official Ashok Kapoor have been restrained from "holding position as directors or key managerial persons (KMPs) of any listed company".

In an order, Sebi has restrained Mallya and six others from the securities market and also from "buying, selling or otherwise dealing in securities in any manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly" till further directions.

The six others are: Ashok Kapoor, PA Murali, Sowmiyanarayanan, S N Prasad, Paramjit Singh Gill and Ainaur S R. Sebi has been looking into the mat-

ter pertaining to alleged fund diversions and improper transactions at United Spirits Ltd (USL).

Mallya resigned as director and chairman of USL in March 2016.

Sebi's order also comes close on the heels of CBI naming Mallya, Kingfisher Airlines and nine others, in the charge sheet related to the 2015 loan default case.

In a 32-page order, Sebi Whole Time Member S Raman said the alleged prima facie violations observed in the case are serious and have larger implications on the safety and integrity of the securities market.

"Investors might have based their investment decisions on the manipulated books of accounts prepared and presented by these persons.

"It would therefore not be in the interest of the securities market and the interest of investors to allow persons of such doubtful demeanour to continue to act as KMPs in the company or in other listed companies or allow them to deal in the securities market," he said.

According to him, pending investigations in the matter, effective preventive and remedial actions needs to be taken. **PTI**

# Maruti Suzuki Q3 profit jumps 47.46% at ₹1,744.5 cr

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday announced a 47.46 per cent jump in standalone net profit at ₹1,744.5 crore for the December quarter on the back of increased share in higher segment models, lower sales and promotion expenses, and cost reduction exercise.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,183 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement.

Total income from operations during the quarter under review stood at ₹19,173.1 crore as against ₹16,957.6 crore in the year-ago period, up 13.06 per cent.

Unit volume sales during the period stood at 3,87,251 units, up 3.5 per cent, over same period a year ago. Of this, exports stood at 30,748 units, it said.

Commenting on the results, MSI said: "Increase in share of the company's higher segment models, lower sales promotion and marketing expense, cost reduction efforts and high-



er non-operating income contributed to increase in profits."

This was, however, partially offset by the increase in commodity prices and adverse foreign exchange movement during the quarter, it added.

For the nine month period ended December 31, the company said it sold a total of 1,154,164 vehicles, a growth of 8 per cent. Out of this, exports stood at 92,291 units.

Shares of MSI were trading 0.62 per cent higher at ₹5,775 apiece on BSE. Later, addressing analysts on a concall, MSI CFO Ajay Seth said the company's compact SUV Vitara Brezza has helped it in increasing market share in utility vehicle segment to 28 per cent during the quarter from 18 per cent in the year ago-period.

On the discount front, he said, although it is generally high in the December quarter, this fiscal it was at an average of ₹19,040 across the models as against ₹21,997 in the same quarter last fiscal.

On the impact of demonetisation on sales, company officials said immediately after it was announced in November there was drop in inquiry and bookings, but it has since recovered gradually through December and January.

While there has been an increase in first time buyers and government employees, there has been a decrease in purchase from small time traders or businessmen.

The officials, however, said it would be clearer only after the end of January to understand by when the situation would return to normalcy.

**BRISK SERVICES LIMITED**  
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**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 3rd February, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. at registered office of the company, inter alia to consider and approve the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results of the Company along with Limited Review Report for the quarter and period ended on December 31, 2016. For more details, please see the notice available on the website www.briskservices.co.in and on the website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India at http://www.mcx-sx.com

**for BRISK SERVICES LIMITED**  
Sd/-  
(Sipendra Kumar)  
Date : 25.01.2017 Whole Time Director  
Place : New Delhi DIN: 06909279

**VINAYAK VANIYA LIMITED**  
CIN: L2110DL1985PLC020108  
Regd. Office: Flat No. 28, 5th Floor, Devika Tower 6, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019  
Website: www.vinayakvaniya.com  
Phone: 011-4367 5500  
E-mail: vvanijya1985@gmail.com

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 3rd February, 2017 at 11:00 A.M. at registered office of the company, inter alia to consider, approve and take on record the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results of the Company along with Limited Review Report for the quarter ended on 31st December, 2016. For more details, please see the notice available on the website www.vinayakvaniya.com and on the website of Stock Exchange at http://www.bseindia.com

**For Vinayak Vanija Limited**  
Sd/-  
Ankit Aggarwal  
Date : 25.01.2017 Whole Time Director  
Place : New Delhi DIN: 00385982

**DISTINCTIVE PROPERTIES AND LEASING LIMITED**  
CIN: L71010DL1984PLC016194  
Regd. Office: Flat No. 1105A, 11th Floor, Hemkunt Chambers 89, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019  
Website: www.distinctiveproperties.co.in  
Email: distinctiveprop1984@gmail.com  
Phone: 011-4367 5505

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 3rd February, 2017 at 10:30 A.M. at registered office of the company, inter alia to consider and approve the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results of the Company along with Limited Review Report for the quarter and period ended on December 31, 2016. For more details, please see the notice available on the website www.distinctiveproperties.co.in and on the website of Stock Exchange at http://www.mcx-sx.com

**for DISTINCTIVE PROPERTIES AND LEASING LIMITED**  
Sd/-  
Arun Bahuguna  
Date : 25.01.2017 Whole Time Director  
Place : New Delhi DIN: 00471958

# Wipro Q3 net falls 5.8% to ₹2,114.8 crore

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ BENGALURU**

Country's third largest software services firm Wipro on Wednesday reported a 5.8 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit to ₹2,114.8 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2016.

The company had reported a net profit of ₹2,246 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

The city-based firm, however, saw revenues rising 6.2 per cent to ₹13,764.5 crore in the said quarter from ₹12,951.6 crore in the same period last year, according to a filing on the BSE. The result is as per Indian Accounting Standards.

Wipro's IT services segment revenue stood at \$1,902.8 million, a sequential decrease of 0.7 per cent and 3.5 per cent rise

# Wipro to acquire Brazil's IT firm

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

Wipro on Wednesday signed an agreement to acquire InfoSERVER SA, an IT service provider focussed on the Brazilian market for \$8.7 million.

InfoSERVER, which counts some of the largest Brazilian banks as its clients, will help Wipro in expanding its presence in the country's highly traditional and competitive banking, financial services and insurance market besides adding invaluable

year-on-year as per IFRS. This is, however, lower than the company's guidance of \$1,916-1,955 million.

domain and process knowledge on the sector, it said in a statement here.

"The LATAM market and Brazil in particular is a strategic growth and investment region for Wipro. This acquisition will provide Wipro with scale and key client relationships, especially in the banking, financial services and insurance domains, which are the largest and fastest growing sectors in the region," Ankur Prakash, Vice President and Head of New Growth and Emerging Markets, Wipro said.

For the March 2017 quarter, Wipro expects revenues from IT services business to be in the range of \$1,922 million to \$1,941

million. "We expanded operating margins by 50 basis points in a seasonally weak quarter and generated strong operating cash flows by disciplined execution," Wipro Chief Financial Officer Jatin Dalal said.

"We are significantly leveraging HOLMES, our automation suite to drive efficiencies in our operations," he added.

Last year, Wipro invested almost \$1 billion into acquisitions, made six investments through Wipro Ventures, funded 8 ideas through Horizon programme, and continued to invest aggressively in cognitive platform, Wipro CEO and Board member Abidali Z Neemuchwala said.

Digital ecosystem grew by 9.9 per cent sequentially in the quarter and now constitutes 21.7 per cent of Wipro's revenues, he added.

# Sensex soars 333 points

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

Sensex on Wednesday returned to its pre-demonetisation level by jumping 333 points to end at a nearly 3-month high of 27,708 on the back of strong earnings amid positive global feelers while NSE Nifty went past the 8,600-mark for the first time since November 1.

Covering of pending short positions following the expiry of the January futures and options contracts today and positive earnings by some companies aided sentiment. Stock exchanges will be shut tomorrow for the Republic Day.

After a positive start, the 30-share Sensex rose further and settled up 332.56 points, or 1.21 per cent, at 27,708.14 -- a level last seen on November 1 when

it had closed at 27,876.61. It hit an intra-day high of 27,736.83.

The gauge had rallied 341.08 points in the previous two sessions.

Also, the 50-issue NSE Nifty ended at 8,602.75, up 126.95 points, or 1.50 per cent, after moving between 8,612.60 and 8,493.95.

"Market had come to the pre-demonetisation level supported by the ongoing quarterly results which largely survived the expected slowdown. Positive global cues also added excitement in the market rally," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit BNP Paribas Financial Services.

Banking, metal, auto and consumer durables stocks were in fine nick, lifting the key indices.

Mood was aided by optimism ahead of the Union budget on February 1 amid a firming trend in Asia and Europe following overnight record close in the US on hopes of fresh spending by new US President Donald Trump, traders said.

The banking index advanced the most by surging 2.33 per cent, followed by consumer durables (2.26 per cent), oil and gas (1.75 per cent), PSU (1.64 per cent) and metal (1.39 per cent).

HDFC Ltd emerged as the top gainer in the Sensex kitty, climbing 4.31 per cent, followed by Adani Ports (up 3.61 per cent). HDFC Bank surged 1.56 per cent after the lender today reported 15.04 per cent growth in net profit for the December quarter.

## CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

### 16 GALLANTRY MEDALS

#### THE NATION SALUTES THE BRAVEHEARTS

**SHAHEED CONSTABLE  
ASHOK KUMAR JAT**  
POLICE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY  
(POSTHUMOUS)

**PMG**

**SHRI ANIL KUMAR SINGH,  
DY. COMDT. (NOW 2-I/C)**

**SHRI VINAY KUMAR,  
ASSTT. COMDT.**

**SHRI BANSHI LAL REGAR,  
ASSTT. COMDT.**

**INSPECTOR  
BHALE RAM**

**INSPECTOR  
NIRAJ KUMAR SINGH**

**CONSTABLE  
RAJESH SHUKLA (NOW SI/M)**

**HEAD CONSTABLE / RO  
MANOJ KUMAR BISOYI**

**CONSTABLE  
BILAL AHMAD GANAIE**

**CONSTABLE  
AMIT CHATTARAJ**

**CONSTABLE  
SUNNY KUMAR**

**CONSTABLE  
SUKESH MAHTO**

**CONSTABLE  
PRAMOD KUMAR**

**CONSTABLE  
SUDHIR KUMAR**

**CONSTABLE  
RANJEET KUMAR TIWARI**

**CONSTABLE  
RANDHIR SINGH**

**MOST DECORATED CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCE**

# AERA allows new airports to adopt hybrid model for tariffs

**'NEW DELHI:** Regulator AERA has allowed upcoming airports to follow a hybrid model for determining tariffs that may lead to fliers shelling out more as airlines may pass on the additional burden to them.

Under the 'Hybrid Till' model only up to 30 per cent of the non-aeronautical revenues, which include segments like retail, food & beverages and parking, would be used for cross-subsidisation of aeronautical charges.

Aeronautical charges include those related to route and terminal navigation services.

Currently, most of the airports follow 'Single Till' model whereby non-aeronautical revenues are completely used to cross subsidise aeronautical charges.

With the new model, only up to 30 per cent of the non-aeronautical revenues would be used for cross subsidisation.

Such a tariff mechanism could push the expenses higher for fliers as airport operators might hike the user development charges.

The new national civil aviation policy, unveiled in June last year, had recommended 'Hybrid Till' model. In a six-page order, dated January 23, AERA (Airports Economic Regulatory Authority) said that in the future tariffs at major airports would be determined under "Hybrid Till" where in 30 per cent of non-aeronautical revenues will be used to cross-subsidise aeronautical charges. **PTI**

# Vedanta mops up \$1bn in bond sale

PTI ■ MUMBAI

London-based energy major Vedanta Resources, which owns a clutch of operating companies in the country on Tuesday raised \$1 billion through a 5-year bond sale to overseas investors at a fixed coupon of 6.375 per cent.

The Anil Agrawal-promoted company said the proceeds from the bond sale will 'proactively address the refinancing liabilities of the company over next two years'.

This is the largest single tranche G3 high yield bond issuance ex-Japan since 2015, the company said in a statement issued from London, adding it expects the bonds to be rated B3 by Moody's and B+ by S&P. G3 bonds mean debt issued in the US dollars, the yen and the euros.

**Vedanta has received and accepted purchase of around \$370,868,000 of the 2018 bonds and \$425,028,000 of the 2019 bonds (excluding \$227,000 of the 2018 bonds and \$200,000 of the 2019 bonds that remain subject to the guaranteed delivery procedures). The issuance got strong investor interest, making it the largest single-tranche G3 high yield bond issuance from Asia ex-Japan since 2015**

The London Stock Exchange-listed Vedanta Resources said the bonds are due in 2022 and will be traded on the Singapore Stock Exchange. The Reg S bonds were sold in private offering to qualified institutional buyers under Rule 144A of the US Securities Act of 1933 and is expected to close on January 30.

