

Western Times

GUJARAT'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY FOUNDED IN 1967

Founder Editor : Ramubhai Patel PHONE : 079-2640 2880 (Advertisement : 2640 2881 mail : advt@westerntimes.co.in)* Fax : 2640 2882

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News Brief

Sasikala seeks appointment with TN Gover

Chennai, AIADMK General Secretary V.K. Sasikala on Saturday sought an appointment with Tamil Nadu Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao along with all legislators supporting her.

In a letter to Rao, copies of which were issued to the media, Sasikala said acting Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam has resigned from his post and the same was accepted by the Governor a week ago.

"...taking the urgency of the situation at hand, I would like to seek an appointment with Your Excellency by today with all MLAs (Members of Legislative Assembly) who extended their support to me regarding further course of action to form the Government," Sasikala told Rao. "I believe Your Excellency will act immediately to save the Sovereignty of the Constitution, democracy and the interest of the State," the letter notes.

25.71 per cent voting in Ghaziabad till 11 a.m.

Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad district witnessed 25.71 per cent voter turnout in five assembly constituencies till 11 a.m. on Saturday as the first phase of voting got underway in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday.

At least 27.14 per cent votes were caste in Loni assembly constituency while Muradnagar witnessed a 30 per cent turnout.

In Sahibabad assembly constituency, 23 per cent voting was recorded, while it was 23.5 per cent in Ghaziabad assembly seat.

The Modinagar assembly constituency witnessed 25.23 per cent voting.

Dhaulana, part of the newly carved-out Hapur assembly constituency, where the election is being partly conducted by Ghaziabad administration, witnessed 25 per cent turnout.

The average turnout in five assembly seats of Ghaziabad district and Dhaulana assembly seat was 25.71 per cent.

Agra sees enthusiastic voting

Agra, Polling gained momentum here amid bright and sunny weather, with voters flaunting the ink mark on their fingers after casting votes in the first phase of the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

"The city seems headed for a record turnout," a polling booth agent of a political party said.

"Long queues outside polling booths in the interior city areas with heavy concentration of minority votes and in Dalit bases of Jagdish Pura, Loha Mandi area, were seen," he said.

Brisk voting in the nine assembly constituencies of Agra district was reported by election commission office. A total of 121 candidates are in the fray. The total number of voters in Agra district is 32,42,858. Of the nine seats, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) won six, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won two, and the Samajwadi Party (SP) got one in the 2012 assembly elections. In the 2012 assembly polls, the voting percentage was 61.50.

RBI to declare 'verified' figure on deposits

New Delhi, The Reserve Bank of India on Saturday said it needs to be careful on divulging the post-demonetisation deposit amount as the figure needs to be verified first and should not be just an estimate.

"The number that we should now divulge should be a verified number and congruent with the complex accounting," Governor Urjit Patel said here post the RBI Board meet with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. "There are tens of thousands of bank branches and 4,000 currency chests. We need to be careful and try that this is a number which is not a mere estimate but a verified number both physically and in the accounting sense," Patel added when asked about the estimated

amount of old currency notes that have come back. RBI had earlier said that notes worth Rs 12.44 lakh crore have been deposited till December 10, 2016.

There were 17,165 mil-

lion pieces of Rs 500 notes and 6,858 million pieces of Rs 1,000 notes in circulation on November 8, 2016, the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement of

demonetising the two high denomination notes.

The total amount of high denomination currency circulating in the system on that day was, thus, Rs 15.44 lakh crore (Rs 8.58 lakh crore in Rs 500 notes and Rs 6.86 lakh crore in Rs 1,000).

Jaitley said the meeting with the RBI was to discuss the various Budget suggestions and the current economic situation.

When asked about RBI not going for a rate cut in its latest monetary policy review on February 8, he said: "All Finance Ministers have the perpetual desire, but at the end we all respect the decision that the RBI takes." --IANS



U.S. President Donald Trump and his wife Melania (L) wave with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2nd R) and his wife Akie Abe while boarding Air Force One as they depart for Palm Beach, Florida, at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, U.S., February.

'Brexit transitional deal will lock UK into EU court'

London, Britain will remain under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice for years to come if it seeks a transition deal to secure its withdrawal from the European Union (EU), a top official said.

Chief negotiator for the European parliament Guy Verhofstadt said on Friday that European negotiators were primed to push back against British Prime Minister Theresa May's promises to remove the UK from the writ of European judges as soon as the country leaves

the EU in 2019, the Guardian reported.

Verhofstadt, who is representing the parliament in the article 50 -- formal process of exiting the EU -- negotiations, said he expected a transition agreement to be put together following the settling of Britain's debts and before withdrawal in 2019.

But asked whether the UK would remain under the European court of justice after 2019, Verhofstadt, who is also a former Belgian Prime Minister said: "The starting point from the Eu-

ropean side will be yes".

The Downing Street made clear last month that it believed the UK would leave the jurisdiction of the court as soon as the Britain exited the EU.

With just weeks to go before May is expected to formally announce Britain's intention to leave the EU by triggering article 50, Verhofstadt also dashed the UK government's hopes that it will be able to conduct negotiations in tandem about withdrawal and a future trade agreement with the EU.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi releasing 10-point common minimum programme of the alliance during the ongoing Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, in Lucknow.

TN Minister Pandiarajan joins Panneerselvam camp

Chennai, In another jolt to AIADMK General Secretary V.K. Sasikala, Tamil Nadu School Education Minister K. Pandiarajan on Saturday switched his loyalties to acting Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam's camp - the first state minister to do so.

Till Friday Pandiarajan was with Sasikala and was defending her in a staunch manner.

Earlier in the day, two Lok Sabha Members extended support to Panneerselvam by joining his camp. The two members

-- Ashok Kumar representing Krishnagiri constituency and Sundaram representing Namakkal -- visited Panneerselvam at his residence here.

Earlier, sitting Rajya Sabha member V. Maitreyan had joined Panneerselvam's camp.

The two MPs joined Panneerselvam a day after AIADMK spokesperson Vaigaichelvan said people joining Panneerselvam's camp are "beyond their expiry date".

Speaking to reporters here, Ashok Kumar said

other AIADMK MPs will also start joining hands with Panneerselvam.

The AIADMK has 37 members in the Lok Sabha. Panneerselvam revolted against AIADMK General Secretary V.K. Sasikala on Tuesday night alleging that he was forced to resign as Chief Minister to pave the way for her to occupy that chair.

Subsequently five legislators, one sitting MP, party old-timers, former legislators and others have started expressing their support to Panneerselvam.

Gujarat Police arrest NID students from liquor party

Ahmedabad, Police raided a liquor party and arrested at least 29 NID students from a private apartment in Paldi area here, police said. Acting on a tip-off, police raided Pushkar Flats near the National Institute of Design (NID) campus and arrested 29 students, including 14 women, who were involved in the liquor party. They have been booked under The Bombay Prohibition Act. Police said some residents got disturbed by loud music played in the flat.

Mannan shifted out of ICU

Kolkata, Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal assembly Abdul Mannan, was shifted out of intensive care of a private hospital here on Saturday, a medical bulletin said.

The Congress leader was admitted after he fell sick following a scuffle with the security officials in the assembly on Wednesday after his suspension by Speaker Biman Banerjee.

Mannan was "haemodynamically stable, conscious, alert," the Apollo Gleneagles Hospital said in its bulletin. He was being

given normal diabetic diet. Mannan underwent a successful permanent pacemaker implant on Friday.

He was hospitalised with high blood pressure and a complete heart blockage. The state assembly witnessed tumultuous scenes on Wednesday as Mannan and other opposition legislators protested the West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2017. The bill was brought by the Mamata Banerjee-led government, which envisages stringent measures against destruction of pub-

lic property.

The Speaker slapped a two-day suspension on Mannan for disobeying his order to remove aprons, placards and posters containing pictures of vandalism in the assembly lobby on November 30, 2006, by then opposition Trinamool members.

Defying Banerjee, Mannan staged a sit-in near the Speaker's podium prompting a call to the marshal and other security personnel to remove him. As Mannan resisted, other Congress legislators joined in the scuffle.

Will be patient, then do what needs to be done: Sasikala

Chennai, As support for rival O. Panneerselvam continued to grow, AIADMK General Secretary V.K. Sasikala on Saturday sought an appointment with Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao. She said while her camp would be patient for some time and then "do what needs to be done".

Speaking to Jaya TV, Sasikala said she believes in democracy and justice and maintaining patience.

"Only to some extent we can be patient. After that we all together would do what needs to be done," she said. She said the AIADMK party is like an iron fort and

cannot be shaken by anybody.

Sasikala said the party has a cadre strength of 1.5 crore and those who try to divide the party would lose. She also said that there is nothing for her to fear.

Her remarks came after she sought an appointment with Governor Rao along with all legislators supporting her.

In a letter to Rao, copies of which were issued to the media, Sasikala said acting Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam has resigned from his post and the same was accepted by the Governor a week ago.

"...taking the urgency of the situation at hand, I would like to seek an appointment with Your Excellency by today with all MLAs (Members of Legislative Assembly) who extended their support to me regarding further course of action to form the Government," Sasikala told Rao.

"I believe Your Excellency will act immediately to save the Sovereignty of the Constitution, democracy and the interest of the State," the letter notes.

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Minister to pave the way for Sasikala to occupy that chair.

Subsequently a state minister, five legislators, one sitting MP, party old-timers, former legislators and others have started expressing their support to Panneerselvam.

The ruling AIADMK now has two clear divisions -- one led by Sasikala and the other under Panneerselvam.

Sasikala has already submitted documents electing her as the leader of legislature party and staked her claim to form the government.

Bank employee commits suicide over note exchange allegations

Kolkata, A bank employee, who says he was wrongly accused in a case of exchanging old currency notes, has committed suicide in West Bengal's Howrah district, Government Railway Police (GRP) officials said on Saturday.

"The body of Rajat Chowdhury, an employee of Union Bank, was recovered from the railway tracks near Uluberia station on Friday night. He was run over by a train. The body is sent for autopsy," an official from Uluberia GRP said. Chowdhury's relatives said he posted a suicide note in a social

media website at around 9 p.m. in which he accused two of his fellow employees of forcing him to illegally exchange old currency notes at the bank. "They forced me to exchange the old notes and later lodged a police case against me. I am going away."

Please look after my wife and daughter. Please forgive me," the Facebook post said. The relatives of the deceased claimed he was not someone who would commit suicide without grave provocation and alleged that his colleagues were involved in the matter.

UP minister booted at Meerut polling booth

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Labour and Employment Minister Shahid Manzoor faced a hostile crowd in Meerut's Kithaur constituency on Saturday when he visited a polling booth.

The 61-year-old politician, who is the incumbent legislator from Kithaur constituency, was greeted with slogans and some people also pelted stones at him, after which he beat a hasty retreat, officials said.

Police had a tough time ensuring the minister's safety.

The incident happened at the Islamia Madarsa polling booth. When he was talking to the voters, the

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supporters outside took umbrage to his spending a long time inside.

Soon, all hell broke loose and the Samajwadi Party (SP) leader was gheraoed by an angry mob of BSP supporters after which police had to resort to cane charge to disperse the unruly crowd. Normalcy has since returned to the polling booth and Election Commission officials said that voting was not affected in any manner during the melee. The minister's staff refused to comment on the incident. BSP supporters alleged that police was acting at the behest of the minister and that angered them.

Trump: US-Japan ties are 'cornerstone of peace'

Washington, US President Trump has pledged close security and economic cooperation with Japan and called the alliance between the two nations "a cornerstone of regional peace and stability", edging away from campaign pledges to force Tokyo to pay more for the US' security umbrella.

Trump welcomed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with a hug to the White House on Friday and shook his hand for a full 19 seconds where at one point Trump awkwardly jerked Abe's hand forward. The US President lavished praise on Abe and offered strong reassurances about America's commitment to Japan's defence, the New York Times reported.

"The bond between our

two nations and the friendship between our two peoples runs very, very deep," Trump said at a press conference with Abe. "This administration is committed to bringing those ties even closer." "It is important that both Japan and the US continue to invest very heavily in the alliance to build up our defence and our defensive capabilities. I also want to take this opportunity, Mr Prime Minister, to thank you and the people of Japan for hosting our armed forces," he said. Echoing his words, Abe also stressed on the importance of strengthening economic and trade relations. Abe also said that he would welcome the US becoming "even greater."

The Japanese Prime Minister also invited Trump to visit Japan this year, which was accepted by Trump, according to the joint statement. Japan also got continued US backing for its long-standing dispute with Beijing over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, which China also claims.

Trump said the US is committed to the security of Japan and all areas under its administrative control. The statement also said the two leaders affirmed that Article 5 of the US-Japan security treaty covered the islands, known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China. The two leaders were expected to discuss over the weekend Trump's decision

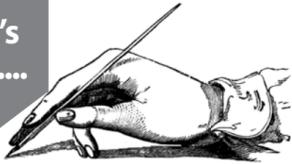
to withdraw the US from the controversial 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact, which Tokyo had lobbied hard for, according to reports.

A White House official said Trump was paying for Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida for the weekend, as a "gift" to the leader. The two leaders would be playing golf there on Saturday. "I believe that will all work out very well for everybody, China, Japan, the United States and everybody in the region," Trump said at a joint news conference with Abe. Abe is the second foreign leader Trump has met since taking office, after Britain's PM Theresa May.



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, MoS for Finance and Corporate Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal and RBI governor Urjit Patel at the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India in its customary post-budget meeting in New Delhi.

From Editor's Desk.....



Afghans face terror, again

The recent violence that witnessed the killing of six Red Cross workers in northern Afghanistan and 20 people near the Supreme Court of the country, signals an uptick in attacks by militants there. But the strikes are suspected to be carried out either by the Islamic State or by the Taliban. But it's a more than enough provocation and assertion of strength by militants against the US-led forces fighting the Taliban in the war-torn country since 2001. As hostile narratives are gaining resonance in Washington under the leadership of President Donald Trump, he Taliban is asking him to "help end what it denounced as futile and unwinnable American war in Afghanistan". In an open letter to Trump, the insurgents blamed "the United States for starting the Afghan war 15 years ago" and called the presence of foreign invading forces in the country, "the principal cause for the continued human and material losses being suffered by both sides". And, against this background, the new President has apparently vowed to continue with the military campaign until victory. What does all this mean?

Looking at the ferocity of the mujahideens, who are ever ready to flag their ego and power through incredible land battles, the Trump Administration needs to be cautious, so to say. As per the US military assessments, only two-thirds of the population is under the control of the unity Government of Ashraf Ghani, and roughly 10 per cent with the Taliban. The rest of the territories is still contested, shifting hands from one tribal and ethnic war lord to another. Ghani is forthright in pointing fingers at Pakistan as the latter is controlling both the levels of power and the leadership of the Taliban. Unless the Pakistan Army prepares to disown the Taliban and to see a sustainable peace dialogue starts, the fractured battles in Afghanistan will never come to an end. The Taliban must realize that the land, the people and most importantly, the organization for which they are relentlessly fighting, should be allowed to be decided by others -- whether it is Pakistan or America. But then, it should come out for an open dialogue with the Government and bring an end to the bloodshed. It will not, because it's destructionist.

The Afghan and international coalition officials have expressed serious concern that the Taliban offensive will rise in future. Once the snow melts. Provinces like those of Helmand and many others, could slip into the hands of the militants, as that will help them in their physical movements and, more importantly, help get easy access to arms and ammunition. Is the Government ready for a new bout of strikes from the deadly insurgents? What could Ghani do to bring the outfit back to the negotiation table? Will he get support from the neighbouring Pakistan, which literally holds the key to the Taliban leadership? Sensing the resolve and consistency put forward by the Islamists, even in the peak of the winter, Ghani can only expect worse.



BJP National President Amit Shah during a public meeting at Pukharayan Bazar, Bhognipur, Kanpur Rural (UP).

Sasikala, or Panneerselvam - TN political crisis far from over

Chennai, Television channels on Friday night reported that Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao had ruled out AIADMK General Secretary V.K. Sasikala for chief ministership in a report to the Union Home Ministry, but the Governor's House denied the report, adding to the continuing political uncertainty gripping the state since the past four days.

According to the India Today news channel and several Tamil channels, the Governor in a report to the Union Home Ministry cited the pending disproportionate assets (DA) case against Sasikala as the reason for her not being qualified to stake the claim.

The channel, which said it has a copy of the report sent by the Governor, reported that he also took note of the PILs against Sasikala, on which verdict was pending.

The PILs have been filed challenging her elevation as the Chief Minister, since "she has not been the General Secretary for a continuous period of five years", as mandated by the party's constitution. Political uncertainty continued in Tamil Nadu for the fourth consecutive day on Friday.

However, the Governor's House said in a statement that he had "not sent any report either to the Ministry of Home Affairs or to the

President of India, as reported in some of the media".

Earlier in the day, Sasikala dismissed E. Madhusudanan -- a close aide of late Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha -- from the party for backing O. Panneerselvam for the Chief Minister's post, saying he had violated the party's principles and brought disrepute to it.

Madhusudanan told reporters: "As per the party by-law, a person can become General Secretary of AIADMK only if he/she is a member for a continuous period of five years."

Sasikala was not a member of the party for a continuous five years and hence not qualified to be the General Secretary, he said.

Sasikala was elected as the AIADMK General Secretary following the death of Jayalalitha in December last year and elected leader of the legislature party on February 5.

Panneerselvam revolted against the party General Secretary on Tuesday night, alleging that he was forced to resign as the Chief Minister to pave the way for Sasikala to occupy that chair.

But the supporters of Sasikala continued attacking Panneerselvam, charging him with betraying the party. Former Union Minister E. Ponnusamy on Friday also

chose to side with Panneerselvam, thus adding strength to the beleaguered acting Chief Minister's camp. It is believed that Madhusudanan and Ponnusamy will help garner support of their loyalists for Panneerselvam.

Meanwhile, AIADMK MLAs backing the General Secretary, who have been taken to a beach resort to ensure they are not influenced by the rival camp, told the media outside the resort that they were not being held hostage. Their "assurance" came in the wake of filing of several habeas corpus petitions in the Madras High Court, stating they were being held hostage. "MLAs cannot be kept hostage. Sasikala is treating us like how (late Chief Minister J.) Jayalalitha treated us," said one of them.

The high court adjourned to February 12 its hearing on the habeas corpus petitions filed by two advocates.

Amid the developments unfolding one after the other in the Tamil Nadu capital Chennai, a Panneerselvam loyal also moved the Supreme Court seeking an urgent hearing of a plea for direction against Sasikala being sworn-in as the Chief Minister, but the apex court declined to oblige.

The petitioner contended that Sasikala should

not be sworn-in as the verdict on the Karnataka government's plea challenging her acquittal in a disproportionate assets case was awaited. The main opposition DMK has urged Governor Rao to intervene and ensure a government through a fair floor test.

EC cracks whips, transfers officials in UP

Lucknow, Hours before the first phase of polling in Uttar Pradesh, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday cracked the whip on the bureaucracy and police.

The poll panel officials said the District Magistrates of Bahrach, Deoria, Sonbhadra and Kannauj have been shifted with immediate effect.

Excise Commissioner Bhavnath has also been removed and Mratyunjaya Kumar Narayan posted in his place. Police chiefs of two districts -- Hardoi and Ghazipur -- have also been given marching orders by the EC.

Gorakhpur DIG Shivsagar Singh has been replaced by Neelabja Chowdhary, Azamgarh DIG Dharamveer has also been removed and Uday Shankar Jaiswal appointed in his place. IG Bareilly zone Vijay Singh Meena has also been replaced and Vijay Prakash given the charge.

Assem Arun has been named the new IG of Varanasi and Suwendra Kumar Bhagat removed from this post. Bahrach District Magistrate Abhay has been replaced by Ajay Deep Singh. Kannauj DM Ashok

Chandra has been removed and Jai Prakash Sagar appointed in his place. Kannauj is the parliamentary constituency of Dimple Yadav, wife of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav.

Deoria DM Anita Srivastava has been replaced by Abrar Ahmad and Sonbhadra DM Chandra Bhusan Singh has been removed and Pramod Kumar Upadhya appointed as the new district magistrate.

Hardoi Superintendent of Police Rajeev Malhotra has been removed and replaced by Chandra Prakash, Ghazipur SP Arvind Sen has been replaced by Subhash Chandra Dubey.

The poll panel was handed over a list of officials by parties and many social organisations doubting their neutrality.

Of some officials removed on Friday night, their relatives are contesting the state assembly elections.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has petitioned the EC at least 10 times to also remove the state DGP Javed Ahmad and chief secretary Rahul Bhatnagar but the poll panel has not taken any action on these pleas so far.

Tight contest among BJP, BSP, SP-Congress in UP first phase

Meerut/New Delhi,

There appears no clear front-runner among the three major contestants - BJP, SP-Congress and BSP - in the 73 seats going to poll in the first phase of elections in Uttar Pradesh with factors including demonetisation, problems of farmers and caste and community considerations likely to influence the outcome.