"Vedanta intends to use the net proceeds from this offering primarily to fund its offer to purchase for cash any and all of its outstanding \$750,000,000 bonds due 2018 that offers 9.50 per cent interest and the \$1,200,000,000 bonds due 2019 attracting 6 per cent coupon and also to repay its other existing debts."

"Vedanta has received and accepted purchase of around \$370,868,000 of the 2018 bonds and \$425,028,000 of the 2019 bonds (excluding \$227,000 of the 2018 bonds



and \$200,000 of the 2019 bonds that remain subject to the guaranteed delivery procedures," the company said. With this transaction, Vedanta will be refinancing a part of its 2018 and 2019 maturities and extended average debt maturity, it added.

"The issuance got strong investor interest, making it the largest single-tranche G3 high yield bond issuance from Asia ex-Japan since 2015," it. High yielding bonds is another word for below investment

grade debt or junk bonds. Commenting on the sale, Vedanta chief executive Tom Albanese said this transaction is in line with our financial strategy to extend maturities, optimise the balance sheet, and create value for stakeholders.

Barclays, Citigroup, JP Morgan and Standard Chartered Bank were the joint global coordinators, joint lead managers and joint bookrunners. It can be noted on January 17, the nation's largest lender State Bank had raised \$500 million through an international bond sale of five-year bonds at coupon of 3.306 per cent per annum and getting oversubscribed three times. Ahead of an expected steep rise in US rates, many companies are planning to hit the US bond market with Reliance reportedly planning a \$2.5 billion issue.

## MOIL share sale sees robust retail demand; Govt nets ₹480 crore

NEW DELHI: Government's 10 per cent stake sale in manganese miner MOIL on Tuesday saw a robust response from retail investors who put in bids for over 5 times the shares reserved for them, ensuring ₹480 crore to the exchequer. Retail investors bid for over 1.42 crore shares as against 26.63 lakh shares or 5.3 times the number reserved for them in the two-day offer for sale which closed. Retail investors are being given 5 per cent discount to the share allotment price.

The portion allocated to institutional investors yesterday was bid 1.51 times as bids worth ₹580 crore poured in on the first day of the issue. Overall, Government sold 1.33 crore shares through the OFS route at a floor price of ₹365. With all-round participation from institutional and retail buyers, MOIL share sale is expected to garner ₹480 crore to the Government after shares are allotted to the bidders. PTI

## IT Ministry, MEITY framing norms for digital payments

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of IT and Electronics (MEITY) is working on detailed guidelines on digital payments to ensure protection of consumers. "MEITY is working on comprehensive guidelines for digital payments to protect consumers. It will also look at making merchants and vendors involved in digital payment ecosystem act with responsibility," an official source told PTI.

At present, there are no specific guidelines on digital payments and no regulator to ensure fair play in the segment. "There are general rules under which liability can be fixed on stakeholders within digital payments but nothing specific to digital payments.

There are various factors being looked at including service quality and grievance redressal under single frame-

work," the source said. Government has been pushing digital payments to curb flow of blackmoney and fake currency. Various modes of digital payments have seen increase in the range of 400 to 1000 per cent after the Government announced ban on old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes.

The digital payment platforms are governed by rules notified by the Reserve Bank of India, IT Act and other related laws. However, like banking, insurance, telecom etc, the digital payments segment has no mechanism for consumer grievance redressal or ombudsman.

The source said the guidelines are likely to be framed using existing rules for which a detailed study is being conducted by MEITY. "The draft may be placed on MEITY website for public comments soon," the source added. PTI

**{usp}**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY ORGANISES SPECIALISED TRAINING COURSE ON 'ANALYSIS AND DESIGN OF TUNNELS IN HIMALAYAS' FOR PROJECT TEAM OF J&K RAIL PROJECT**

To keep the Project Team of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) National Project abreast with the latest higher technical knowledge on tunneling and rock mechanics, Northern Railway in association with recently instituted IIT, Jammu organised a specialised training course on 'Analysis and Design of Tunnels in Himalayas' from 17th Jan to 21st Jan, 2017. Prof KS Rao, Prof KG Sharma and Dr R Ayothiraman from IIT/Delhi, who have a very wide experience in the field, were the Course Directors of the programme. Anurag Kumar Sachan, Chief Administrative Officer/USBRL, Rajesh Agarwal, Executive Director/J&K Indian Railway Construction Company and other senior officers working on this project were also present at the programme. The Training was attended by 30 Engineering Officers and Staff from all levels of USBRL contingent of Northern Railway and Konkan Railway. The Course highlighted the various technical advances in construction engineering which could provide good insights to USBRL Team in tackling challenges in tunneling construction.

**'BHARAT PARV' BEING ORGANISED AT RED FORT FROM 26TH TO 31ST JAN, 2017**

The 'Bharat Parv' event is being organised by the Govt at the Red Fort, Delhi from 26th to 31st January 2017, as part of the Republic Day 2017 Celebrations. The prime objective of organising the event is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country, to ensure wider participation of the general public and to popularise the idea of *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*. The Ministry of Tourism has been designated as the nodal Ministry for the event, the highlights of which include display of the Republic Day Parade Tableau, Performances by the Armed Forces Bands (static and moving), a Multi-Cuisine Food Court, Crafts Mela, Cultural Performances from different regions of the country and a Photo Exhibition by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. It include choreographed Folk /Tribal Dances and Music from across the country arranged through the North Zonal Cultural Centre as well as performances by cultural troupes from the different States/ UTs of the country. The Food Court will have 50 stalls set up by the States/UTs, National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) showcasing food from different regions as well as by the Institutes of Hotel Management and ITDC. The Crafts Mela with 50 stalls will showcase the diverse handicrafts of the country, arranged by the State Govts, Ministry of Textiles through the Office of the Development Commissioner of Handicrafts. There will be 11 Theme State Pavilions where each State would showcase their achievements and initiatives, tourism products and destinations, etc. The Ministry of I&B is also setting up a Photo Exhibition on the theme 'Mera Desh Badal Raha Hai, Aage Badh Raha Hai'. The big attraction of the event are the Republic Day Parade Tableaux which will be stationed at the venue for the duration of the event.

**WE ARE THE Pen Crusaders**

Young minds came together to script the progressive transition along with Tata Power Delhi Distribution (Tata Power-DDL) in its movement 'Pen Crusaders: Link the Change'. The Pen Crusaders Campaign aims to encourage college goers to showcase their creative prowess through human interest stories and motivate them to contribute towards societal transformation. The students participating in the campaign got an opportunity to interact with CEO & MD, Tata Power-DDL, Praveer Sinha, at Tata Power-DDL's state-of-the-art Smart Grid Lab situated at Rohini, Delhi on Tuesday.

**RESULT OF COMPUTER-BASED EXAM FOR ICSI HELD IN DECEMBER, 2016**

The result of Computer Based Examination for Company Secretaries Foundation Programme held in 114 Cities across the nation on 3rd and 4th December, 2016, has been declared on Tuesday in New Delhi and released to all the Regional and Chapter Offices of the Institute throughout the country for information of all concerned. In addition to making available result along with subject wise break-up of marks on the Institute's website - [www.icsi.edu](http://www.icsi.edu) the ICSI has extended the facility of downloading of e-result-cum-marks statement by the examinees. In December, 2016 session, 66.21 per cent candidates passed the Foundation Programme examination. Deepak Jain secured top position in the Foundation Programme examination. Rashmeet Kaur Chhabra secured second position. Preeti Rajan Deshmukh and VR Shashanghan Suresh have jointly secured third position in order of merit in the examination. The next Computer-Based Examination for CS Foundation Programme will be held on 3rd and 4th June, 2017.

**DEFENCE MINISTER FELICITATES NCC BRAVEHEARTS**

Raksha Mantri, Manohar Parrikar, during his visit to NCC Republic Day Camp 2017, conferred Raksha Mantri Padak and Commendation Cards to NCC Cadets for their exemplary performance and devotion to duty at an impressive 'Investiture Ceremony' held at NCC Republic Day Camp 2017 at Delhi Cantt. He was received by the DG of NCC, Lt Gen, Vinod Vashisht, VSM and Bar, who received the RM Padak are Cadet Rigzen Dolker and Cadet Baljeet Kaur (Punjab), Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Chandigarh Directorate), Cadet Tashi Laskit, Cadet Stanzin Laskit & Cadet Tsering Angmo (J&K Directorate), Cadet Pooja Mehra (Uttarakhand Directorate), Cadet Lalrintluangi (N-E Region Directorate), Cadet Sulachana and Cadet Trishala Gurang (West Bengal & Sikkim Directorate), Cadet Kumari Nutan (Rajasthan Directorate) and Girl Cadet Instructor II Dolyne Kharbhii (North Eastern Region Directorate), (who successfully summited Mt Everest in May 2016 and created world record for maximum number of women from a single team and single country). RM Commendation Cards was awarded to Girl Cadet Instructor II Saroj Boriwai (Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh Directorate) who was part of the support team to scale the Mt Everest.

**INDIAN ARMY HONOURS ITS GALLANT SOLDIERS**

**OUR HEROES**

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee has approved the award of two *Kirti Chakras* and ten *Shauya Chakras* to the Indian Army personnel on the occasion of Republic Day 2017.

## PSA joins hands with CK Birla Gr to re-enter India

NEW DELHI: European auto major PSA Group on Tuesday announced a partnership with the CK Birla group to re-enter the Indian market and earmarked an initial investment of 100 million euros (around ₹700 crore) to set up vehicle and powertrain manufacturing in Tamil Nadu. The tie-up entails two joint-venture agreements between the companies of the two groups.

"As part of the first agreement, the PSA Group will hold a majority stake in the joint-venture company being set-up with HMFCL (Hindustan Motor Finance Corporation Ltd) for the assembly and distribution of PSA passenger cars in India," the two firms said in a joint statement.

Under a second agreement, a 50:50 joint-venture is being set-up between the PSA Group and AVTEC Ltd for manufacture and supply of powertrains. "The manufacturing sites for both vehicle assembly and powertrains will be based in the state of Tamil Nadu," it added. PNS

## Telcos' free offers to hit lenders, Govt tax: Airtel

NEW DELHI: In a veiled attack on newcomer Reliance Jio, telecom major Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said free offers by telcos would hit all stakeholders, including lenders, and Government revenue. "In the short to medium term, free offers will impact all stakeholders including Government levies and taxes, lender with debt exposure of over ₹400,000 crore to the industry," Bharti Airtel Global Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Nilanj Roy said during company's earning call.

He alleged that 'predatory pricing' by new operators has led to 'unprecedented drop in the industry revenue table for the first time since its inception, jeopardising the financial health of poster child - the Indian telecom industry'.

competition from Reliance Jio hit revenues. Consolidated net profit in October-December fell 54 per cent to ₹503.7 crore as against ₹1,108.1 crore in the same period a year ago, the company said in a statement.

"To say that we are living in interesting time would be an understatement. In India, the continuation of free pricing by a new operator has led to tsunami of traffic to the network impacting overall data revenue and voice realisation," Roy said. PTI

## 'Bill Gates may be world's 1st trillionaire in next 25 yrs'

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Microsoft founder Bill Gates will be world's first trillionaire in the next 25 years, according to a new research. According to research firm Oxfam International, the world would get its first billionaire in the next 25 years, when Bill Gates becomes around 86 years old. A report by Oxfam International said that considering that Bill Gates' fortune is growing at 11 per cent per year since 2009, he could become the world's first trillionaire soon.

When Gates left Microsoft in 2006, his net worth was \$50 bil-

lion, according to Oxfam. By 2016, his wealth had increased to \$75 billion, "despite his commendable attempts to give it away through his Foundation," the report said. In addition to the charitable work Gates does through his personal foundation, he is one of the founding members of The Giving Pledge, a commitment from some of the richest individuals in the world to give away more than half of their worth.

For the hypothetical analysis, Oxfam researchers applied the rate of growth he has been enjoying, 11 per cent per year since 2009, to Gates' current levels of wealth (over \$84 billion, according to Forbes). "In such an environment, if you are already rich, you have to try hard not to keep getting a lot richer," Oxfam noted. Another report by Oxfam had found that eight billionaires, including Bill Gates, from around the globe have as much money as the 3.6 billion people who make up the poorest half of the world's population.

As per the report, the eight billionaires, according to the Forbes billionaires list published in March 2016, include Warren Buffett, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Inditex founder Amancio Ortega, Carlos Slim, Amazon chief executive Jeff Bezos, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and Oracle's Larry Ellison.