While the BJP appears to be in no position to repeat its performance of 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the Bahujan Samaj Party has steadily built up momentum of its campaign and the Samajwadi Party and Congress are expecting to benefit from their alliance. The Rashtriya Lok Dal is also a force to reckon with on several seats, due to its appeal among Jat voters.

For the BJP, which is banking heavily on Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's appeal and its "social engineering", the first phase is crucial to build momentum for the remaining six phases of assembly election for 403 seats in the Uttar Pradesh assembly.

But the party has been battling challenges, including perceived unhappiness among the Jat community, which has a sizeable presence on most seats going to polls in the first phase.

There has also been unhappiness among small traders and labourers who faced difficulties due to the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Choudhary Naresh Tikait said the central government has "done nothing" for the farmers and rural areas in last two-and-a-half years. "Farmers are moving towards cities. I do not

see any benefit due to demonetisation. It has rather caused problems, specially to farmers," he said.

Naresh Tikait, son of well-known farmer leader Mahendra Singh Tikait, said there was "a wave for Modi in 2014" but the situation was different now. "Political parties have sought to divide farmers on caste lines for their own benefit," he added. P u s h p i n d e r Choudhury, who is affiliated to Jat Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti, said the Jats would consolidate behind RLD. "They are angry BJP over the issue of reservation and demonetisation," he said.

On its part, the BJP has sought to reach out to the Jat community and farmers. The party's manifesto has several promises for them including loan waiver for small and marginal farmers.

Reality trumps rhetoric and US President reaffirms 'One China' policy

New York, As reality overtook rhetoric, US President Donald Trump ended uncertainty over commitment to the bedrock principle of Beijing's foreign relations by affirming to China's President Xi Jinping that he would "honour our One China policy".

In his phone call on Thursday night in Washington, Trump set the policy for East Asia on a clearer course ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to the White House on Friday.

The long-delayed call came 16 days after Trump's phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, and after his talks with various smaller nations since entering the White House.

In the order of calls that appeared to set a hierarchy of friendship, the delay was a challenge to Beijing. But it also was due to the lack of a coherent policy to deal with the complexities of relations with China.

Overall, the development also underscores the new Trump era of foreign relations, more mercantile and transactional, rather than diplomatic.

Reflecting this, his Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is a businessman, who headed Exxon-Mobil, with no gov-

ernment or foreign policy background.

As in a bazaar -- or real estate -- deal, Trump's earlier actions and statements raising prospects of diplomatic ties with Taiwan and taxes on Chinese imports can be seen as the opening bid for transactions and not a definitive statement of policy, as it would be considered in traditional diplomacy.

The Chinese can play this game better than most Europeans -- or the US diplomatic and policy establishments, which find it unsettling.

The White House described the call as "extremely cordial" and said,

"Representatives of the United States and China will engage in discussions and negotiations on various issues of mutual interest."

Xi "said he appreciated his US counterpart, Donald Trump, for stressing that the US government adheres to the one-China policy", China's official news agency reported. "Trump said he fully understands the high significance of the US government's pursuit of the one-China policy, adding that the US government adheres to the one-China policy," Trump's conversation with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen in December and his subsequent statements that he could reconsider relations with Taipei

roiled Beijing and sent waves of fear and anger in the US political and intellectual establishment, which seemingly reverses China.

Earlier, Trump had said the US could impose tariffs as high as 45 per cent on China's imports because of what he said was its unfair trade practices and that Japan could develop nuclear weapons for its defence.

Finally, reality took over as Trump uneasily settled into office and his hand-picked national security and foreign affairs officials took charge -- and the Chinese side took on the challenge of mercantile diplomacy.

China and the US are locked in a tight economic

embrace, with the US dependent on cheap imports and Beijing helping prop up the US by buying and holding \$1.2 trillion in US treasury bonds -- a virtual loan to the US.

In the short term, high tariffs on Chinese imports could lead to higher prices for US consumers and China could also dump its treasury bonds -- which it started to do in a small way in December -- although it could lead to mutually assured destruction for them, a prospect neither would want.

In Asia, the US needs China's cooperation in dealing with North Korea, which boasts of missiles that could hit Los Angeles, and in dealing with Pakistan.

For Washington, China and Russia getting closer together in lining up against it is also a matter of concern.

The delay in calling Xi was also partially because of China's reluctance to reach out at a high-level with the "One China" policy up in the air. The matter was probably sorted out ahead of the call and Trump made his first public overture with a letter to Xi on Wednesday greeting him for the Chinese New Year -- but 11 days after the event. Trump's five-year-old granddaughter Arabella was also brought in for soft diplomacy. A video of her singing a New Year song in Mandarin went viral on social media.



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Paying Last respect to JP Narayana Swamy.

Assad denies Amnesty report of mass hangings in Syria

Damascus, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said that the recent report issued by Amnesty International about mass hangings in a prison near the capital Damascus was biased and politicized.

In an interview with the American Yahoo News issued on Friday by state news agency SANA, the President said the report put into question the reputation of the organisation.

"We don't look at it as unbiased, it's always biased and politicized, and it's a shame that such an organisation releases a report without any evidence whatsoever," Assad said.

On February 7, the Amnesty released a report that the Syrian authorities in Saydnaya prison near Damascus carried out mass hangings of as many as 13,000 people.

The rights watchdog accused the government of a "policy of extermination", adding that its report was based on interviews with 84 witnesses, including guards, detainees, and judges.

The executions happened between 2011 and 2015, said the report, adding that most of those slain were civilians opposed to the Syrian government. They were taken out of their cells "in the middle of the night and in total secrecy."

In his interview, Presi-

dent Assad said "that doesn't mean anything".

He continued that Amnesty International did not visit Syria, "and they have made their reports based on allegations, they could bring any person, regardless of whom he is, you can forge anything these days, and we are living in the era of fake news, as you know, and thus we should not rely on that."

On allowing international organisations to visit the prison and inspect the allegations, Assad said that such approval relies on the credibility of the organisation, "because they could use such a visit to demonise the Syrian government more and more, like what is happening now."

Assad maintained that what was happening in Syria was a result of the western and regional support to the terrorist groups, saying that the US have killed civilians since their war on Vietnam, all the way to Iraq, where 1.5 million Iraqis were reportedly killed by the US invasion.

Regarding Trump's talks of creating safe zones in Syria to host the Syrian refugees, Assad said that such a plan is "unrealistic".

"Safe zones in Syria can happen when there is peace and security, where there is no more support to the terrorists by neighbouring or Western countries, then there can be a natural safe zone, which is our country."

He said that restoring stability to make Syria safe again is less costly, and more practical than creating safe zones. He further quoted former US President Barack Obama as confessing that the presence of the IS was a result of the US invasion to Iraq.

Assad considered that any cooperation in any conflict around the world demands a Russian-US rapprochement, "It's extremely essential, not only for Syria."

Assad maintained that what was happening in Syria was a result of the western and regional support to the terrorist groups, saying that the US have killed civilians since their war on Vietnam, all the way to Iraq, where 1.5 million Iraqis were reportedly killed by the US invasion.

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Opposition leaders flay Modi government for 'authoritarian style'

New Delhi, Calling the BJP-led government at the Centre "suppressor of freedom of speech", especially in the wake of demonetisation move, opposition leaders on Friday criticised the Centre for its authoritarian ways and called for maximum unity among the opposition.

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar appealed for maximum opposition unity after launching a book "Fearless in Opposition, Power and Accountability", authored by P. Chidambaram, former Finance and Home Minister and a senior Congress leader. "Why should the opposition be afraid? It is opposition job's to put forth its views bravely. Nothing can happen in democracy without dialogue and debate. Opposition should get due respect. There should be maximum unity among opposition," Kumar said, adding that there was no need to get certificate of patriotism from the government.

The discussion on the book, which saw speakers such as Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury and former union minister and Congress leader Kapil Sibal, focused on authoritarian ways of the BJP government and

fallouts of demonetisation.

While Yechury called the methods of curtailing black money inappropriate, Sibal used the opportunity to call demonetisation "biggest scam ever". The event was also attended by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi.

The speakers took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's for his "raincoat" comment against Manmohan Singh. Chidambaram called the comment "derogatory" while Yechury said: "It is not the level of politics."

Chidambaram said that strong exception must be taken to the comment since it was made on the floor of Parliament.

Chidambaram also criticised the BJP for making declaration of "Congress Mukh Bharat". He said there much was fear stalking the country, which demanded opposition to be fearless.

"If you criticise the government, you are anti-national, if you speak against the government, you are unpatriotic, if you dissent that is sedition. This is complete mockery of democracy. Institutions and individuals are in fear, Dalits are in fear, minorities are in fear," Chidambaram added.

"Without a united opposition, we can't have democ-

racy. There are enough cheer-leaders, enough drum beaters (for the BJP government). We must be fearless, we need voice of the opposition," the former union minister said.

Meanwhile, Kumar defended his decision to support demonetisation soon after it was implemented, saying "immediate opposition was not appropriate", but he said the government should now talk about the recovery of black money after over 90 days of the move.



Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, Union Ministers M Venkaiah Naidu, Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Speaker of Jatiyo Sangshad (Parliament of Bangladesh), Pudechery Governor Kiarn Bedi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu lighting the lamp to inaugurate a three-day National Women's Parliament Conference, in Vijayawada.

RMC committee rejects hikes on water, vehicle tax

Rajkot, The standing committee of Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) on Thursday rejected the hike proposed in tax on water for non-residential units and vehicles in the budget for the year 2017-18. It, however, approved the budget proposed by RMC commissioner Banchhanidhi Pani by adding a few new schemes. Pani had proposed Rs 2,519 crore budget last month with emphasis on 'Resurgent Rajkot' and focus on 'Green and clean Rajkot'. The RMC commissioner had proposed increase in vehicle tax on four-wheelers from existing 1% to 1.5%. He had also proposed to increase water tax from current Rs

1,680 to Rs 2,400 for non-residential properties. However, the standing committee rejected the proposed hike in taxes. It also rejected the proposal to increase door-to-door garbage collection fees from present Rs 2 per day to Rs 2.50 per day in non-residential areas. The committee added some schemes and approved Rs 2,537.35 crore budget. "We have rejected the tax proposal keeping in view people's worry and added some new schemes to meet people's aspiration. A 'one-time settlement scheme' was launched for those people who have not paid taxes since many years. The scheme offers rebate

DPS-East office sealed by Auda for violating the law

Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) has sealed the office of Delhi Public School (DPS) East at Hirapur near Hathijan in eastern Ahmedabad, after it was found that the structure was built illegally without permission from the authority to convert agricultural land to non-agricultural (NA). According to sources in AUDA, DPS school has built an administrative office at its Hirapur branch on agricultural land. As the land was meant for agricultural use and DPS used it for non-agriculture use, AUDA last year sent the school a show-cause notice, but DPS did not turn up to give their reply. "We have been sending notices to DPS for the last six months but they did not answer them. Following this, on Wednesday we sealed their office at Hirapur in Hathijan area of the city," said AUDA officials. Suresh Jhala, a town planner with AUDA, said the DPS office was sealed as they have committed an illegality in the construction.



-Freestyle wrestler Geeta Phogat, boxer Nikhat Zareen and squash player Dipika Patil Karthik during a promotional event in Mumbai.

Sonam Kapoor gaga over Swara's 'Anaarkali of Aaraah' act

Mumbai, Actress Sonam Kapoor says she has watched Swara Bhaskar's upcoming film "Anaarkali of Aaraah" and feels it brings out the subject of female empowerment in its most entertaining form. "The one person who has my back at all times, my sister and one of my best friends Swara Bhaskar. Her new movie 'Anaarkali of Aaraah' is going to be out soon and I have the honour of putting it out there," Sonam posted on Instagram on Saturday. "Swara you're the most talented and amazing individual and it is my honour to be your friend," she added. Sonam released the first teaser of the film on Saturday. "So, I've seen this movie (obviously I get to see it first) and I've howled and cried at how magnificent Swara is in it. To see female empowerment at its most entertaining and heart-wrenching see the teaser," said Sonam, who will also be seen with Swara in "Veerey Di Wedding".

Coastal villagers seek closure of polluting units

Surat, Inhabitants of coastal villages like Budia, Jiv, Dipli and others staged a dharna near MTB college in the city on Friday, demanding the closure of an industrial unit located some 200m from Budia village. The village residents said they are suffering from increased level of asthma, cough and other illnesses including cancer due to dumping of hazardous waste land. The dharna was staged under the banner of Kantha Vibhag Yuva Koli Samaj Parivartan Trust. Prakash Contractor, president of Kantha Vibhag Yuva Koli Samaj Parivartan Trust told, "The company, Color Tex has been dumping lots of poisonous chemi-

cals. When here is a law that one of these industries should be located within 500m of human habitation, his company is just 200m away from village. Contractor alleged that the company was not following the rules and regulations and said they intended to approach a court. Till now, the people from villages like Budia, Jiv, Khajod, Dipli, Bamroli, Bhestan, Bhimrad, Sarsana and others used to protest in their areas, but to draw wider attention they have come to the city now. "If the government doesn't listen to us, we will protest outside the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) office in Gandhinagar," said Contractor.

XL Catlin opens new Shared Services office in Gurgaon

New Delhi, XL Catlin announced the opening of a new office, covering three floors at DLF World Tech Park in Gurgaon. The new office is for the company's Shared Services operations, which provide vital underwriting support, claims administration, actuarial services, finance and accounting for XL Catlin's teams across the world. Located in Gurgaon's Sector 30, XL Catlin's new office covers 180,000 sqft, allowing it to bring approxi-

mately 1,300 colleagues together under one roof from two of its former offices at Bostech Business Tower and DLF Cyber City. Commenting, Derek Nazareth, XL Catlin's Head of Global Operations and Country Head for India said, "We are delighted to announce the opening of our new office at World Tech Park, providing our staff with a world class, modern and flexible workspace which meets XL Catlin's environmental sustainability commitments. The building was designed to meet Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) standards, incorporating solar panels and energy efficient LED lighting to reduce our environmental impact." Mr Nazareth added, "Seeking out the best local talent in each of our markets has always been a key focus for XL Catlin. We have had offices in India for over 10 years now, with some exceptional colleagues making up our existing team here in Gurgaon and in Bangalore, where around 350 colleagues are based. The opening of the new office was attended by several senior XL Catlin executives including Myron Hendry, Chief Platform Officer and Adrian Spieler, Insurance Platform Officer.

Blind faith in Kaabil navigators

Ahmedabad, It would be a race with a difference where the blind will be navigators for drivers behind the wheels while criss-crossing through city landmarks and periphery on February 12. The 21st edition of Round Table Car Rally jointly organized by Round Table International and Blind Peoples Association (BPA) has the eyes firmly on raising funds to build a school at Naaz village near Ahmedabad. The event would start at 7.30 am from GMDC Ground. It creates an environment where people get to remove their inhibitions and communicate with each other," said an organizer.



Bollywood actor turned Rajya Sabha member Rekha on arrival at Parliament house in Delhi.

ADARSH PLANT PROTECT LTD				
604, GIDC, VITTHAL UDYOGNAGAR, DIST. ANAND - 388121				
CIN: L29210GJ1992PLCO17845				
Extract of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and Six month ended on 31st Dec, 2016.				
(Amount in lacs)				
Particulars	Quarter Ended on 31/12/2016	Quarter Ended on 31/12/2015	Year ended on 31/03/2016	
1. Total Income from operations (Net)	195.09	250.66	985.69	
2. Net profit/loss from ordinary activities after tax	(16.16)	2.89	3.45	
3. Net Profit / loss for the period after tax (After extraordinary items)	(16.16)	2.89	3.45	
4. Equity share capital	991.15	991.15	991.15	
5. Reserves excluding revaluation reserves (as shown in the balance sheet of previous year)	(728.83)	(732.28)	(728.83)	
6. Earnings per share (EPS) Basic and diluted (EPS/Per share) (Not annualised)	(0.16)	0.03	0.03	

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly result filed with Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly results are available on the website of BSE (http://www.bseindia.com) and on the website of the company (http://www.adarshplant.com). The above financial result has been reviewed by audit committee and approved by Board at the Board meeting held on 11.11.2016

Place: V.U. Nagar
Date: 11/02/2017

For Adarsh Plant Protect Limited
Mr. Naishadkumar Patel
Chairman.

SAANVI ADVISORS LIMITED			
Regd. Off. :- 112, F.F.S. NO. 3187/11, M.V. House, Opp. Hajipura Garden, Shahibaug Road, Shahibaug, Ahmedabad-380004, Ph.No.: 079-25620456			
Email: sapharishini@gmail.com, Website: www.sapharishi.in CIN: L74140GJ1981PLCO84205			
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON DECEMBER 31, 2016			
(In Rs.)			
PARTICULARS	Quarter ended on 31/12/2016 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended on 31/12/2015 (Unaudited)	Nine Month Ended on 31/12/2016 (Unaudited)
Income from Operation (net)	225,000.00	90,000.00	565,000.00
Other Income	371,658.93	356,988.00	1,367,755.98
Net Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	386,878.87	280,524.00	1,252,514.25
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after extraordinary items)	386,878.87	280,524.00	1,252,514.25
Paid-up equity Share Capital	20,105,000.00	16,205,000.00	20,105,000.00
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	(900944)	(900944)	(900944)
Earnings per Share (EPS) for the period (before and after extra ordinary items)	0.19	0.17	0.62
-Basic	0.19	0.17	0.62
-Diluted	0.19	0.06	0.62

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the stock Exchange website i.e. www.mse.in & on the company's website - www.sapharishi.in

Place: Ahmedabad.
Date: 10.02.2017

For SAANVI ADVISORS LIMITED
Roopesh Ved
Director
DIN: 01504998

OMKAR INDUSTRIES LIMITED			
Regd. Office: 260, New Cloth Market, Out Side Raipur Gate, Raipur, Ahmedabad - 380 002. Website: www.omkarindustries.co.in, Ph NO. : (079) 22120022; E-Mail ID : kamalca2008@gmail.com, CIN : L51909GJ1985PLCO07702			
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON DECEMBER 31, 2016			
(Rs.in Lacs)			
PARTICULARS	Quarter ended on 31/12/2016 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended on 31/12/2015 (Unaudited)	Nine Month Ended on 31/12/2016 (Unaudited)
Income from Operation (net)	397.24	469.38	1043.26
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total income from operations (net)	397.24	469.38	1043.26
Net Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	0.47	0.59	1.41
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after extraordinary items)	0.47	0.59	1.41
Paid-up equity Share Capital	24.50	24.50	24.50
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	20.65	17.30	20.65
Earnings per Share (EPS) for the period (before and after extra ordinary items)	0.19	0.24	0.57
-Basic	0.19	0.24	0.57
-Diluted	0.19	0.24	0.57

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Dissemination Board under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

For and on behalf of the board of OMKAR INDUSTRIES LIMITED
SUBHASHCHANDRA AGARWAL
DIRECTOR & CEO
DIN: 00356977

Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 10.02.2017

OMKAR OVERSEAS LIMITED			
Regd. Office : 212, New Cloth Market, O/s. Raipur Gate, Raipur, Ahmedabad - 380 002. E-mail ID : omkaroverseas212@gmail.com, Website : www.omkaroverseasltd.com, Tele. No. : 079- 2213 2078, CIN : L51909GJ1994PLCO23680			
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON DECEMBER 31, 2016			
(Rs.in Lacs)			
PARTICULARS	Quarter ended on 31/12/2016 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended on 31/12/2015 (Unaudited)	Nine Month Ended on 31/12/2016 (Unaudited)
Income from Operation (net)	0.00	0.00	88.48
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total income from operations (net)	0.00	0.00	88.48
Net Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	(0.38)	(1.16)	2.64
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after extraordinary items)	(0.38)	(1.16)	2.64
Paid-up equity Share Capital	492.36	492.36	492.36
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	-1.18	-9.50	-1.18
Earnings per Share (EPS) for the period (before and after extra ordinary items)	0.00	0.024	0.05
-Basic	0.00	0.024	0.05
-Diluted	0.00	0.024	0.05

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the BSE Limited under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the stock Exchange website i.e. www.bseindia.com & on company's website - www.omkaroverseasltd.com.