**Chola**  
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**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(LC No. X0HEDHE00001383115 of our Delhi Branch) Abhishek Goyal (Borrower) Manisha Aggarwal (Co-borrower) Parveen Kumar (Co-borrower)	All that part and parcel of Property bearing: No.15, in Pocket-15/A, Sector-24, property measuring 330 sq.mtrs., in situated in the layout plan of Rohini Residential Scheme, Delhi-110085 and bounded on North-Entry, South-Park, East-Plot No. 14, West-Plot No.16.	20/10/2016 for Rs. 4,66,19,991.67/-	20/01/2017
2.	(LC No. X0HEDHE00000816695 of our Delhi Branch) Mohan Lal Chandan (Borrower) Chandan & Chandan Enterprises P Ltd (Co-borrower) Kishna Chandan (Co-borrower)	All that part and parcel of Property bearing: No. D-36, Entire 2nd Floor, with Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110 024. Admeasuring 333sq.yds., with the built up area of 2018 sq.ft.	30/09/2016 for Rs. 5,39,78,439.09/-	20/01/2017
3.	(LC No. X0HEDHE00000945262 & X0HEDHE00001262719 of our Delhi Branch) Ranbir Singh Bedi (Borrower) Kul Preet Kaur (Co-borrower) Metro Sales(Co-borrower) Gagan Deep Bedi (Co-borrower)	All that part and parcel of Property bearing: H.No. M-556, 1st floor, along with middle mezzanine room admeasuring 259.06 sq. Yds with the built up area of 1553 sq. Ft in layout Hindustan CHBS Guru Haksharan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087.	15/10/2016 for Rs. 2,58,35,930.31/-	20/01/2017
4.	(LC No. X0HEDHE00001073704 of our Delhi Branch) VINOD BANSAL (BORROWER) PREETI BANSAL (CO-BORROWER)	All that part and parcel of Property bearing: Property No. 1 No 1007, admeasuring 160 sq.yards with building thereon in Dr. Mukherji Nagar Residential Scheme, Kingsway Camp, New Delhi, 110 009 bounded on North - Road, South - service lane, East - Plot No 1006, West - Plot No 1008. Property No. 2 Shop No 85 Namdhari chamber Plot No 9 B Block No 54 property admeasuring 545 sq ft Gupta Road W.E.A Basement Carol Bagh New Delhi 110 005	15/10/2016 for Rs. 4,93,05,897.99/-	20/01/2017
5.	(LC No. X0HEDHE00000821500 of our Delhi Branch) SURESH MAHAJAN (BORROWER) VINAY GUPTA(CO-BORROWER) SHEWETA MAHAJAN (CO-BORROWER)	All that part and parcel of Property bearing: House No.394 3rd Floor, Block M Hindustan CHBS Ltd., also known as Guru Harkrishna Nagar, situated at Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087. Entire Third Floor with roof/terrace rights in Property admeasuring 279/11 sq.mtrs., together with a built up area of 1974 sq ft bounded on North - service lane- South -86 zonal road, East - property No 393 and West - property No 395	14/10/2016 for Rs. 1,93,04,030.91/-	20/01/2017
6.	(LC No. X0HEDHE00000916581 & X0HEDHE00001251842 of our Delhi Branch) SURESH MAHAJAN (BORROWER)	All that part and parcel of Property bearing: No.12, in Block-B-1, situated at Paschim Vihar, New Delhi Entire Third Floor admeasuring 326.09 sq.mtrs with Roof/terrace rights built up area of 1950 sq. ft.	14/10/2016 for Rs. 4,11,83,947.87/-	20/01/2017

Place : Delhi-NCR Sd/- (Authorised Officer)  
Date : 26/01/2017 For M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

**LOGWELL FORGE LIMITED**  
CIN: U74899DL1982PLC013747  
Regd. Office: E-78, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-110048  
Corp. Office: 116, Udyog Vihar, Phase - I, Gurgaon - 122 016, Haryana  
Ph: +91-124-4518000. Fax: +91-124-5001899  
E-Mail: logwell1982@gmail.com, Website: www.logwellforge.com

**SHINWELL LEASING LIMITED**  
CIN: L65910DL1984PLC019329  
Regd. Office: 216-B, Devika Tower, 6, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019  
Ph. : 011-43675505  
E-Mail: shnewell1984@gmail.com  
Website: www.shinwellleasing.com

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 3rd February, 2017 at 11:30 A.M. at registered office of the company, inter alia to consider, approve and take on record the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results of the Company along with Limited Review Report for the quarter ended on 31st December, 2016. For more details, please see the notice available on the website www.shinwellleasing.com and on the website of Stock Exchange at <http://www.nse.co.in>.

For Logwell Forge Limited Sd/-  
Varinder Kumar Kaur  
Date : 25.01.2017 (Whole Time Director)  
Place : New Delhi DIN: 07998718

For Shinwell Leasing Limited Sd/-  
Ranjit Singh  
Date : 25.01.2017  
Place : New Delhi DIN: 07524007

**HDFC BANK** Add: Legal Cell, 11nd Floor, Indian Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110 002

**POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)]**

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued to demand notices dated 10/11/2016 calling upon the borrower(s) 1. MRS. POONAM TALWAR W/O SHRI. VIPIN TALWAR, 2. MR. ABHISHEK TALWAR S/O SHRI. VIPIN TALWAR, to pay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs. 32,67,587 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Seven Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on her/him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act on the read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 23rd day of January, 2017. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of HDFC Bank Ltd. for an Rs. 32,67,587 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Seven Only) and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc less amount paid if any. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

PROPERTY SECOND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOFTERRACE RIGHTS WITH 1/4TH UNDIVIDED SHARE IN STILT PARKING AND COMMON LIFT BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. 110, IN BLOCK-A, ADMEASURING 200 SQ. YDS., SITUATED AT ASHOK VIHAR, PHASE II, NEW DELHI.

BOUNDED AS UNDER:  
NORTH: P. NO. 111 SOUTH: P. NO. 109  
EAST: ROAD 30/WIDE WEST: SERVICE LANE 15' WIDE

Date - 25/01/2017 Authorised Officer  
Place: New Delhi HDFC Bank Ltd

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**Office of the Inspector General of Police, CoBRA Sector, CRPF (LSC, CoBRA Sector)**

Old Secretariat, Block No. 11, Civil Line, Delhi-110054  
(Telephone/ Fax No. 011-23814552)

NO.- L.VII-36/2016-17-LSC.Proc-CoBRA

Inspector General of Police, CoBRA Sector, CRPF, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites online tenders under two bid system (Technical and Commercial bid) on the prescribed form for the purchase of following stores as per details given below:-

**Tender No.:- No. L.VII- 36/2016- 17-Proc- LSC- CoBRA., Description of stores:- Compact Light Weight Blanket with Good Insulating Properties., Quantity- 2116 Nos. Specification:- As per Appendix x-"A", EMD(RS):- 21,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Thousand) only (EMD should valid upto 240 days from the date of opening tender.), Cost of tender document (non-refundable (in rupees):- 100/- (Rupees One Hundred) only., Date of receipt & opening of tender:- a) Time and date of receipt of online Tender by 1230 hrs on 02/03/2017., b) Time and date of online opening of tender at 1430 hrs of 03/03/2017.,**

2. Bids will be accepted only online at e-Procurement website <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> (CPPP). (Documents to be submitted in original as per Clause 24 schedule to tender).

3. All relevant details, including specification, terms & conditions etc are available on e-Procurement website <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>, (CPPP), same may be downloaded by the bidders. Details can also be seen at CRPF website [www.crpf.gov.in](http://www.crpf.gov.in).

4. For any changes/amendment in Tender Enquiry/specifications etc, tenderers are requested to visit the CRPF/CPPP web sites regularly.

5. Date of availability, of tender on CPPP: 16/01/2017

6. In case of any problem please contact on telephone numbers OH- 23814552.

Sd/- 16/01/2017  
davp 19111/11/0663/1617 DIGP (Prov./LSC)

# Trump to order Mexico border wall, tighten immigration

Set to temporarily ban entry of people from select terror-prone nations

S RAJAGOPALAN ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump was all set on Wednesday to push ahead with his signature campaign issue of building a wall along the Mexican border and order a set of measures to tighten immigration including a possible temporary ban on entry of people from a band of nations that are deemed to be a terror risk for the United States.

In what was only Day 5 since his inauguration last Friday, Trump was slated to visit the Department of Homeland Security later on Wednesday to unveil his plan for a crackdown on the immigration front to let America and the world know that he is not going to be an "all talk, no action" president.

"Big day planned on NATIONAL SECURITY tomorrow. Among many other things, we will build the wall!" Trump tweeted on Tuesday evening, setting off a flurry of activity.

Citing a draft prepared by his top aides and currently under circulation within the administration, US media outlets reported that Trump's plan also includes slashing the number of refugees who can settle in the United States.

"This would pave the way for the

administration to slash the number of displaced people who can be resettled on American soil, and would effectively bar the entry of people from Muslim countries — including Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Syria — at least for some time." The New York Times reported, pointing out that the policy under consideration would halt admissions from Syria and suspend it from other majority-Muslim nations until the administration can study how to properly vet them.

Besides adding 5,000 border agents, Trump was also slated to announce plans for some "sanctuary cities" within the US that were reportedly not dealing suitably with illegal immigrants and their crime situation.

"If Chicago doesn't fix the horrible carnage going on, 228 shootings in 2017 with 42 killings (up 24% from 2016), I will send in the Feds!," Trump threatened in yet another tweet. The Democrats-run Chicago has been in Trump's cross-hairs for the better part of his presidential campaign.

"The proposed orders could lead to sweeping and controversial changes in the way the United States conducts itself at home and around the globe in the name of security, potentially leading to the reinstatement of policies that have been repudiated by much of the world," The Times commented.

The projected moves are being viewed as Trump's first effort to deliver on one of his campaign themes that illegal immigration is out of control and is threatening the country's safety and security.

Trump appeared to be undecided as yet on a sensitive programme instituted by

predecessor Barack Obama. Called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, this 2012 programme has given temporary protection from deportation to hundreds of thousands of people who arrived in the United States as children. During his campaign, Trump had insisted that he would not spare this programme as well.

But in recent days, the White House has advanced the line that the Trump administration's first priority will be the deportation of those illegal immigrants who have a history of criminal activity.

Among the executive orders under consideration, there is one meant for the Secretary of State to determine whether to designate the Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization. Such a designation has been sought by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

On his pet Mexican wall project, Trump has frequently held forth on his campaign trail that the wall would be built and Mexico would pay for it.

## NIKKI HALEY SWORN-IN AS NEW US ENVOY TO UN

Washington: Nikki Haley was on Wednesday sworn-in as America's Ambassador to the United Nations, scripting history to become the first from the influential Indian-American community to serve on a Cabinet rank position in any US presidential administration.

The 45-year-old former South Carolina Governor Haley was sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence. PTI

## GLOBE TROTTER

### 28 KILLED IN SHABAB ATTACK IN MOGADISHU

Mogadishu: Twenty-eight people were killed Wednesday when Al-Shabab fighters attacked a popular Mogadishu hotel, setting off two car bombs and opening fire on security guards, according to the city's main ambulance service.

### SCHULZ TO FIGHT POLL AGAINST MERKEL

Berlin: Germany's Social Democrats leader Sigmar Gabriel on Wednesday said the party had formally nominated former European Parliament chief Martin Schulz as their candidate to challenge Chancellor Angela Merkel in September's general elections.

### 20-YEAR JAIL TERM UPHOLD FOR US MAN IN S. KOREA

Seoul: South Korea's top court upheld an US citizen's 20-year murder sentence Wednesday, finally drawing a line under a tortuous legal saga two decades after he stabbed a Korean to death in a Burger King toilet.

### POPE AXES KNIGHTS CHIEF IN CONDOMS ROW

Vatican City: Pope Francis has ended a bitter dispute with the Knights of Malta by obtaining the resignation of the ancient order's top official in a saga linked to a row over condoms.

### KUWAIT HANGS SEVEN PEOPLE: STATE MEDIA

Kuwait City: Kuwait on Wednesday hanged seven people including a member of the ruling family and three women after they were convicted of premeditated murder, media report said.

### CHINA TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR OF ROOSTER

Beijing: China's cities are fast emptying out with millions of people heading home and expected to make nearly 3 billion trips during the fortnight-long celebrations to welcome the Chinese New Year of Rooster on January 27, triggering the world's largest annual migration.

### 4 KILLED IN SUICIDE ATTACKS IN NIGERIA

Maiduguri: Police and witnesses said at least four people have been killed in three attacks by suicide bombers in Nigeria's northeastern city of Maiduguri.

## GUANTANAMO WAR COURT RESUMES UNDER PRESIDENT TRUMP

They spent seven years locked up under George W Bush, then eight more under Barack Obama — yet the five alleged terrorist plotters were convicted of nothing.