For and on behalf of the board
OMKAR OVERSEAS LIMITED
RAMESH DEORA
DIRECTOR & CEO
DIN: 01135440

Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 10.02.2017

SHREE NARMADA ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES LIMITED							
95/1, Bharuch-Palej Road, Bholav, Dist: Bharuch, Gujarat - 392001							
Corporate Identity Number : L91110GJ1981PLCO04269							
Tel: +91 2642 260624; Fax: +91 2642 240620; E-mail: nalexhb@yahoo.co.in							
Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended 31.12.2016							
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		Previous Year Ended 31.03.2016
		31.12.16	30.09.16	31.12.15	31.12.16	31.12.15	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	
1	Income From Operations	-	-	-	82.66	82.67	
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (11-12)	(2.92)	(6.35)	(1.64)	(12.85)	(7.46)	(31.04)
3	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (ordinary shares of Rs.10/- each)	52.96	52.96	52.96	52.96	52.96	52.96
4	Reserve Excluding Revaluation Reserve as per balance sheet of the PY	-	-	-	-	-	(592.13)
5	Basic and Diluted E P S Rs. Per Share before extraordinary items	(0.56)	(1.22)	(0.31)	(2.47)	(1.43)	(5.96)
6	Basic and Diluted E P S Rs. Per Share after extraordinary items	(0.56)	(1.22)	(0.31)	(2.47)	(1.43)	(5.96)

NOTES:-

- The above Unaudited Financial Results, reviewed by the Audit Committee, have been approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 9th February, 2017 and the same have been subjected to a limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- The Company was sick Company under Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985, with effect from 1st December 2016, Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985 repeal by the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Act, 2003. The company has received an order from Honorable High Court Gujarat dated 16.05.2008 which is under implementation. Meanwhile a secured creditor filed an application before Debt recovery Tribunal-III, Mumbai (DRT-III). On 05.01.2015 DRT-III, Mumbai passed an ex parte order for secured creditor with Physical possession of Secured property i.e. factory at Bharuch including that from third party. The secured creditor who was acting in consonance with the understanding for over the period of eight months, suddenly initiated steps for taking Possession without awaiting for further order on 06.08.2015. DRT-II Mumbai has appointed court receiver for the same. The said property is still in the possession of the court receiver. The matter is still pending before DRT-III, Mumbai and there is no progress in above matter in current quarter. The Company is continuously making reasonable efforts to take relief from said order. The management based on various legal opinions believe that going concern is sustainable. Hence, the accounts have accordingly been prepared on a going concern basis. The Auditors of the Company have put a "Qualification" on the aforesaid matters in the Limited Review Report for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2016.
- No provision for income tax made in lieu of losses and deferred tax assets is not recognized in the absence of Virtual certainty to earn income in future.
- The Company operates in only one business of Trading in Aluminium. Therefore, segment-wise reporting is not applicable.
- Previous Quarter figures have been regrouped/ reclassified wherever necessary to conform to the current quarter figures.

For SHREE NARMADA ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES LTD.
SD/
Kantil B Patel
(Chairman and Managing Director and CEO)
Milan R Patel
(Director)

DATE : 9th February 2017
Place: Mumbai

MINAXI TEXTILES LIMITED						
CIN : L 17119GJ1995PLCO25007						
Regd. Office : Plot No.3311, Phase-IV, G.I.D.C. Industrial Estate, Village : Chhatral (N.G.), Taluka : Kalol, Dist. : Gandhinagar-382 729.						
STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31.12.2016						
(Rs. in Lacs)						
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year to Date	
		31.12.2016 (un-audited)	30.09.16 Unaudited	31.12.15 Unaudited	31.12.16 Unaudited	31.12.15 Unaudited
1	Income from operations:					
	(a) Net Sales/ Income from Operation	1176.63	1377.37	1173.07	3882.42	3886.72
	(b) Other operating Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total income from operation (net)	1176.63	1377.37	1173.07	3882.42	3886.72
2	Expenses:					
	(a) Cost of material consumed	1051.20	1004.48	872.25	2998.96	2611.11
	(b) Purchase of stock-in-trade	97.33	38.15	22.12	135.48	49.1
	(c) Changes in inventories of finished goods, work-in-progress and stock-in-trade	-267.25	19.59	-8.86	-127.63	210.32
	(d) Employee benefits expense	57.26	72.40	59.28	199.37	192.4
	(e) Depreciation and amortization expense	47.12	46.53	47.59	140.14	142.72
	(f) Others Expenses	84.51	95.22	91.22	273.93	278.52
	Total expenses	1070.17	1276.37	1083.60	3620.25	3484.17
3	Profit/(Loss) from Operations before other income, finance cost and exceptional items (1-2)	106.46	101.00	89.47	262.17	402.55
4	Other income	20.68	42.32	1.01	63.97	2.89
5	Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before finance cost and exceptional items (3-4)	127.14	143.32	90.48	326.14	405.44
6	Finance costs	57.63	63.41	73.69	178.37	211.5
7	Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after finance cost but before exceptional items (5-6)	69.51	79.91	16.79	147.77	193.94
8	Exceptional items	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.73	0.00
9	Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before tax (7-8)	69.51	79.91	16.79	223.50	193.94
10	Tax expense	39.48	12.93	0.00	74.41	44.00
11	Net Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax (9-10)	30.03	66.98	16.79	149.09	149.94
12	Extraordinary items (net of tax expense)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Net Profit / Loss for the period (11-12)	30.03	66.98	16.79	149.09	149.94
14	share of profit/(loss) of associates	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Minority interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Net Profit/(Loss) after taxes, minority interest and share of profit/(loss) of associates (13-14-15)	30.03	66.98	16.79	149.09	149.94
17	Paid-up Equity Share capital (Rs.1/- per share)	494.16	494.16	494.16	494.16	494.16
18	Reserve excluding Revaluation Reserves as per balancesheet of previous accounting year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	745.19
19	Earnings Per Share (EPS) before Extraordinary items					
	a). Basic and diluted	0.06	0.11	0.03	0.30	0.31
19	Earnings Per Share (EPS) before Extraordinary items					
	b). Basic and diluted	0.06	0.11	0.03	0.30	0.31

NOTES :

- The above un audited (provisional) financial result as reviewed by the Audit Committee were taken on record by the Board of Directors of the Company in their meeting held on 11.02.2017
- The limited review as required by Regulation 33 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 has been carried out by the Statutory Auditors of the company for the quarter ended on 31.12.2016
- The Company is mainly engaged in a single segment and hence there is no other primary reportable segment as required by AS-17 on 'Segment Reporting' issued by ICAI.
- The previous year/period figures have been regrouped and/or rearranged wherever considered necessary.
- Pursuant to Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the aforesaid financial result may be accessed on the Company's website at www.minaxitextiles.com and may also be accessed at the website of the Stock Exchange where the shares of the company are listed at www.bseindia.com.

For, Minaxi Textiles Limited
Bharatbhai P. Patel
Managing Director
DIN : 00161825

Place : Chhatral
Date : 11.02.2017

Aero India 2017 will be held at Bengaluru

Ahmedabad,

The 11th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition – Aero India 2017 will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru from 14th to 18th February 2017.

Aero India which began in 1996, has carved a niche for itself as a premium aerospace and aviation exhibition in the international arena and has become one of the most sought after exhibitions in the Asian region in terms of participation from across the globe. The event is being organized and conducted by the Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO).

The highlights of this year's show are:
(i) Participation from 270 Indian Companies and 279 foreign companies. That is a total of 549 companies.

(ii) The total area of the show has grown from 24,403 sqm to 27,678 sqm this year.

(iii) Number of aircraft participating are 72.

(iv) The gross area has also increased from 2,50,000 sqm to 2,60,000 sqm.

(v) It is expected that two lakh business visitors will attend the show.

(vi) Seminars by State Governments (Andhra Global CEO's Conclave

on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Opportunities in Andhra Pradesh) on 14th February from 1430 hrs onwards, shall be Chaired by the Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati. The guest of Honour will be the Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar, the Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences Shri YS Chowdary, the Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, the Chief of Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal BS Dhanoa, the Defence Secretary, Shri G Mohan Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production), Shri AK Gupta and the Minister of Finance & Planning Commercial Taxes, Legislative Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh Shri Yanamala Ramakrishnu.

AMC, AUDA get high court notice

Ahmedabad,

Gujarat high court on Wednesday issued notices to Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) and Ahmedabad International School in Bodakdev in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) alleging encroachment on a public plot allotted to the school for playground.

Local residents have moved the HC and complained that the civic body allotted a public plot to the school as a token rate of Rs 1.5 lakh to use it as school's playground. But the school authority has converted it into its parking plot and constructed a wall restraining people living in the neighbourhood from using it during non-school hours, the residents alleged. The petitioners have sought HC intervention so that the plot could be made free for public use after school hours.

The PIL was filed after residents in the same area raised objection against Nirma Foundation's use of such plot and its denial to residents from using the same. A PIL was also filed in this case.

High court reserves order against ex-minister's son

Ahmedabad,

The Gujarat high court on Wednesday reserved its order on a petition filed by Akhil Parmar, the son of a former minister Dinesh Parmar, seeking the quashing of charges under the official Secrets Act against him.

In this case, Akhil Parmar and Randip Rathod, were booked under OSA by Jamnagar police in 2014. This happened after they allegedly uploaded video footage of areas in and around Sikka port near Jamnagar on the internet. Parmar has been accused of getting videography of the area done, where there is a vital installation of Reliance Industries and then posting the videos on internet, despite this being a prohibited area. As son as the complaint was lodged, Parmar had moved the high court to get it quashed on the grounds that his intention behind spreading the information was not mala fide. He only wanted to highlight to the world how environmental norms were not followed by industries.

15-year-old girl immolates self after molestation

Ahmedabad,

A 15-year-old girl from Dholka taluka of Ahmedabad attempted self-immolation after she was molested allegedly by a youth from her village on Tuesday night. The girl was rushed to VS Hospital in the city late on Tuesday night and her condition is stated to be stable. Superintendent of Police Ahmedabad (rural) Rajendra Asari said they have registered complaint under various sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC), Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and abetment to suicide against one Yashpalsinh Vaghela. "The girl is at present under treatment at VS Hospital. During primary investigation we learnt that the boy used to pressurize the girl for having relationship with him. The girl has mentioned before us that she was frightened and attempted suicide."

Best from waste denim fabric

Ahmedabad,

A group of students from Cept University have joined hands with artisans from Self Employed Women's Association (Sewa) to create installations from waste denim fabric.

The project, which is being guided by an internationally renowned architect, Anupama Kundoo, and her team, will be presented at Archiprix International 2017, a biennial international competition for projects in architecture, organized at the Cept University on Thursday.

One of the interesting features of the group's installation is the map of Ahmedabad which has been created using denim patchwork. The others include roofing material, alternative umbrella to cover tables and counters in outdoor environments and fade shades among others. Talking about the project, Anupama said, "The idea is to use waste fabric to a constructive use in the architecture so that there is a low impact on the environment in terms of water and energy consumption. At the same time, we've engaged local community artisans from the Sewa to make it socio-economically beneficial."

Innocents leave jail after serving 14 years

Ahmedabad,

Four persons, including two who were acquitted by the Supreme Court last week in the 2002 Ahmedabad tiffin blasts case, were released from Sabarmati Central Jail on Wednesday after remaining in prison for nearly 14 years.