Now, the so-called "9/11 Five" are starting the next phase of their Guantanamo Bay legal odyssey under the presidency of Donald Trump.

Accused of plotting the September 11, 2001 attacks, the men are due in a military courtroom on Wednesday, the first time the secretive tribunal has been in session since Trump was

sworn in less than a week ago.

Renewed focus is on the military prison and the glacial legal process after Trump famously vowed that he would load Guantanamo with "bad dudes," and said it would be "fine" if US terror suspects were sent there for trial. It's been nine years since the United States first charged the 9/11 Five with plotting the September 11 attacks and killing nearly 3,000 people.

A multitude of procedural and legal problems, exacerbated by the logistical challenge of hosting a court in Guantanamo, have slowed the case to a crawl.

## Office of the Municipal Council, Hansi (Haryana)

NOTICE INVITING SINGLE PERCENTAGE / ITEM RATE ONLINE TENDER  
SHORT TERM TENDER

The Municipal Council, Hansi (Hansi) invites the bids from eligible bidders through online bids in the website: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> for the work detailed in the table.

Package No. / ID No.	Name of work	Approximate value of works (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Security (Contractor's Society)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Downloadin g Date	Closing Date	Date of submission of Document	Date of open
38919	Const. of IPB Street & Drain H/O Vishambhar D. H/O wall gali and oner link Gali in W.No.1	2.50	500	2500/5000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38920	Const. of IPB Street & Drain H/O Manoj Kumar to H/O Hanuman Saini in W.No.1 Hansi City.	3.00	500	3000/6000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38923	Const. of IPB Street & Drain H/O Harbans to H/O Naresh in W.No. 1 Hansi City.	8.00	1000	8000/16000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38924	Const. of IPB Street & Drain H/O Jabhagan Saini & Nanu Ram Saini wali gali in Ward No.2 Hansi.	5.00	500	5000/10000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38926	Const. of IPB Street Hookam Saini wali gali Nehru College Road in Ward No.2 Hansi.	4.00	500	4000/8000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38927	Const. of IPB Street Karan Khali wali gali in Ward No.2 Hansi.	3.50	500	3500/7000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38928	Const. of IPB Street Vijay Khatik wali gali in Ward No.2 Hansi.	3.00	500	3000/6000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38929	Const. of IPB Street Balram Saini to Gyan Ram Fauji in Ward No.2 Hansi.	7.00	1000	7000/14000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38930	Const. of IPB Street Manocha Stationery to Ja' Bhagwan in W.No. 3 at Hansi City.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38934	Const. of IPB Street H/O Surender Sharma to Sastri in W.No.3 at Hansi.	2.50	500	2500/5000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38935	Const. of IPB Street H/O Shakuntla H/O Veerban wali gali in W.No.3 Hansi City.	2.00	500	2000/4000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38937	Const. of Drain No.1 Manocha Stationery to Ja' Bhagwan in W.No.3 Hansi City.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38940	Const. of IPB Street H/O Dr. Devender to Naresh Saini in W.No.3 Hansi City.	5.00	500	5000/10000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38950	Const. of IPB Street H/O Om Parkash Advocate wali gali in W.No. 4 at Hansi.	2.00	500	2000/4000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38952	Const. of IPB Street Pappu Numbardar wali gali in W.No.4 at Hansi.	8.00	1000	8000/16000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38955	Renovation of Dadal Park in W.No.4 Hansi.	8.00	1000	8000/16000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38970	Const. of IPB Street College road from to Roshan Mishri in W.No.4 at Hansi.	8.00	1000	8000/16000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38971	Const. of IPB Street near Dara bazar with drain in W.No.7 at Hansi.	5.00	500	5000/10000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38972	Const. of IPB Street H/O Banwari Lal to Chhotu Jain & Near by Street with Drain in W.No.7 at Hansi City.	9.00	1000	9000/18000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38974	Const. of IPB Street H/O Tailor wali gali with drain in W.No.8 Hansi City.	6.00	1000	6000/12000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38975	Const. of IPB Street Bhavnes Khurana wali gali in W.No.8 Hansi City.	8.00	1000	8000/16000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38976	Const. of IPB Street H/O Jutta to Murari Lohiya Choudharian Mohalla in W.No.9 at Hansi City.	5.00	500	5000/10000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38977	Const. of IPB Street H/O Murari Garg to Rattan Ghi wala Chela Mohalla in W.No.9 at Hansi City.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38978	Const. of IPB Street H/O Shoki Pandit H/O Tikak Dhar Ji Ramayan Mohalla in W.No.9 at Hansi.	2.00	500	2000/4000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38979	Const. of IPB Street H/O Parkash Gupta, Rattan Nai to Ajay Sharma, Ganesh to Badri Nath, Manoj Sarcar to Sharvaha Dhoobi, Eit Tent House to Gori Shankar, Omi Kapre wala to Veerban, Roshan wali gali in W.No.10 at Hansi City.	8.00	1000	8000/16000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38980	Const. of IPB Street H/O Sanjay to Ramesh in W.No.11 at Hansi City.	3.00	500	3000/6000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38981	Const. of IPB Street Dinash Pannu to Vijender & Pawan Sudhaja wali gali in W.No.11 at Hansi City.	6.00	1000	6000/12000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38982	Const. of IPB Street Lucky Tuteja to Happy Arya wali gali in W.No.11 at Hansi City.	8.00	1000	8000/16000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38983	Const. of IPB Street Jaanki to H/O Rajesh in W.No.11 at Hansi City.	9.50	1000	9500/19000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38984	Const. of IPB Street Ram Mehr to Barwala Road in W.No.11 at Hansi City.	3.00	500	3000/6000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38985	Const. of IPB Street H/O Satish Kumar to Lakshmi Pandit in W.No.11 at Hansi City.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38986	Const. of IPB Street Om Parkash Kumar wali gali in W.No. 11 at Hansi City.	6.00	1000	6000/12000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38987	Const. of IPB Street H/O Suresh Bgali wala to Salyawan & Earth lining Salyawan to Krishan Rohla in W.No.12 at Hansi.	4.00	500	4000/8000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38988	Const. of IPB Street Sanjay, Rajbir to Dhooop Singh in W.No. 12 at Hansi.	4.00	500	4000/8000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38989	Const. of IPB Street Saini Vatika to Sachdeva Bhawan with Drain in W.No.14 at Hansi.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38991	Const. of IPB Street Kallu to Bitlu Khurana and Bitlu to Yash in W.No.14 at Hansi.	3.00	500	3000/6000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38992	Const. of IPB Street Dr. Salveer to Lakshmi Chand Pannu wali gali in W.No.15 at Hansi.	8.00	1000	8000/16000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38993	Const. of IPB Street Tek Chand to Babbu Halwala and Suresh wali gali in W.No. 15 at Hansi.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38994	Const. of IPB Street Salmshah Ghat Road to Nathu Shop & Raj Singh Joginder in W.No.15 at Hansi.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38995	Const. of IPB Street Wazir Jangra to Balbir Paposia in W.No.15 at Hansi.	2.30	500	2300/4600	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38996	Const. of IPB Street Anaj Mandi Dharmshala to Shanti Vatika in W.No.16 at Hansi.	9.70	1000	9700/19400	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38997	Const. of IPB Street Shanti Vatika to Getto Dairy to Purshotam in W.No. 16 at Hansi.	9.70	1000	9700/19400	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38998	Const. of IPB Street Dyanand Thekedar to Chanderban Fauji in W.No.17 at Hansi.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
38999	Const. of IPB Street Ishwer Jangra to Shamshan Ghat Road in W.No.17 at Hansi.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
39001	Const. of IPB Street Narendhar Duhan to Subhash in W.No.17 at Hansi.	1.00	500	1000/2000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
39002	Const. of IPB Street in Jagannath Mandi in W.No. 18 at Hansi.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
39003	Const. of Green Belt Near Telephone Exchange in W.No.18 at Hansi City.	10.00	1000	10000/20000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
39004	Const. of IPB Street Absh M.C. wali gali in W.No.23 at Hansi City.	5.00	500	5000/10000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
39005	Const. of IPB Street Virender wali gali in W.No.23 Hansi City.	3.50	500	3500/7000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)
39104	Const. of Road with IPB Khar Chungi, Smadha Mandir (H/O Pithul) Pal in W.No.1	94.77	1000	1,30,000	20-01-17	30-01-17 (5-00 PM)	31-01-17 (11-00 AM)	31-01-17 (3-00 PM)

Note: The terms and conditions are available on <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>.  
Executive Officer,  
Municipal Council Hansi (Hansi)

## THE HISAR-JIND COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD. MILK PLANT JIND-126102 HARYANA (AN ISO 9001: 2008 & ISO 22000:2005 CERTIFIED UNIT)

E-Tender Notice  
E-tender under two bid system i.e. technical and financial bids are hereby invited for the supply of server from the Manufacturers/ Suppliers of Server with UPS & Accessories through online bid on the website- <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> for the item detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of the Tender (In. Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Bid Document Fee + E-service Fee(Rs.)	Tender Download Start Date	Tender submission End Date	Tender Opening Date
1	Server with UPS & Accessories	250000	5000	500 + 1000 = 1500	28-01-2017 at 1:00 PM	17-02-2017 at 11:00 AM	17-02-2017 at 11:30 AM

Note:- If the tenders are cancelled or recalled on any ground(s), the tender document fee & E service fee will not be refunded to the Manufacturer/Supplier.  
All the tenders will be received through e-tendering only. Tenders will be opened on the prescribed date as mentioned above in the presence of the agency or their representative, who would like to be present in the office of The Hisar-Jind Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd. The other terms and conditions regarding above tender notice can be read/seen on website <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>. For any query may contact on this no. 01681-225778

RO No. 45901 Dt. 25-01-2017  
Chief Executive Officer, Milk Union Hisar-Jind

## China dismisses reports of missile deployment aimed at US

PTI ■ BEIJING

Amid reports of China developing long range intercontinental ballistic missiles near Russian border with the aim to be able to reach targets in the US, Beijing today said it was just a "speculation spread online".

When asked by a Russian journalist about the reports, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying said, "What you mentioned is a speculation spread online."

"We attach great importance to the development of China-Russia relationship. Our relationship is developing at a high level with a deepening mutual trust. We would like to further exchange our cooperation in different fields," she said, appreciating "very positive" remarks from the Russian side on missile deployment reports.

Russian official news agency TASS quoted China's state-run Global Times as saying that DF-41 ballistic missiles have been deployed in northeastern Heilongjiang province near Russian border.

"China has deployed inter-

### HOPE MONGOLIA DRAWS LESSONS FROM DALAI LAMA VISIT: CHINA

Beijing: Talking tough, China has said it hopes Mongolia shall "draw lessons" from the Dalai Lama's visit last year and asserted that its neighbour has "promised" not to invite the Tibetan spiritual leader again. "It is confirmed through diplomatic channels that relevant promises made by the Mongolian side to not allow the Dalai Lama to visit Mongolia is an important step to elevate bilateral relations to achieve sound growth," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson told.

continental ballistic missiles near Russia with the aim to be able to reach targets in the US, Canada and Europe," the president of the Academy of Geopolitical Problems, Doctor of Military Science Konstantin Sivkov told.

"This is an inter-continental class missile with an effective range of 10,000 to 12,000 kms. The missile's dead zone is no less than three thousand kms. A large territory of Russia, practically the entire Far East and West Siberia are not within the missile's reach," Sivkov said.

## Theresa May promises White Paper on Brexit

PTI ■ LONDON

Theresa May today vowed to publish a "White Paper" on Britain's exit plans from the European Union, a day after the Supreme Court ruled that the British Prime Minister will require the consent of both houses of Parliament to invoke Article 50.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Prime Minister May said she recognised that there was an "appetite" for such a formal policy document on Brexit, which is expected to be published within coming days.

"I can confirm to the

House that our plan will be set out in a White Paper published in this house," she said during her weekly Commons clash with Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn for Prime Minister's Questions.

The White Paper is expected to lay out all the Acts of Parliament that will be required to complete Britain's exit from the 28-nation economic bloc.

The clash came a day after the Supreme Court had ruled that the British PM will require the consent of both houses of Parliament to invoke Article 50, triggering the formal negotiations for Britain's exit from the EU.

## Syria powerbrokers endorse cease-fire deal

AP ■ ASTANA

Russia, Iran and Turkey presented a united front at the conclusion of two days of talks in Kazakhstan between the Syrian government and the armed opposition, pledging support for the country's shaky cease-fire and a joint mechanism to ensure compliance.

They did not specify how

that would work, and continuing differences among the warring sides as well as rebel infighting back home threatened to quickly scuttle the deal. "It's going to be a challenge, it's not going to be easy," the UN's Syria envoy, who mediated between the two sides in the Kazakh capital of Astana, told reporters later.

Russia and Iran, President

## Syria strikes kill 11 fleeing IS town: monitor

Beirut: At least 11 people, including two children,

# SNUBS AND SURPRISES

From the well-practised to the first-timers, this year's Oscar nominees gave an eclectic mix of responses

## Trend Slazer

### 'A dream to work with Mani sir'

**ADITI RAO HYDARI** who will soon be seen in Mani Ratnam's *Kaatru Veliyidai*, ticked another wish off her bucket list, when she was approached for the Tamil film. "As a kid, I wished to work with Mani Ratnam. Years later, I finally shot for a film with him. *Kaatru Veliyidai* broke the complacency within me. I took it up because I was moved by the character. By the time I finished reading the script, I was in tears. There are certain roles you want on your resume. This is one of them. Mani sir makes it endearing. He has a natural gift of showing love in a magical way."



**'I am so glad Sussanne liked the film (Kaabil). Her opinion means the world to me. I am the happiest when people say Kaabil truly is a small film with the largest heart in the world.'**  
—**HRITHIK ROSHAN**

After introducing shows from Turkey and Ukraine, *Zindagi*, will launch the blockbuster South Korean drama

**DESCENDANTS OF THE SUN** for the first time on Indian television. The heart-warming love story revolves around Special Force Officer (Song Joong Ki) and a surgeon (Song Hye Kyo) whose destinies are joined together. The finite series was a blockbuster hit in South Korea and garnered immense popularity and top-ratings across Asia.

### Daisy Ridley to play super spy

**DAISY RIDLEY** will be seen playing a spy for the Allies in World War II in her upcoming movie *A Woman of No Importance*, set for a 2018 release. The film will be based on Sonia Purnell's forthcoming biography *A Woman of No Importance*, which follows the life of pioneering American spy Virginia Hall. According to a source, the book has been acquired by Paramount Pictures. J.J.Abrams, who also produced *Star Wars*, will serve as the producer, while the film's director and scriptwriter haven't been announced yet. Ridley is currently filming crime movie *Murder on the Orient Express*.



As predicted, *La La Land* led the Oscar nominations announced Tuesday, with 14 nods. A nod from the Academy is surely one of the greatest honours that can be bestowed upon an actor in their career - so how do you react when it happens to you? The best actress category has been the most competitive this season. Emma Stone and Natalie Portman were considered sure bets, while Meryl Streep received her 20th Academy Award nomination, a Best Actress nod for her performance in *Florence Foster Jenkins*. With this latest mention, Streep broke the record for



most Oscar nominations, again, and she chose to respond to this historic moment in the most appropriate of ways: a memorable GIF. A GIF of Streep dancing in Paul McCartney's 2013 video for *Queenie Eye*. "I was trying not to care but caring quite a lot. And then my British agent called me and I thought to myself, 'Why the hell is she calling me, does she not know that



"I'm waiting for the nominations to come out?" And I answered the call and she obviously got the news before my Twitter feed gave it to me, and she was just kind of screaming so I thought this was probably a good thing."  
— **Andrew Garfield**, nominated for lead actor for *Hacksaw Ridge*, by phone from London, where he's rehearsing for the National Theatre's *Angels in America*.



"Where I am it's just starting to snow. I think we're going to have a big snowstorm. So I'm probably going to go over and throw some salt down on my dad's front steps and hang out with him."  
— **Viggo Mortensen**, speaking by phone from upstate New York, on how he plans to

celebrate his lead actor nomination for *Captain Fantastic*.



"Just to have August's words be alive and people thinking about the stories is good enough for me."  
— **Constanza Romero Wilson**, widow of August Wilson, on how she'll celebrate his posthumous adapted screenplay nod for *Fences*."



"This year we have all benefited from a terrific year of film which happens to also be very inclusive of different voices, and we're all actually better off for it... I do think this last year of conversation all about inclusion, whether in the academy or Hollywood or society in general, has awakened some folks to the issue."  
— **Film academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs**, by phone

from academy headquarters in Beverly Hills, on the diversity of nominees.

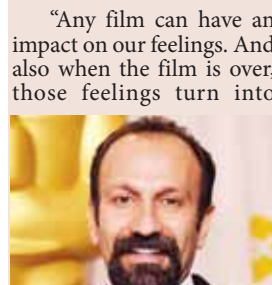


"I just like to create. I like a genre where I can make and design costumes."  
— **three-time Oscar winner Colleen Atwood**, who received her 12th costume design nomination for *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. She spoke by phone from London, where she is working on Tim Burton's next project.



"I turned my phone off airplane mode and got a call from my publicist and she told me I got nominated and I freaked out and ran downstairs and started screaming to my parents. And for the next hour I had the greatest high."  
— **Lucas Hedges**, supporting actor nominee for *Manchester By the Sea*, from New York

where he is rehearsing for a play called *Yen*.



"Any film can have an impact on our feelings. And also when the film is over, those feelings turn into thoughts and reflections. At the root of any kind of change, there is thoughtfulness and reflection."  
— **Asghar Farhadi**, director of foreign language film nominee *The Salesman*, speaking through an interpreter by phone from Tehran, Iran.

"What could be more exciting than listening to the nominations being announced while holding my newborn son!"  
— **Mel Gibson**, nominated for directing *Hacksaw Ridge*, said in a statement.



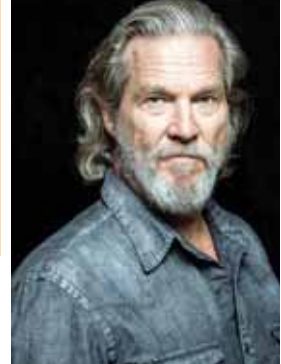
"I have a nine week old baby girl so I've been up since like — I was up and then I fell asleep for like an hour, and my sister who is visiting was like, 'You did it! You did it!' — and the baby woke up crying — and she's like, 'We did it Emily!' And my husband's like, 'How do you want me to handle the baby?! He's like 'Bottle? Is this a moment for a bottle?'"  
— **Allison Schroeder**, nominated with Theodore Melfi for their adapted screenplay for *Hidden Figures*, on how she got the news Tuesday.

"I'm so messed up with time zones — I had no idea when they were happening. Thankfully I was on my



lunch break from 'Mary Poppins', so I was in my trailer watching a delay of the Australian Open — I still don't know if Federer won or not. Please don't spoil it for me."  
— **Lin-Manuel Miranda**, on learning of his original-song nomination for *How Far I'll Go* from *Moana*, speaking by phone from London.

"I'm a little rough this morning because (last night) I was playing with my band, the Abiders, down in Encinitas, at this great bar called the Belly Up. And we had a great show down there. So this is all kind of early in the morning for me. I got to



sleep about 2 or 3 in the morning, after partying with my boys. So I don't know about doing too much partying tonight. Maybe a nice soak in a bath or something like that."  
— **Jeff Bridges**, by phone from San Diego, on how he plans to celebrate his supporting actor nod for *Hell or High Water*.

## FOR THE LOVE OF ART



An art exhibition "Artistic Salute to Nation" is being hosted by DLF Promenade this republic day where in portraits made by the kids below 5th standard from leading schools in the city will be displayed in a monumental pillar installation

designed by the JD Institute of Fashion Technology on January 26 and 27. These kids have shared their paintings representing what's India to them and giving their 'young' yet 'artistic' salute to the nation through art.

In an ode to celebrate India of 21st century, this Republic Day, DLF Place, Saket has come up with a marvelous 'Wheel of Progress' art installation at its precincts. The massive art installation has Ashok Chakra at its top followed by another tricolored frame with India written in three-dimensional alphabets adorned with acrylic leaves. Also, there is a slogan wall behind the installation, where visitors can write messages for Republic Day. The moving Ashok Chakra in the installation denotes India as a fast growing economy which is on the path of inclusive process, whereas, the tricolored leaves represents the desire of millions of Indians who wish to see India as a global leader.



The Republic Day decoration at Hotel The Ashok is made up of plywood, rice, edible colours, candles and grass. The decor is done by the hotel staffs. Through this piece of art, they commit to provide the best traditional hospitality with a modern touch to their customers ensuring that they have best of hospitality meeting the world standards.

## SHAHI TIRANGA ROLLS

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Cottage Cheese 200 gms
  - Khoya grated 20 gms
  - Spinach leaves 100 gms
  - Cashew nuts 20 gms
  - Raisins 20 gms
  - Chopped Garlic 05 gm
  - Salt to taste
  - Black Pepper Powder to taste
  - Garam Masala Powder 02 gms
  - Cream 100 ml
  - Corn flour 10 gms
  - Saffron 0.25 gms

**HOW TO MAKE**  
**Pre Preparation:**  
■ Slice the cottage cheese into sheets, three mm thick, four inches long each.  
■ Wash and blanch spinach leaves and finely chop it.  
■ Take little oil in a frying pan add chopped garlic, as the garlic turns golden



brown add finely chopped spinach leaves to it and sauté for two minutes.  
■ Grate and mix the remaining cottage cheese, khoya, cashewnuts, raisins, salt, black pepper powder and garam masala powder and add the chopped spinach to make a mixture.  
■ Place one portion of this spinach mixture over a slice of cottage cheese and neatly roll the sheets over. Repeat for the remaining slices of cottage cheese.  
■ Mix cream, corn flour and saffron. Dip the prepared rolls in this batter one by one and place on a tray. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

**Preparation:**  
■ Bake or grill under a salamander to a golden brown colour and serve hot with mint chutney.  
Courtesy: Mr. Gaurav Malhotra Sr. Sous Chef, Hotel The Ashok, New Delhi.

This Republic Day, savour the best of tricolour delicacies at Capital Kitchen at Taj Palace, New Delhi. The buffet would represent delicacies from North, East, West and South of India, making it a complete culinary tour. Indulge in the old age nostalgia with the array of comfort food, where each dish triggers innumerable memories harking that patriotism.

Enjoy the live counters with street

food from every part of the country, be it- Appam, dosa, chaat, kebabs or live breads. Not only the food but the whole ambience would be a tribute to the republic day where the hotel staffs would be dressed in attires representing various regions of India. The thematic bar would serve regional beverages like Kahwa, south Indian filter coffee, lassi, aam panna, jal jeera, Darjeeling tea and many more.



Indulge in a special Republic Day Buffet at the popular all day dining restaurant Café Knosh at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel.

Spoil yourself and feast on an inspired selection of dishes from the pre and post-independence era. The wide spread buffet priced at only ₹2017 encompasses various regional Indian cuisines and numerous items representing the revered tricolour.

Each visitor will also be treated to a specially curated tricolor welcome drink to commemorate the beloved occasion.

Raftaar Lounge and bar celebrates Republic day with special tricolor dishes for the gourmet lovers. With tummylicious dishes at your platter, Raftaar assures to serve you with perfect blended spices and all other ingredients. With Republic day on cards, Raftaar has come up with R-Day special menu which includes tricolor paneer Steak, tiranga halwa, Hindustani pulao, and tricolor chicken roulade.

Come one, come all in full raftaar to join the food parade of the delicious tricolor dishes only at Raftaar.



## TIRANGA PANEER TIKKA

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Paneer (cottage cheese) 200 grams
  - Green chutney 1 tablespoons
  - Khoya/mawa grated 2 tablespoons
  - Saffron (kesar) 5-6 threads
  - Salt to taste
  - Red chilli powder 1/2 teaspoon
  - Hung curd 1/2 cup
  - Gram flour (besan) 1 tablespoons
  - Ginger-garlic paste 1/2 tablespoon
  - Fresh coriander leaves chopped 2 tablespoons
  - Green chillies chopped 2-3
  - White pepper powder 5 gram
  - Lemon juice 1/2 tablespoon
  - Melted butter for basting

**HOW TO MAKE**  
■ Grate 20 grams of cottage cheese and cut the remaining into one-and-a-half-inch cubes. Slice each cube into three layers without cutting through. In a bowl, mix together the khoya, saffron and salt.  
■ In another bowl, mix together the grated cottage cheese, chilli powder and salt. Take a cottage cheese cube, spread the green chutney over the first layer, the khoya mixture on the second layer and the cottage cheese mixture on the third layer.  
■ Mix together the yogurt, gram flour, ginger-garlic paste, fresh coriander, green chillies, white pepper powder and lemon juice in a deep bowl.  
■ Add the stuffed cottage cheese cubes and mix gently so that all the cubes are evenly coated with the marinade. Set aside for about an hour.  
■ Thread the cottage cheese onto skewers and roast in clay oven grilled over char coal on a moderate heat for five to six minutes, basting them with melted butter once in between.  
■ Serve hot with Indian classical salad with dips  
Courtesy: Chef Pankaj Jha, Senior Executive Sous Chef, The Surya New Delhi



What else is better than to enjoy and celebrate Republic day with the food that represents love for your country.