These persons -- Hanif Shaikh (50); Kalim Kareemi (38) Anas Machiswala (45); and Habib Hawa (43) -- were convicted by a special POTA court in the case.

They were accused of planting as tiffin the five bombs that were found on May 29, 2002 in public transport buses run by Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service (AMTS). Three of these bombs had exploded injuring 13 people. The blasts were seen as retaliation for the 2002 communal riots.



Senior Congress leaders Sriprakash Jaiswal and Rajiv Shukla addressing a press conference in Lucknow.

Govt's duty to tackle men who dump wives, go abroad: HC

Ahmedabad,

Gujarat high court has said that it is the state government's duty to protect the interests of newly married girls, whose husbands dump them here and flee abroad.

The HC is of the opinion that state government authorities must take all steps to bring such offenders back to India to face trial.

Justice JB Pardiwala observed, "I have noticed in many cases that very soon after the marriage, the husband leaves for a foreign country and never returns. This act on the part of the

husband and his family members ruins the life of a newly wedded girl."

The court has also asked for suggestions from the government to resolve the issue.

In many matters, I have called upon the state government to make necessary suggestions how to secure the presence of such persons, who have gone into hiding.

The state government owes a duty to protect the interests of these newly married girls, who are being duped by their husbands," he court observed further.

The high court's observations came during the hearing of a quashing petition filed by a Vadodara resident, Vishwani Patel, whose cousin Mrugank Patel fled to the UK after marriage leaving his bride behind.

Mrugank and Dipti were married on September 1, 2015 and matrimonial disputes began soon after. The angry women, Dipti filed an FIR with Laxminagar police station charging her husband and in-laws of cruelty. By the time the FIR was filed, Mrugank had left India.

Justice Pardiwala quashed charges against

Vishwant, but directed the state government to secure presence of the husband for the purpose of trial. "The state government is directed to initiate appropriate proceeding a red corner notice. At any cost, the husband, who is sitting fine in a foreign country, leaving his wife in dire straits, should be brought back to India to be proceeded in accordance with law," the court said.

The high court further directed all airport authorities across India to keep a watch on the person so that he can be arrested as soon as he lands in India.

ACB strengthens ties with GVC to check corruption

Ahmedabad,

The state anti-corruption bureau (ACB) strengthened its collaboration with Gujarat Vigilance Commission (GVC) for registering cases and seeking information in corruption cases. The first such meeting took place at Gandhinagar where the district-level vigilance officer was apprised of the roles GVC and ACB can play. ACB officials said that the biggest benefit from the collaboration will be to seek information in cases such as disproportionate assets (DA) inquiries, where secrecy is of utmost importance.

Keshav Kumar, special director, ACB, said that Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) works closely with Central Vigilance Commission

(CVC) for prevention of corruption "While the mandate was there in the state as well, we have tried to revitalize the link and seek their support. It will improve the synergy," he said. Kumar was on deputation to the CBI for six years. ACB officials said the government of Gujarat has 26 departments. Each Department has its own vigilance officer: "Curbing corruption is also their mandate. Thus, on issues such as preventive vigilance inspections (PVI) and investigating specific complaints, ACB can collaborate with them. On the other hand, they can help us when we get complaints of DA, to gather information on specific employees without alarming the suspect," said an ACB official.

Police raid hookah bar, bust gambling den

Ahmedabad,

Over Wednesday and Thursday, city police raided a hookah bar in Vastrapur and a gambling den in Dariapur. Police also arrested a couple for running a spa in Chandkheda. Officials said the police raids were part of the ongoing drive against illegal activities in various parts of the

city. On Thursday night, joint team of Prevention of Crime Branch (PCB) and ACP F Division raided a gymkhana near Tambu Chowky in Dariapur and nabbed 67 people, including the owner. Officials said that the gymkhana was a front for a gambling den where the players gambled with playing cards.

ED attaches assets worth Rs 300 crore

Ahmedabad,

The regional unit of Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday attached assets worth Rs 300 crore of Vadodara based Biotor Industries in a Rs 500 crore fraud case, where money was laundered through multi-layered face identities. "ED attaches assets worth Rs 132 crores (Market value Rs 300 Cr) of Biotor Industries Limited in Vadodara in a Bank Fraud Case," said a tweet from the ED.

From 2007 to 2009, Biotor Industries Limited took loans of Rs 500 crore from 10 nationalized banks in the name of funding for farmers, including Rs 100 crore from Oriental Bank of Commerce, Rs 50 crore each

from Corporation Bank, Indian Bank and Bank of Maharashtra among others.

Under the banks' scheme, to provide the cost of castor-seeds to farmers privately, Biotor Industries transferred these loan sums to management and collection agent (MCA) accounts. From MCA accounts, the money was transferred to Village Level Aggregator (VLA) accounts in cooperative banks. VLA accounts belong to a group of 50 or 100 farmers, headed by one farmer. Sources said the money was later moved to VLA accounts in other cooperative banks and from there, was withdrawn by the company using fake identities of farmers in cash or by

Govt questions CAT order on IPS officer

Ahmedabad,

The state government has challenged the order passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) by which it quashed the suspension order and penalty imposed on IPS officer R S Yadav, for alleged indiscipline for which he was facing various inquiries.

A bench of justice A S Dave and Justice A Y Koghe scheduled a hearing of this petition for March 1.

In May last year, the CAY directed the state government to restore all financial and consequential benefits to the officer for the period of suspension. However, without commenting on the merits of the inquiry and chargesheet served on him, the tribunal permitted the government to act as it deems fit in next six weeks. The 1988-batch IPS officer was penalized with reduction to a lower stage in the time scale of pay by two stages for a period of two years without cumulative effect and no adversely affecting his pension.

In 2000, the state government ordered departmental inquiries against Yadav in several counts. In a controversial kidnapping case of 3-year-old Ruchi from Gandhinagar in 1999, he faced charges of mishandling the probe when he

was Gandhinagar SP and the supervisory authority in this case.

In 2001, he faced another inquiry for not staying at headquarters during the suspension period and then for not depositing his service revolver. He also fed an inquiry for not sending his annual property report.

Gujarat gets 8 more IPS cadre posts, promotions expected

Ahmedabad,

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Thursday sanctioned a total of 8 more IPS cadre posts for Gujarat. Two of these are DGP-rank and 5 SP-rank cadre posts. Sources

said that with the increase in cadre posts, transfer and promotion of OPS officers are likely soon.

Senior IPS officers said that under normal circumstances, cadre review takes place every five years but this time it has taken more than a decade for the DoPT to review the cadre posts for IPS officers in Gujarat.

Earlier, Gujarat had two cadre posts for DGP rank.

"Now two more IPS officers can be promoted to the

Sakkarbaug Zoo to add animals

Rajkot,

One of the country's oldest and largest zoos, Sakkarbaug Zoological Park (SBZP) in Junagadh, is all set to add amenities to attract more visitors, besides adding new animals, like giraffe, cheetahs and Zebra.

"New animals like giraffe, Zebra and African cheetahs will arrive soon at Sakkarbaug Zoo. Moreover, we will soon carry out renovation of a historical building located inside the zoo campus," said A P Singh, chief conservator of forests, (wildlife), Junagadh circle.

He said that they also plan to provide pick up facility from hotels to the zoo for foreign visitors. Besides this, new amenities like baby care centre cloak room, cafeteria and new toilets will be set up in the coming days, Singh added. The forest department that manages the Sakkarbaug Zoo will also end its veterinary doctors for training collaboration with the Zoological Society of London. Also areas outside the zoo will be developed in association with the Junagadh Municipal Corporation (JMC) to make a parking area, a zoo entry point area and other sections of the zoo. Another major thrust area of Sakkarbaug Zoo is its breeding programme of various animal species. "This breeding programme includes animals like Asiatic lions (2), wild ass (1), Chinkara (21), vulture (8) and chosinga (11) among others. In total 282 animals of 17 species were added to the zoo in the last two years," said S J Pandit, director, Sakkarbaug Zoo.

Potests growing against Higher Education Act

Ahmedabad,

Voices of protest against Gujarat State Higher Education Council (GSHEC) Act-2016, which was recently signed into law by governor O P Kohli, are growing louder. Educationists have decided to take this protest against the controversial Act to all the 12 universities across the state.

Educatorists for the law, passed in the state assembly in March last year, will take away the autonomy of institutes.

A group called 'All India Save Education Committee' (AISEC) has issued a statement saying that it will represent the issue before President of India Pranab Mukherjee, seeking his intervention to stop the Act from being implemented.

"When the Bill was passed last March, AISEC started the movement and organized various protest programmes throughout the state. AISEC represented the governor of Gujarat, who assured us he would to

take a decision in favour of the academic community. In spite of these, the bill as signed," said the statement.

Another group called all India Federation of University and College Teachers' Association (AIFUCTA) said that the new Act will undermine all the existing bodies and structures in higher education.

Mahadev Desai, President of Gujarat chapter of AIFUCTO, said, "There is absolute centralization of powers which may threaten the autonomy of our education system." The GHCEC Act has brought all the universities of the state under the admit of a Higher Education Council which will be chaired by the chief minister. The 15-member council will comprise the chief minister as its president; the education minister as vice-president; the minister of state for education as co-vice president, and 12 other ministers. The council will also have five vice-chancellor of state universities.

Parsis knock on CM's doors to get land for agiary

Ahmedabad,

After getting of concrete response from the AMC regarding allocation of land near Parsi Sanatorium, trustees of Parsi Panchayat in Ahmedabad knocked on the chief minister's doors. At a meeting earlier this week, five trustees of the Parsi Panchayat led by president, Brigadier (retired) Jahangir Anklesaria along with Udvada's Vada Dasturji

Khurshed Dastoor, sought the land for building a new agiary (fire temple) near the Parsi Sanatorium which is located close to the Sabarmati riverfront.

At present, the 132-year-old Vakil Adariyan Agiary is located at the Bukhara Mohalla near Khamasa Crossroads in the Walled City "Over the years, most Parsis in the city have relocated to western parts of

Ahmedabad. The old location is now inconvenient for people to visit the agiary regularly," said Brigadier Anklesaria.

"Most people like to go to places of worship with family but getting there is cumbersome due to the increase in vehicular traffic on a Sunday, he said. Earlier some 200 people visited the agiary and there would be community gatherings.