The Chatter House is here to make you feel even more patriot this republic day with their Republic Day inspired dishes. Indulge yourself in the feeling of patriotism while munching onto specially crafted Republic day cheesecake, Indian Lover mock-tail, Republic special Biryani.

# Steel Minister inaugurates Universal Rail Mill at SAIL

Established at a cost of about ₹1200 crores, the plant will have the largest rail production capacity in any single location for a plant world over

Union Steel Minister, Birender Singh inaugurated the new Universal Rail Mill at Steel Authority of India Limited's (SAIL) Bhilai steel plant and flagged off the first rake from the new mill. With this, SAIL has begun the commercial production of world's longest single rail of 130 meters from the new Universal Rail Mill (URM). Birender Singh congratulated SAIL collective for commencing production from URM and said, "It is a huge step towards the Make in India initiative, where India is pioneering in production of such quality products. The country needs to be self sufficient in meeting its specific requirements and products like the longest rails will solidify industry confidence."

The state-of-the-art URM, established at a cost of about ₹1200 crores will now take BSP's total capacity to produce rails at 2.0 MTPA, which will be the largest rail production capacity in any single location for a plant



world over. Alongside the URM, which is part of the plant's modernisation and expansion programme (MEP), a long rail welding complex had also been set with proven technology for world class rail welding. The welding complex is equipped with fully automated flash butt welding machine to weld rail panels of 260-metre length and fully automated long rail handling facility. This URM complex will equip SAIL to

meet Indian railways' specific demand of 260 metre rails as the new mill is capable of producing 260 metre long rail with a single weld and also has the provision to supply welded panels up to 520 m length in future. The rails rolled from this new URM will enable SAIL to produce rails with improved surface quality, less residual stress and improved straightness.

Speaking at the occasion, chair-

man, SAIL, PK Singh said, "With the inauguration of URM, SAIL has come one significant step closer to completing the modernisation. This URM complex with the latest technology will empower SAIL to meet the specific needs of Indian railways with greater efficiency and finesse. In the challenging market scenario, we expect to offer better solutions for specialised needs of our valued customers."

## 'The youth should join ICG'

As Indian Coast Guard enters its 40th year of existence on February 1, what is the present surface fleet, air fleet and manpower strength? How will it grow in the next 10 years?

It is indeed an honour for me to be at the helm of this fine service when the Indian Coast Guard marches into the fortieth year of glorious service to the Nation. The service at present has in its inventory 126 surface platforms (62 ships & 64 ACVs/boats) and 62 aircraft (39 Dorniers/19 Chetak). In addition, ICG has also established a Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN) as part of the 'Chain of Static Sensors' project for augmentation of coastal surveillance capabilities which is a force multiplier. The implementation of Phase-I has been completed at 46 sites as part of Phase-I and 38 new Radar Stations are planned as part of phase II.

By the end of 2020, the ICG is expected to have a fleet of 150 surface platforms and 100 aircraft.

Will this growth be commensurate with the additional responsibilities that you have been entrusted with over the years, particularly after 26/11? What has changed for the Coast Guard in terms of its responsibilities since 26/11?

The Coast Guard Act, 1978 clearly spells out the charter of duties and the ICG has been meeting them with utmost dedication. Prior to 26/11, ICG role was limited to anti-smuggling, anti-poaching operations and benign operations like Search & Rescue and Response to Marine Pollution. Post 26/11, the Government gave great impetus to maritime security in general and to coastal security in particular. The ICG was then entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating Coastal Security with all stakeholders.

By the end of 2020, the ICG is likely to have a force level of 150 surface platforms and about 100 aircraft. In addition, the number of shore units have been increased to 27 to 45 since 26/11. These inductions are planned and manifested through "CG Perspective Plan" and "CG Development Plan" spread over 15 year and 05 year periods respectively.

What mechanism do you have in place so that the ICG can provide urgent assistance to the fishermen in Indian maritime zones? What is the progress on the plan of installing Distress Alert Transponders (DAT) on



all fishing vessels?

Assistance to fishermen is one of the primary charters of ICG. Towards discharging this charter, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCC) at Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair are manned 24x7 to respond to any incidents / accidents at sea involving shipping and fishing traffic in Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR). A toll free help line number 1554 has been established for Maritime Search and Rescue. A toll free coastal security help line number 1093 is also operational at police control rooms in coastal states for real time reporting of suspicious activities in coastal waters.

You are the first regular Coast Guard officer to take over the mantle of DGICG and going to complete a year in office. What are the key initiatives/achievements in the last one year?

I had the honour of assuming the helm of this fine service on 29th February 2016. Our aim has been and continues to be, commitment to our goal of providing safer lives, safer coasts and safer seas. Considering the current security scenario, we have laid emphasis on provisioning of a robust Coastal Security mechanism to thwart any nefarious designs. The focus is to cohesively involve all the state and central stakeholders through conduct of regular exercises to achieve seamless synergy during a real time scenario. To meet this objectives, we have stressed on the need to modernize the force and infrastructure of the service. In the last one year, contracts for 10 ships (05 FPVs and 05 OPVs) have been signed. 72 vessels are under construction at various Indian shipyards. In consonance with the 'Make in India' initiative, we promote Indian

industry by having all our ships indigenously built and maintained. This has effectively reduced our dependence on imports thereby reducing the downtime of our assets and savings to the government exchequer. Infrastructure development has been our focus and cases for augmentation are in progress.

What would you like to say to encourage the youth to join the ICG? What are the growth prospects?

The ICG from its humble beginning has grown into 126 ships, 62 Aircraft organization which is now the 4th largest Coast Guard in the world. The career at sea is challenging, adventurous and provides opportunity to travel around the globe. ICG is a young, vibrant and growing service which provides excellent growth prospects. In addition to the salary, various perks like free medical facility, canteen facility, Leave travel concessions, priority admission in Kendriya Vidyalyayas and various professional institutes for wards of personnel. The service also provides opportunity for personnel to upgrade their professional skills by deputing them for specialization courses in India and abroad. Opportunities also exist for deserving personnel to be sent on deputation to few select foreign countries.

In order to entice the youth to join the force, the Govt of India has approved free boarding and lodging facility and reimbursement of to and fro travelling expenses once to the candidates appearing for Final Selection Board for the post of Assistant Commandant in Coast Guard.

I would personally exhort the youth who love challenges, adventure and those who believe in striving for excellence to come and join the Indian Coast Guard.

What is the intake of women officers in the ICG and what kind of roles have been encouraged?

The women officers are being inducted in the General Duty, Law and the Aviation cadre. At present there are 130 women officers. The general intake is about 10 women officers every year. Short service appointees in the General Duty cadre and the CPL entry have also been introduced in the service. The women officers of the general Duty cadre are employed in the shore establishments and the headquarters for administrative and logistics duties and those in the aviation are sent to aviation units for flying duties.

## 'Use of Swadeshi steel is the way forward'

Chairing the meeting of National Steel Consumers' Council of Ministry of Steel in Mumbai, Union Minister of Steel, Birender Singh said that there is great potential for increasing steel consumption in the country. Use of Swadeshi steel is the way forward not only for steel consumption but also for sustainable growth of the steel industry and economy. Singh informed the members that National Steel Consumer's Council has been strengthened with the induction of industry experts. The meeting was attended by 150 of all stake holders of producers of MSME, integrated steel plants of private and public sector, machinery manufacturers and consumers of infrastructure, transport housing equipment sectors.

Elaborating on the need of the hour he said, "Government of India's emphasis through Make in India and support to Swadeshi production offers huge opportunity to raise the domestic steel consumption."

He said that India's current per capita steel consumption stands only at 60 kg, which is very less as compared to the world average of 208 kg. He informed that Ministry of Steel has already start-



ed a campaign to boost steel consumption in country through encouraging all concerned ministries to use only India-made steel for infrastructure and construction projects of the Government. Also, he said that the campaign would help in educating people about the numerous sustainability benefits, which are guaranteed to be realised whenever steel is used. The attributes like low waste, offsite manufacture, resource efficiency, adaptability, long lasting appeal, safety, reusability and recyclability makes steel arguably the most befitting material for

construction. He further stressed that in 2016, India had emerged as the third largest steel producer in the world and central government is taking all steps to make the country world's second largest steel producer.

During his address, Singh stated that the support extended to the steel industry by way of various trade remedial measures in recent times have led to a significant reduction in imports and stabilisation of domestic market. Globally, trade protection by various governments is on the rise. Indian steel industry has to acquire the competitive edge by benchmarking with the best in the world, in order to be a global leader.

He also informed the members of the council that Ministry of Steel has for the first time gone in for crowd sourcing of ideas by inviting comments/suggestions for the National Steel Policy (NSP), 2017 from all stakeholders and the public. The Minister stressed on the need to focus more on research and development so that India can develop indigenous capability to produce better and more value added steel.



### Tata Power illuminates rural India

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited implemented Microgrid Project in Tayabpur, a village in the Vaishali district of Bihar having an estimated 190 hutments with a population of around 1000 to accomplish the vision of providing access of electricity to all. The project is in line with the Government of India's Electrification program which aims to provide "electricity to all" by establishing a stand alone off-grid village electrification system where grid supply has not reached or is not feasible.

Inaugurating the Microgrid, Praveer Sinha, CEO and MD Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. said, "Today, electricity is recognised as a basic need for realising the objective of sustainable human development. Rural electrification is a key component for facilitating economic progress including meeting socio-economic goals and overall human development in the villages. This project aims to develop a novel Solar Microgrid model suitable to our Indian conditions and support electrification which is affordable, sustainable and helps us to reach remote rural areas. We hope through implementation of the Tayabpur project we will have a model for installing and developing smart Microgrids in the country ensuring access to affordable, reliable and consistent energy for all."

### Post Offices extend passport services

In order to extend passport services to the citizens on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts (DOP) have now agreed to utilise the Head Post Offices (HPO) in the various states as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) for delivering passport related services to the citizens of our country. The pilot projects for this joint venture between MEA and DOP were inaugurated on 25 January at the HPO at Mysuru in Karnataka and at Dahod in Gujarat. Appointments for passport applicants have been released for these two places beginning 25 January. Applicants, who apply for their passports online through the passport portal, can now schedule an appointment and then visit the designated POPSK to



complete the formalities akin to those at the PSK necessary prior to the issue of the passport. Delivery of passport related services through the POPSK would be yet another citizen-centric measure of the Government in taking IT-driven public services closer to the people of the country.

### Jammu students meet Home Minister

A group of 40 school children consisting of 20 girls and 20 boys hailing from remote and far flung areas of Jammu region met the MoS (Home), Hansraj Ganga Ram Ahir at the Conference Hall (Room No.119), MHA, North Block, New Delhi. The students in the age group of 12-18 years are on a Bharat Darshan Tour from 15th January to 29th January organised by the BSE.

The concept of Bharat Darshan Tours for the children from Jammu and Kashmir was started as an annual feature in the year 2000. The entire expenditure on the tours is met by BSE. This includes dresses, travel expenses, boarding and lodging, etc.



K K Sharma, DG BSF welcomed the MoS (Home) Hansraj Ganga Ram Ahir and apprised him of the composition of the group. He informed that Bharat Darshan tour has widened horizons and given the children an opportuni-

ty to see the diversities of the nation. The children then shared their experiences of visits to different historical places and thanked the BSF and the Government of India for organising tours of this nature.

### BHEL BAGS A LANDMARK ORDER

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), in partnership with ABB, has secured a landmark order from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID). BHEL's scope of work, is valued at ₹1,360 crore, for setting up a + 800 kV, 6,000 MW HVDC Link between the Western Region Grid (Raigarh, Chattisgarh) and the Southern Region Grid (Pugalur, Tamil Nadu).

Significantly, this is the second Ultra High Voltage Direct Current (UHVDC) transmission project contract for BHEL.

### Chaudhary inaugurates NIELIT director's meet

The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) organised the 20th meeting of NIELIT Centre Directors at Hotel Radisson Blu, Jaipur where centre heads from about 35 NIELIT centres spread throughout the country assembled to brainstorm and deliberate initiatives for taking forward the high growth story that NIELIT has scripted in the recent times.

The meet was inaugurated by P.P. Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (E&IT and L&T). In the event, the Minister



also unveiled the booklet on NIELIT's Cyber Security courses aimed towards equipping a common man with basic level skills.



Sangeet Niketan organised its 66th annual celebrations at LTG Auditorium. Hari Chand Verma, President - Jawaharlal Nehru National Yuva Kendra, Delhi inaugurated the function. Students of all three branches of the institution presented a number of performances based on classical music and dance on the occasion. According to the principal, Chakarvarthy Ram Mohan Rai, the institution is dedicated to the promotion of classical music and dance in the country.

### Saveetha University awarded as Asia's Greatest Brands

Asia's greatest brands and leaders award 2016 was conducted on 24th January, at Marina Bay Sands Hotel, Singapore.

It is an exclusive research based listing of brands and leaders from across Asia, process reviewed by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Saveetha University has been recognised as Asia's Greatest Brands 2016 and Dr. N. M. Veeraiyan, Chancellor, Saveetha University has been felicitated with prestigious - Global Asian of the Year 2016 - Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the society and the



education sector. Many dignitaries, educationists, industrialists, business and brand owners from various sectors across Asian region were present in the summit.



Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar inspecting 'Guard of Honour' at the DG NCC Republic Day Parade Camp 2017, Delhi. Lt Gen V Vashisth, VSM and Bar, DGNCC is also seen.



NTPC-Badarpur is contributing for the promotion of society through its CSR activities. Solar Lanterns were distributed to the meritorious students of Class-8th to 12th of Government Girls Sr. Sec. School No.2, Molarband, Badarpur by the Narayan Dutt Sharma, MLA and Group General Manager, NTPC Badarpur.



The Minister of State for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge), Bandaru Dattatreya presiding over the Regional Labour Conference of North and Central States, at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on January 24.



The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar addressing the press conference on the India Institute of Management Bill, 2017, in New Delhi on January 25.



The Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Uma Bharti lighting the lamp to inaugurate the new corporate office complex of National Projects Construction Corporation, in New Delhi on January 24.



The NTPC Rajbhasa Shields for best implementation were presented at the annual meeting of Hindi Advisory Committee. POWERGRID was given third prize for the year 2013-14 and first prize for the year 2014-15. Indu Shekhar Jha, CMD received the awards from the Union Minister for State (I/C) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal.



# INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

## Indian Customs dedicates the year 2017 to "DATA ANALYSIS FOR EFFECTIVE BORDER MANAGEMENT"



सत्यमेव जयते  
प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister

### MESSAGE

I extend my greetings to the officers of Central Board of Excise and Customs, and to the Customs fraternity on International Customs Day, being observed on 26 January, 2017.

I am sure, that excise and customs officials will take this opportunity to rededicate themselves to the cause of safeguarding our economy, environment, wildlife and heritage. I also hope that they will work proactively towards facilitating greater 'ease of doing business,' and incorporate the latest available technological tools to promote transparency and efficiency.

My best wishes to all officers and ranks of the Customs Department.

(Narendra Modi)

"CBEC has already made considerable progress in automation of business processes as part of its efforts to improve ease of doing business and trade facilitation. SWIFT (Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade) was successfully launched on 1.4.2016 bringing six agencies namely FSSAI, Plant Quarantine, Animal Quarantine, Drug Controller, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau & Textile Committee on a single platform. SWIFT, which includes an integrated Risk Management Systems for these agencies based on data analysis, has significantly reduced the need for examination of cargo thereby expediting cargo clearance and reducing transaction cost. I am sure Indian Customs will take forward these initiatives in line with WCO slogan "Data Analysis for Effective Border Management" for the year 2017. On this occasion, I extend my best wishes, to all officers and staff of the Indian Customs."

- Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

"The role of Information and Communications Technology is critical not only for ensuring better delivery of taxpayer services but also to manage compliance risks. The initiatives taken by Indian Customs such as SWIFT (Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade), Authorized Economic Operator Programme, paperless processing, electronic message exchange with partner agencies etc. have a trade-centric focus. These steps have helped Indian Customs not only to reduce dwell-time but also manage compliance risks more effectively. I have no doubt that collation and analysis of available data along with data from other organizations will help in Effective Border Management."

- Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State for Finance

**CBEC wishes everyone a Happy Republic Day.  
We are proud to present our tableau in the Republic Day  
Parade on Rajpath, New Delhi with the historic GST as the theme.**



### Presidential Awardees for "Specially Distinguished Record of Service" for the year 2017

- Shri Satya Narayan Saha, Principal Additional Director General, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Hyderabad.
- Shri Syed Haider Hasan, Principal Commissioner, Central Excise Zone, Meerut.
- Shri Srinivas Murty Tata, Commissioner (Service Tax), Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi.
- Shri Sunil Jain, Commissioner, Central Excise Zone, Hyderabad.
- Shri Rajendra Kumar, Director (Legal), Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi.
- Shri Neeraj Prasad, Additional Commissioner, Directorate General of Taxpayer Services, New Delhi.
- Shri Manish Goyal, Additional Director, Directorate General of Human Resource Development, New Delhi.
- Shri Nasim Arshi, Additional Director, Risk Management Division, Mumbai.
- Dr M. G. Thamizh Valavan, Director (Anti-Smuggling), Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi.
- Shri Dinesh Kumar Gupta, Director (Drawback), Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi.
- Shri Mihir Ranjan, Additional Commissioner, Directorate General of Vigilance, New Delhi.
- Shri Nitin Saini, Additional Director, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, Regional Unit, Ludhiana.
- Shri Zubair Riaz Kamili, Director (Customs), Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi.
- Shri Maneesh Kumar, Additional Director, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Ahmedabad.
- Dr. Pradyumn Kumar Tripathi, First Secretary, High Commission of India, Singapore.
- Shri Pramod Kumar, Officer on Special Duty (Joint Commissioner), Tax Research Unit, Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi.
- Shri Sanjiv Kumar Mishra, Joint Commissioner, Directorate General of Systems and Data Management, New Delhi.
- Shri Chanderal Singh Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner, Customs Zone, Mumbai-II.
- Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill, Deputy Director, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence (Hqrs.), New Delhi.
- Shri Avinash Shashikant Patane, Assistant Commissioner, Central Excise Zone, Pune.
- Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, Senior Intelligence Officer, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Delhi.
- Shri K. Ramachandran, Superintendent, Central Excise Zone, Chennai.
- Shri D. Venkateswaran, Senior Intelligence Officer, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Chennai.
- Shri Probir Kumar Sen, Superintendent, Customs and Central Excise Zone, Shillong.
- Shri Achal Mehrotra, Senior Intelligence Officer, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (Hqrs.), New Delhi.
- Shri Nagabushanam P, Superintendent, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Bengaluru.
- Shri Pramod Marotrao Dange, Senior Intelligence Officer, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Mumbai.
- Shri Ashwani Kumar Kapur, Senior Intelligence Officer, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, Regional Unit, Ludhiana.
- Shri Baldev Prasad Khanduri, Superintendent, Central Excise Zone, Meerut.
- Shri Mohan Raghavan, Senior Intelligence Officer, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Mumbai.
- Shri Rajesh Ramdas Sallian, Superintendent, Risk Management Division, Mumbai.
- Ms. Seema, Superintendent, Directorate of Logistics, New Delhi.
- Shri Mahesh Kumar Purohit, Appraiser, Customs Zone, Mumbai-III.
- Shri Rajneesh Gupta, Additional Assistant Director (Supdt), Directorate General of Human Resource Development, New Delhi.
- Ms. Geeta Mohan Menon, Senior Private Secretary to Chief Commissioner of Customs Zone, Mumbai-I.
- Shri A.G. Rajan, Administrative Officer, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Chennai.
- Shri Ravi Dutt Shankar, Intelligence Officer, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Delhi.
- Shri Mamidi Narsingh Rao, Intelligence Officer, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Hyderabad.
- Shri Ranbir Singh, Driver Grade-I, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence (Hqrs.), New Delhi.
- Shri Laxman Singh Negi, Head Havaladar, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (Hqrs.), New Delhi.

### WCO Certificate of Merit 2017

- Shri Rajeev Yadav, Director, Service Tax, CBEC, New Delhi.
- Dr. Kavita Bhatnagar, Additional Commissioner, WCO Cell, CBEC, New Delhi.
- Shri Pankaj Bodke, Additional Director, RMD Division, Mumbai.
- Shri Ashok Kumar P. Kothari, Joint Commissioner, Directorate of Valuation, New Delhi.
- Shri Rajendra Kumar Meena, Joint Commissioner, IT Single Window, CBEC, New Delhi.
- Dr. N. Gandhi Kumar, Joint Commissioner, Customs & Central Excise and Service Tax, Meerut Zone, Meerut.
- Shri Sandeep Kumar Rawal, Joint Director, NACEN (RTI), Bhopal.
- Shri S.Sathianarayanan, Deputy Commissioner, SIIB, Custom House, Chennai-I.
- Shri Alok Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Commissioner of Customs (DZ), New Custom House, New Delhi.
- Shri Musuluru Sreekanth, Deputy Commissioner, Preventive Commissionerate, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- Shri Himanshu Raina, Technical Officer, Tariff Research Unit, CBEC, New Delhi.
- Ms. Ashwini Adivarekar, Deputy Director, Director General of Systems and Data Management, New Delhi.
- Shri Mukesh Gaur, Superintendent, ICD Tughlakabad, Imports, New Delhi.
- Shri M. P. Gangar, Superintendent, DG Safeguards, New Delhi.
- Shri Balathabail Sudhir Acharya, Superintendent, Air Cargo Complex, Customs, Devanahalli, Bengaluru.
- Shri Sansar Singh, Intelligence Officer, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi.
- Shri Shashank Shekhar Singh, Inspector, Directorate General of Systems and Data Management, New Delhi.
- Shri Javed Ali, Scientist 'D', NIC.
- Shri Mohan Vishwanathan, Scientist 'D', NIC.
- Shri Jayyannat Lapsiaa, President, All India Liquid Bulk Importers and Exporters Association, Mumbai.

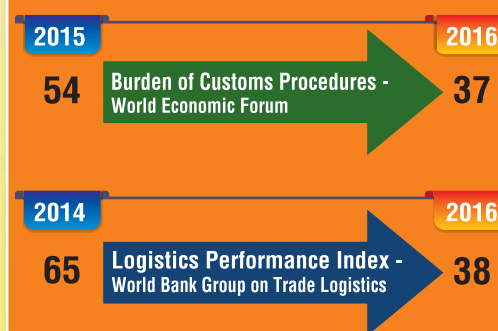
### Synopsis of Facilitation Measures Taken

Indian Customs has made rapid strides recently giving a fillip to -

► **Ease of Doing Business** ► **"Make in India" Initiative** ► **Digital India**

- Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT)** launched to enable filing of an Integrated Declaration on a common platform to meet requirements of Customs, FSSAI, Plant Quarantine, Animal Quarantine, Drug Controller, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Textile Committee.
- Number of documents required for export/import** reduced to 3.
- Email notification service** to importers initiated at important stages in import clearance process.
- Electronic Delivery Order introduced** between Shipping lines & Custodians replacing paper copy.
- Print-outs of several documents including **GAR 7 Forms/TR 6 Challans, TP copy, Exchange Control Copy of Bill of Entry and Shipping Bill and Export Promotion copy of Shipping Bill** done away with.
- 24 x 7 Customs clearance facility** operational at 19 sea ports and 17 Air Cargo complexes.
- Documents being filed by **importers, exporters, Customs brokers and manifests** by shipping lines and air lines through **digital signatures** from 01.01.2016.
- Revamped AEO scheme** launched.
- Deferred duty payment** for select categories of importers.
- Customs Clearance Facilitation Committees (CCFC)** functioning at major Customs seaports/airports/LCSs to expedite Customs Clearance.
- Procedure for handling related party transactions revamped – Extra Duty Deposits waived.
- Requirement of Insurance cover to be taken by **Customs Cargo Service Providers (CCSP)** in respect of goods stored in Customs Areas **brought down from 30 days to 10 days.**
- Import Data Processing and Management System (IDPMS)** jointly launched with RBI for efficient data processing relating to payment of imports.
- Warehousing provisions simplified** – System of physical control and locking of public and private warehouses by Customs dispensed with.
- Mobile App on Baggage Rules** launched in English and other languages.

Improved Indian Customs rankings attest to our efforts.



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# BOLT FROM THE BLUE

Jamaican stripped of 2008 Olympic 4x100 Gold after teammate Carter tested positive for banned substance



AP ■ LAUSANNE

Usain Bolt has lost one of his nine Olympic gold medals because of a doping case involving Jamaican teammate Nesta Carter.

The IOC said Wednesday that Carter tested positive for methylhexanamine, a banned stimulant, in re-analysis of samples from the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Olympic rules state that the entire relay team can be disqualified and stripped of medals if one runner fails a doping test. Carter and Bolt were teammates on the winning 4x100-meter team, which set a world record of 37.10 seconds. Carter ran the opening leg, and Bolt took the baton third in a team that also included Michael Frater and Asafa Powell.

"The Jamaican team is disqualified," the IOC said in a statement. "... the corresponding medals, medalist pins and diplomas are withdrawn and shall be returned."