Shri N. Srivastava (IFS), Commissioner of Tourism and Managing Director, Gujarat Tourism today inaugurates three days India's prominent international travel and tourism exhibition, India Travel Mart (ITM) in the presence of Delegates, Exhibitors, Travel Trade, Travel Agents, Tour Organizers, Hoteliers, Media and General Public came from all over Gujarat. The three day mart starts today on February 10 and is continue open for all till February 12 at Gujarat University Convention & Exhibition Centre, 132 Ring Road, Near Helmet Circle, Opp Mayflower Hospital, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Khizr Khan asks Latinos to join fight against Trump

Washington, The father of Muslim US Army Captain Humayun Khan, who was killed in the Iraq war, and fierce critic of President Donald Trump's travel ban, has urged Latinos to join hands with other communities to emerge even stronger, the media reported.

The only solution to such suffering is unity, Khizr Khan told Efe news on Friday during an interview in Miami in reference to Trump's recent anti-immigration measures.

The Pakistani-American lawyer urged the Latino community to remain hopeful, strong and united, to join forces with other communities, assuring them "you are not alone".

In his first week in office, Trump had signed executive orders ending safeguards for undocumented immigrants in the country and banning the entry of travellers and refugees from seven Muslim-majority countries, among other measures affecting both the Muslim and Latin communities.

Khan said that while Trump will cause "difficulties", he believed the President will not succeed, based on his firm belief in the US judicial and legislative system.

The activist said while he felt heartened by the appeals court decision from Thursday striking down Trump's travel ban on citizens from Muslim nations, he was worried such orders (as Trump's) can be detrimental for US security.

Explaining, he said that US Army personnel deployed in Muslim countries now face much less cooperation from the Muslim community and "we need more cooperation to defeat terrorism".

Khan, who became famous for his moving speech against discrimination of Muslims during the 2016 Democratic National Convention, stressed the Democratic Party maintains its identity and "faith in good values".

Saying the election loss had led the Democratic Party to undergo a restructuring, he said they are now moving together towards a common agenda for consensus in the entire country.

Khan, who received the "America's Immigrant Spirit Award", on Friday from the Miami-based group Americans for Immigrant Justice, stressed no community is alone in this hour, and this is the moment for minorities to unite.



A sand sculpture crafted during the three-day National Women's Parliament conference, in Vijayawada.

Trump mulls issuing new executive order on immigration

Washington, US President Donald Trump said that drafting a new executive order is one of the options he was considering in response to a court ruling blocking his January 27 measure barring citizens from seven Muslim-majority nations, the media reported.

On Thursday, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld a restraining order issued on February 3 by a district judge in Seattle, Efe news reported.

"We will win that battle. The unfortunate part is that it takes time statutorily, but we will win that battle. We also have a lot of other options, including just filing a brand new order," Trump told the media Friday aboard Air Force One.

When a journalist asked if issuing a new executive order would be the best option, the President replied: "It very well could be. We need speed for reasons of security, so it very well could be."

Trump had addressed the issue earlier on Friday during a joint press conference with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"We'll be doing something very rapidly having to do with additional security for our country. You'll be seeing that sometime next week," the president said.

Trump's original order mandated a temporary pause in admission of refugees, a 90-day prohibition on entry by residents of Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Somalia, Libya, and Yemen, and an indefinite suspension of admission of Syrian refugees.

The administration can ask for a review of the full 9th Circuit, or it can seek intervention by the US Supreme Court, which is still one short of its normal complement of nine members, creating the possibility of a 4-4 deadlock.

A tie in the Supreme Court would allow the appellate ruling to stand. The White House said that the executive order was meant to provide time to develop a procedure for "extreme vetting" of Muslims seeking to enter the US, something Trump proposed during the presidential campaign after his initial call for

an outright Muslim ban drew criticism from across the political spectrum.

Roughly 1,000 State Department career employees have signed a memo denouncing the executive order.

The Cato Institute, a libertarian think-tank in Washington, has pointed out that since at least 1975, no terrorist attacks have been carried out on US soil by nationals of the seven nations affected by the visa suspension.

Cancer most lethal disease among young Brazilians: Study

Brasilia, Cancer was the leading cause of death by disease among young Brazilians, according to a study released by the country's National Cancer Institute (INCA).

The study issued on Friday said over 17,500 Brazilians aged 15 to 29 died of cancer from 2009 to 2013, accounting for 5 per cent of all deaths.

on the age group. It was only surpassed by deaths caused by violence and accidents, Xinhua news agency reported.

Among Brazilians aged 1-14, cancer was the leading cause of death by disease as well.

Data from the INCA indicated that the most common tumours in teenagers and young adults were carcinomas, followed by lymphomas and skin tumours.

Carcinomas were frequently found in the urinary and reproductive system, thyroid, breast, head and neck.

Among Brazilian women aged 15 to 29, cervical cancer was the most common disease.

Brazil has already started to take steps to curb the disease by establishing nationwide campaigns to vaccinate children against the human papilloma virus (HPV), which was the cause of most cervical cancer cases.

To prevent cancer, doctors also recommended precaution measures including avoiding smoking, having a healthy diet and not exposing oneself to the sun in excess.

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Trump reportedly blamed voter fraud for why both he and former Senator Kelly Ayotte lost in New Hampshire in November during the meeting on Thursday with a bipartisan group of senators, The Hill magazine reported.

The US alleges would constitute thousands of felony criminal offences under New Hampshire law," Commissioner Ellen Weintraub said in a statement on Friday.

"The President has issued an extraordinarily serious and specific charge," added Weintraub, who was appointed by former President George W. Bush.

"Allegations of this magnitude cannot be ignored." "I therefore call upon President Trump to immediately share his evidence with the public and with the appropriate law-enforcement authorities so that his allegations may be investigated promptly and thoroughly."

Election official asks Trump for voter fraud evidence

Washington, A US Federal Elections Commission (FEC) official called on President Donald Trump to give proof of voter fraud, after he reportedly made claims in a meeting with senators, the media reported.

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The president maintains voter fraud may explain why 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton defeated him in the popular vote by nearly three million ballots.

The shares of the Seattle-based luxury retailer Nordstrom, increased to 7 per cent after US President Donald Trump slammed it on Twitter, the media reported.

Last week, after the retailer announced that it would not carry Ivanka Trump's spring collection - characterising the move as a business decision - the Trump administration disputed Nordstrom's claim that her merchandise was not selling well, NBC News reported on Friday.

Trump's adviser Kellyanne Conway added more fuel to the fire on Thursday when she delivered what she called a "commercial" in support of the brand during a live TV interview.

Threats of boycotts from both pro- and anti-Trump factions surfaced on social media, leading to the stocks dipping briefly but it soon rebounded. According to retail experts, the reason Nordstrom shook off the controversy while other companies have seen their share prices fall after being on the receiving end of a disgruntled tweet was simple; unlike Lockheed Martin, which depends on US government contracts, or General Motors, whose investments in Mexico could be threatened by an import tax, there was not much Donald Trump could do to hurt the fortunes of a high-end department store chain.

Trump in his tweet said: "My daughter Ivanka has been treated so unfairly by Nordstrom. She is a great person -- always pushing me to do the right thing! Terrible!"

Security personnel deployed at Lal Chowk in Srinagar as security arrangements were beefed up following separatists' call to march to United Nations Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan at Sonwar from the business hub which forced authorities to impose curfew like restriction at many areas of Sher-e-Khas and down town.

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At least 17 people killed in Angola's football match stampede

Luanda, At least 17 people died and dozens of others injured in a stampede at a stadium at a soccer match in the northern Uige city of Angola.

The tragedy occurred on Friday evening seven minutes into a first division match between Santa Rita de Cassia and Libolo when hundreds of local fans stormed one of the gates of the stadium to watch the match, Xinhua reported.

Sources with a local hospital said there were at least 76 casualties, of whom 17 dead, mostly teenagers who tried to sneak into the stadium to watch the game. Five people were also reported to be in serious condition after the stampede.

Witnesses said the crowd trying to gain access would have taken the stadium past its 8,000 capacity, and some people began to fall and some people had walk on others, triggering the worst stadium tragedy in recent memory. The gate was already over crowded when hundreds of more fans stormed the gate to gain entry while there were only police men were present to safeguard the order, one witness said.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has ordered an investigation into the incident, local media reported.

5.6-magnitude quake hits Taiwan

Taipei, An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted Taiwan on Saturday morning.

The epicentre, with a depth of about 20 km, was monitored at 22.85 degrees north latitude and 120.2 degrees east longitude of Kaohsiung city, Xinhua news agency reported.

Electricity and water supply were temporarily cut in some areas following the quake, but was soon resumed, according to local authorities. No casualties or damages were reported.

13 killed in Bangladesh road accident

Dhaka, At least 13 people were killed and over 20 injured when a bus and a pick-up truck carrying gas cylinders collided head-on in Bangladesh's Faridpur district, a police official said on Saturday.

The accident took place on a highway connecting Dhaka and Khulna town on Friday night. The official told Xinhua news agency that the collision sparked a huge fire and the toll might increase since some of the injured were in critical condition.

Fire fighters recovered 13 charred bodies from inside the bus," he said. The cause of the accident is being probed.

3 killed in Philippines quake

Manila, At least three people were killed and 80 injured after a 6.5 magnitude earthquake hit Philippines' Surigao city, officials said on Saturday.

The tremor struck late Friday night near Surigao city, in the northeast of Mindanao Island at a relatively shallow depth of 15 km (9.3 mi), the US Geological Survey (USGS) announced.

A school and a bridge collapsed, many houses were damaged and the power supply in various areas was cut, the officials said.

Flights to Surigao were cancelled as the runway of the local airport is damaged. Dozens of aftershocks followed the initial quake lasting into Saturday.

Hundreds of residents fled their homes and spent the night outside, according to local authorities.

Administration will win travel ban court fight: Trump

Washington, US President Donald Trump has said he has "no doubt" his administration will win legal challenges to his travel ban.

In a press conference with Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, Trump also promised to move "rapidly" to introduce "additional security" steps for the US next week, BBC reported.

He spoke as Virginia state lawyers argued in court that his policy "resulted from animus toward Muslims." "We are going to keep our country safe, we are going to do whatever is necessary to keep our country safe," Trump said at the White House on Friday.

"We'll be doing something very rapidly having to do with additional security for our country, you'll be seeing that sometime next week," he added.

In addition we will continue to go through the court process and ultimately I have no doubt that we'll win that case.

Trump did not clarify what he meant by additional steps, but his remarks were in response to a journalist's question about whether he was considering fresh executive orders, the report said.



Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Chairman Mohammad Yaseen Malik talking to media persons at Sarai Bala in Srinagar.

Under border tunnels sign of effectiveness: Homeland Security chief

Washington, Organised crime groups trying to dig tunnels across the border between the US and Mexico is a sign of the effectiveness of the frontier wall as well as the personnel guarding it, said the new US Homeland Security Secretary.