The relay title in Beijing completed the first of Bolt's gold medal sweeps in the 100, 200 and relay at three straight Olympics.

Bolt set world record times for all three sprint titles at the Bird's Nest, establishing himself as the defining superstar of Olympic track.

"I want to share it with my team," said Bolt said after completing his hat trick in 2008. "It's down to them that I beat the world record today. When you beat the relay world record, you feel four times happier."

Bolt and Carter will retain their gold medals from Jamaica's relay win at the 2012 London Olympics — in a record time of 36.84 seconds that stands today.

Bolt ran the final leg on that team. He took the baton from Yohan Blake, who served a ban in 2009 for ingesting the same substance as Carter.

Carter and Bolt also helped lower their relay world record between the Olympic titles, taking gold at the 2011 world championships in Daegu, South Korea, in 37.04.

The 31-year-old Carter has teamed with Bolt on three straight world championship relay-winning teams, from 2011 through 2015. He also took an individual bronze in the 100 in 2013 in Moscow, behind Bolt and Justin Gatlin of the United States.

Carter, who did not compete at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, faces a ban from the IAAF.

Trinidad and Tobago is in line to get the gold medal from 2008, Japan could be upgraded to silver, and fourth-place finisher Brazil could get the bronze medal.

Carter testified by videoconference to an IOC disciplinary hearing held in Lausanne on Oct. 17.

The IOC's ruling states that Carter noted he was taking supplements in 2008 "advised in this respect by his coach, Mr. Stephen Francis."

"The athlete explained that he had given several samples for doping controls whilst



FROM LEFT: Jamaica's men's 4x100 meters relay team members Michael Fraser, Usain Bolt, Nesta Carter and Asafa Powell show their gold medals in 2008 Beijing Olympics AP

## BOLT'S OLYMPIC FEAT

**2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS**  
Men's 100m Gold (9.69 seconds)  
Men's 200m Gold (19.30 seconds)  
\*Men's 4x100m Gold with Nesta Carter, Michael Frater, and Asafa Powell (37.10 seconds)

**2012 LONDON OLYMPICS**  
Men's 100m Gold (9.63 seconds)  
Men's 200m Gold (19.32 seconds)

Men's 4x100m Gold with Nesta Carter, Michael Frater and Yohan Blake (36.84 secs)

**2016 LONDON OLYMPICS**  
Men's 100m Gold (9.81 seconds)  
Men's 200m Gold (19.78 seconds)  
Men's 4x100m Gold with Asafa Powell, Yohan Blake and Nickel Ashmeade (37.27 seconds)  
(\*Jamaica stripped of 2008 relay Gold)

**CARTER AND BOLT WERE TEAMMATES ON THE WINNING 4X100-METER TEAM, WHICH SET A WORLD RECORD OF 37.10 SECONDS. CARTER RAN THE OPENING LEG, AND BOLT TOOK THE BATON THIRD IN A TEAM THAT ALSO INCLUDED MICHAEL FRATER AND ASAFA POWELL**

he was taking Cell Tech and Nitro Tech before the 2008 Olympic Games and he had never tested positive for a prohibited substance," the detailed verdict stated.

"He therefore did not believe that these supplements could contain prohibited substances. He did not understand how methylhexanamine could have been found in 2016."

Though methylhexanamine was not specifically named on the 2008 list of prohibited substances, it "fell within the scope of the general prohibition of stimulants having a similar chemical structure or similar biological effect as the listed stimulants," the judging panel of three IOC members wrote.

The panel doubted if the supplements identified had caused the positive test

given that Carter "used such supplements regularly and that this did not lead to other problems."

The runner cast doubt on his own ability to avoid doping rule violations. In a written statement to the IOC, "(Carter) asserted that he did not remember having received any formal anti-doping training in his career."

Carter can appeal the sanction to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. However, the IOC panel already anticipated one challenge in its written verdict.

"The Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS") has confirmed that the presence or use of substances falling within the scope of generic definitions of the prohibited list, can be used as a basis of establishing anti-doping rules violations," the verdict said.

In a separate ruling Wednesday, another former Olympic champion was stripped of two silver medals from the Beijing Games.

The IOC said Russian athlete Tatiana Lebedeva tested positive for the anabolic steroid turinabol in re-tests, and would be disqualified from her runner-up placings in the long jump and triple jump.

Lebedeva won long jump gold at the 2004 Athens Olympics and also previously won Olympic silver and bronze in triple jump.

## Nadal keeps prospects of Roger-Rafa Final alive

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Another Roger vs Rafa final is still in the mix at an Australian Open with an almost retro vibe.

They're on opposite sides of the draw, and each is a semifinal win away from a classic showdown at Melbourne Park, where Roger Federer is bidding for an 18th major title, and where Rafael Nadal is targeting his 15th. Nadal saved six set points in the second set against one of the best servers in the business on Wednesday, beating third-ranked Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6 (7), 6-4.

With that, he earned a spot in the semifinals at a Grand Slam for the first time since winning the French Open in 2014. He'll next play 25-year-old Grigor Dimitrov, the only player in the last quarter who has yet to turn 30. Federer and No 4 Stan Wawrinka will contest an all-Swiss semifinal the night before Nadal returns to Rod Laver Arena to play Dimitrov.

Having three 30-somethings in the semifinals equals the Open era-mark set in 1968 at Roland Garros. There's also three 30-something women in the semifinals. Nadal didn't want to overcomplicate matters and talk about generational things. He didn't want to think too far ahead to a final, or to Baby Fed — as Dimitrov has been dubbed for his similar backhand and style — while he savored his quarterfinal win.

Federer and Nadal, who dominated the sport for so long until the emergence of Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, know that more than most. Both are returning from extended injury layoffs and showing signs that the time off has worked.



## SANIA-DODIG BEAT BOPANNA-GABRIELA

**MELBOURNE:** Sania Mirza and Ivan Dodig held their nerves and saved two match points against Rohan Bopanna and Gabriela Dabrowski before pulling off a tense win to seal a place in the mixed doubles semi-finals of the Australian Open, here on Wednesday.

The second seeded Indo-Croatian team of Sania and Dodig felt the heat in the Super Tiebreaker but kept clam and not only saved two match points but also walked away with a 6-4, 3-6

12-10 win in the quarterfinals. Bopanna and Canadian Gabriela were left to rue missed chances in the 67-minute match.

With this defeat, Bopanna's campaign has ended at the first Grand Slam of the season. He had lost in the men's doubles second round with new partner Pablo Cuevas. Sania had also lost in the women's doubles pre-quarterfinals with Barbora Strycova but is still alive for her overall seventh and fourth mixed doubles Grand Slam title. PTI

## MIRJANA FACES SERENA

When Mirjana Lucic-Baroni served out her victory over Karolina Pliskova at the Australian Open on Wednesday, making an unlikely return to the semifinals of a Grand Slam after nearly 18 years, she fell to her knees, placed her forehead on the court and wept.

Few expected her to ever have this chance at a major again. Lucic-Baroni, however,

never gave up believing in herself. It was a heartfelt scene that touched even Serena Williams, her opponent in the semifinals at Melbourne Park, who started her career at the same time as Lucic-Baroni.

"I'm so proud of Mirjana," Williams said after her 6-2, 3-6 victory over ninth-seeded Johanna Konta. "It's so good to see her back out and to see her in the semifinals really just is so inspiring for me."

## NEW FACES LOOK TO MAKE A MARK

PTI ■ KANPUR

India's young guns will get an opportunity to fire on the big stage and carry forward the exceptional dominance over England when they clash with the visitors in the three-match Twenty20 series, starting here on Thursday.

India have a different squad for the T20s compared to the one that was picked for the preceding ODI series. The six players who were not part of the 50-over squad are Rishabh Pant, Mandeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, Parvez Rasool, Suresh Raina and Ashish Nehra.

Frontline spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have been rested, making way for off-spinner Rasool and the experienced Amit Mishra, who travelled with the ODI squad.

Among the unestablished names, the one attracting maximum attention is 19-year-old sensation Rishabh Pant, who earned his maiden call-up following a prolific domestic season.

The Delhi-based wicketkeeper batsman rose to prominence with his exploits in the U-19 World Cup last year and since then, his career graph



**India vs England**  
Live from 4:30pm IST  
START SPORTS

is only rising. The southpaw trained under the watchful eyes of coach Anil Kumble in the first net session here on Tuesday and there is a good chance he might be handed the coveted India cap.

With no Shikhar Dhawan in the T20 line-up, there is likely to be a toss-

up between Pant and Mandeep Singh for the opener's slot alongside Lokesh Rahul. It is difficult to ignore Pant given the ominous touch he has shown of late. While Mandeep could not do much in the first warm-up match against England, Pant turned heads with a 36-ball 59 in the second practice match.

Rahul, on the other hand, too would be raring to go after three failures in the ODI series. It is also an important series for local hero Raina, who is not a regular in the limited overs set up anymore and last played for India in the World T20 in March.

With captain Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and M S Dhoni certain to bat at number three, four and five; Raina's fight for the number six spot is with Manish Pandey, who warmed the bench in ODIs against England.

The pressure is on Raina to perform with the likes of Kedar Jadhav waiting in the wings. Jadhav came of age in the one-dayers and was adjudged man of the series.

It remains to be seen what bowling choices Kohli would make. Fast bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya made an impact in the ODIs and lends balance to the playing eleven.

## 'Chance for Rasool, Chahal to impress'



PTI ■ KANPUR

Having led Yuzvendra Chahal and Parvez Rasool in the Indian Premier League, skipper Virat Kohli feels that the three-match T20 International series against England will provide perfect opportunity to the duo to establish themselves as "specialists" in the shortest format.

A good show by Rasool and Chahal may also lessen the workload on world's premier spinner Ravichandran Ashwin.

"The guys who have come in have done pretty well in the IPL, in the domestic T20s. The areas they are bowling in are pretty good and are pretty economical. Yuzvendra, everyone has seen his performances,

even Rasool played under me at RCB," Kohli said at the pre-match media conference.

"It is probably a breakthrough series for them. They haven't played a big series yet so this might be the perfect opportunity to seal their spots as T20 specialist spinners for the future," Kohli made it clear as to what is there in stake for youngsters.

About Rasool, the skipper said that he has an ability to bowl with the new ball.

"He (Rasool) is pretty confident, he can bowl with the new ball against the most attacking guys. These two guys are very smart about their bowling. I am sure they will be able to replicate their domestic success at this level."

## SINGLES

### KOHLI, 8 OTHERS NAMED FOR PADMA SHRI

**NEW DELHI:** Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli was among the eight sportspersons who were on Wednesday picked for the prestigious Padma Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian award. Besides Kohli, the seven other sportspersons named for the award are Rio Olympics bronze medalist wrestler Sakshi Malik, Paralympians Mariyappan Thangavelu and Deepa Malik, gymnast Dipa Karmakar, Indian hockey captain P R Sreejesh, discus thrower Vikas Gowda and blind cricket team captain Shekar Naik. Sakshi Malik won a bronze in the women's 58kg wrestling while Thangavelu and Deepa Malik bagged a gold and silver in the men's high jump T-42 and women's shot put F53 categories respectively at the Rio Paralympics.

### SINDHU, SRIKANTH IN PRE-QUARTERS

**LUCKNOW:** Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu hardly broke any sweat but defending champion Kidambi Srikanth had to toil hard to advance to the prequarterfinals of the \$120,000 Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament here on Wednesday. Sindhu tested the conditions at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium en route to her easy 21-9, 21-11 win over compatriot Anura Prabhudesai in a lop-sided women's singles contest, while third seed Srikanth staved off a spirited challenge from fellow Indian Lakhaneer Sarang 15-21, 21-7, 21-14 in his opening men's singles match before notching up a 21-5, 21-12 win over Malaysia's Zulhelmi Zulkifli. The 21-year-old Sindhu will face another Indian Lalita Dahiya, while third seed Srikanth, who is coming back after recovering from an ankle injury, will face compatriot Ansal Yadav.

### SREEJESH IN RUNNING FOR FIH AWARD

**LAUSANNE:** Inspirational men's team captain PR Sreejesh and fast-rising drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh are the two Indians in contention for different honours at the FIH annual awards which will be given away in a formal ceremony for the first time, in Chandigarh on February 23. While Sreejesh is in the running for FIH Goalkeeper of the Year, the 18-year-old Harmanpreet is in fray for the Rising Star of the Year trophy. The awards will honour the best players, goalkeepers, rising stars, coaches and umpires. Sreejesh had led India to the Asian Champions Trophy crown and a silver medal at the Champions Trophy last year. Drag-flicker Harmanpreet, on the other hand, played a key role in the junior team's World Cup triumph in Lucknow. This will be the first Awards ceremony by FIH. Agencies