Secretary John Kelly's visit coincided with the discovery of an under-construction tunnel in the neighbouring Mexican city of Tijuana, after which he told reporters tight border security was forcing criminal organisations to take recourse to such methods to transfer drugs, Efe news reported.

"I would argue the fact they (drug cartels) are spending huge amounts of money to tunnel underneath the wall tells you they can't get through it," Kelly said, adding it signals the barrier, and the people who patrol it, are very effective, at a press briefing that followed his meeting with local, state and federal authorities in San Diego.

The secretary visited the California border as part of a tour of the whole region bordering Mexico, which began last week in Texas and took him to Arizona on Thursday.

Kelly reiterated the aim of the tour was to hold a dialogue with law enforcement agencies in a bid to know what resources are needed to facilitate their work.

He added that relations between US border agencies and their Mexican counterparts are good and said he will continue cementing such relations.

On routine inspections by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement in southern California - leading to the arrest of 160 undocumented individuals - the official said he was personally present at a couple of such operations early Friday where he witnessed the professionalism of the border personnel first-hand.

Nepal aims to increase wild water buffaloes population

Kathmandu, Nepal has completed the relocation of 15 wild water buffaloes, aimed at increasing their population, the media reported.

As part of the government's decision to relocate 30 rhinos, 30 wild water buffaloes, and 35 swamp deers to protected areas by 2018, the recent relocation has been conducted, Xinhua news agency reported.

Among the proposed 30 wild water buffaloes, 15 were relocated to Chitwan National Park in the first phase. Out of 15, 12 were shifted from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the last week of January while three were shifted from National Zoo in Kathmandu on Thursday.

Chiranjivi Prasad Pokharel, project coordinator at National Trust for Nature Conservation told Xinhua news agency on Friday: "The major objective of translocation of these wilds is to revive their population in the original habitats and to make them genetically strong through pure breeding."

Russia considers returning Snowden to US as 'gift'

Washington, Russia is considering turning over Edward Snowden to US President Donald Trump who had said the National Security Agency (NSA) whistleblower deserves to be executed for being a spy, according to a senior American intelligence official.

The official made the remark after analysing a series of highly sensitive intelligence reports detailing Russian deliberations and who said a Snowden handover is one of various ploys to "curry favour" with Trump, NBC News reported.

However, Snowden's American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawyer, Ben Wizner, said that they were unaware of any plans that would send him back to the US.

"Team Snowden has received no such signals and has no new reason for concern," Wizner said.

Snowden responded to NBC's report on Twitter and said it shows that he did not work with the Russian government.

"Finally: irrefutable evidence that I never cooperated with Russian intelligence," Snowden said, adding "No country trades away spies, as the rest would fear they're next".

The White House had no comment, but the Justice Department told NBC News that it would welcome the return of Snowden, who currently faces federal charges that carry a minimum of 30 years in prison.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said talks about returning Snowden is "nonsense". "If he were returned to the US, Snowden - a divisive figure in America who is seen by some as a hero and others as treasonous - would face an administration that has condemned him in the strongest terms."

"I think he's a total traitor and I would deal with him harshly," Trump said in July. "And if I were President, Putin would give him over." In October 2013, Trump tweeted: "Snowden is a spy who should be executed". Snowden was working as a contractor at an NSA facility in Hawaii when he began stealing top-secret documents that he gave to journalists in 2013, exposing details of US domestic surveillance programs.

After Snowden fled to Hong Kong and was charged with violating the US Espionage Act, he ended up in Russia. Moscow granted him refuge and his residency permit was extended until 2020.

Here's your chance to spot a comet passing by Earth

Washington, Comet hunters have a chance to spot comet 45P/Honda-Mrkos-Pajdosakova in the next few days using binoculars or a telescope, NASA said on Saturday.

"It's the first of a trio of comets that will -- between now and the end of 2018 -- pass close enough to Earth for backyard observers to try to spot and for scientists to study using ground-based instruments," the US space agency said.

The recommendation for backyard astronomers is to use binoculars or a telescope to look for the comet several times during the coming days, NASA said.

Discovered in 1948, 45P is a short-period comet, with an orbit that takes it around the sun and out by Jupiter about every 5-1/4 years.

This weekend's encounter will be the comet's closest with Earth - passing by at a distance of about 12.4 million kilometres -- through the end of this century.

The comet will pass by our planet again in 2032 but will be much farther away - at a distance of nearly about 48 million kilometres.

Scientists have taken advantage of 45P's approach, making observations using powerful ground-based telescopes such as NASA's Infrared Telescope Facility to investigate the gases, dust and ice particles that are released from the comet nucleus and show up in the coma and tail.

By looking for water, methane and other important compounds, astronomers get clues about how the comet is put together and where it originated in the cloud of material that surrounded the young sun as the solar system formed.

By observing the same comet more than once, astronomers can see how the object changes over time.

"Observing a comet multiple times over successive orbits is like taking snapshots at different stages of life," said Joseph Nuth, a senior scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

NASA said ground-based observations also are planned for comet 41P/Tuttle-Giacobini-Kresak, which will pass closest to Earth on April 1, 2017, and for comet 46P/Wirtanen, passing closest to Earth on December 16, 2018.



Security personnel deployed at Lal Chowk in Srinagar as security arrangements were beefed up following separatists' call to march to United Nations Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan at Sonwar from the business hub which forced authorities to impose curfew like restriction at many areas of Sher-e-Khas and down town.

Now, Shiv Sena complains against ally BJP

Mumbai, In a new dimension to the ongoing war between the ruling allies, the Shiv Sena has lodged a complaint alleging poll code violation by the Bharatiya Janata Party, a Sena leader said here on Friday.

The Shiv Sena has objected to the alleged use of photographs of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj during a BJP campaign recently which violates the election code of conduct, said Sena MP Anil Desai.

"As per the election code, use of photographs or images of any national icons is prohibited during elections or campaigning," Desai told mediapersons.

He said the Shiv Sena has written to state Election Commissioner J.S. Saharia, demanding appropriate action against the BJP. The BJP earlier objected to its ally using the pictures of the late Shiv Sena founder-supremo Bal Thackeray during electioneering, contending he is also a national hero and it amounted to poll code violations. On January 26, the Shiv Sena unilaterally snapped its 25-year-old alliance with the BJP, ostensibly following differences over seat-sharing for the upcoming municipal elections in Mumbai and other parts of the state. The two parties are now contesting against each other -- though Shiv Sena remains a partner in government both in Maharashtra and at the Centre. Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut has already stated that the 28-month old BJP-led state government is "on a notice period", indicating the Sena may withdraw support to it after the civic election results are announced on February 23.

Rahul-Akhilesh Varanasi road show cancelled, new date in works

Lucknow, The much-awaited road show on Friday by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi in Varanasi had to be cancelled due to the birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas. A later date is being worked out, a senior leader said.

The message was communicated to district Congress leaders late on Thursday night by a phone call from Rahul Gandhi's Delhi office.

The road show was cancelled after permission was denied by the administration, said a Congress source.

Earlier on Friday, Congress President Sonia Gandhi greeted people on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti. Both Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav will dedicate 10 major commitments of the Samajwadi party and Congress alliance to the people of the state in Lucknow on Saturday," Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said on his official Twitter account. After stitching together a poll alliance between their parties for the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, the two leaders have taken out well-attended road shows in Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra. Uttar Pradesh will witness elections in seven phases beginning on Saturday. Varanasi will go to polls in the last phase on March 8. The counting of votes is on March 11.

Swaraj India to plunge into Delhi civic polls with rally

New Delhi, Swaraj India, the party led by former AAP leader Yogendra Yadav, will launch its campaign for the Municipal Corporations of Delhi (MCD) polls here on February 12 with a 'Jawab Do Hisab Do' rally, two days before Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal completes two years in office.

At the rally, to be held in Ram Lila Maidan, "the present state of affairs of Delhi will be assessed and the future framework will be discussed," Yogendra Yadav, who is Swaraj India's National President, said.

The party will bring no-confidence motion against the three governments -- the Centre, the state and the MCDs -- responsible for Delhi's "failure" during the public meeting.

It will also present the findings of its door-to-door survey, conducted to assess the people's satisfaction level with the three levels of governance.

"The party's door-to-door survey results show that the people of Delhi are disappointed with all three levels of the governance in the national capital," Swaraj India Chief National Spokesperson Anupam told IANS.

The Swaraj India said that through its 'Jawab Do Hisab Do' campaign, which was launched on January 15, the party volunteers reached more than one lakh households in the city to create awareness for the upcoming MCD polls.

Unregistered rickshaws to be barred from Chandni Chowk

New Delhi, The Delhi High Court on Friday made it clear that after March 31 only registered cycle-rickshaws would be allowed to ply in Chandni Chowk area.

A division bench of Justice B.D. Ahmed and Justice Ashutosh Kumar said that registration of cycle rickshaws can be done till March 31. The court was told by the civic body that it has conducted two camps for registration of cycle-rickshaws but the turnout in the second one was low. The court was hearing a PIL by NGO Manushi Sangathan regarding licensing of cycle-rickshaws, creation of lanes for non-motorised vehicles and redevelopment of the Old Delhi area. Earlier, the bench had a view that once cycle-rickshaws are registered and rickshaw-pullers are licensed, they can be allowed to ply in Chandni Chowk as a mode of public transport when motorised vehicles are banned from the area.

TN police enquire at beach resorts about AIADMK legislators

Chennai, Tamil Nadu police on Saturday visited beach resorts near here to enquire about AIADMK legislators staying there, officials said.

The police action comes a day after the Madras High Court adjourned to February 12 its hearing on habeas corpus petitions filed by two advocates to trace two AIADMK legislators.

Legislators supporting AIADMK General Secretary V.K. Sasikala were taken in buses and made to stay in the resorts since Wednesday. The state government counsel told the court that the legislators were not in illegal custody and asked for time to get instructions about their whereabouts. The ruling AIADMK has a total of 135 legislators. Acting Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam's camp claims six legislators -- including himself, while the remaining are part of Sasikala's. On Friday, some AIADMK legislators belonging to the Sasikala camp told the media that they were staying in the resort on their own will and are not in captivity.

EC's 'third eye' monitoring UP polls

Lucknow, As voting got underway in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, the Election Commission is extensively using information technology to ensure free and fair polling, an official said.

The 'third eye' of the poll panel was keeping a close tab on each and every movement at 14,514 polling centres through 2,362 digital cameras, 1,526 video cameras and 2,857 web cameras, the official added.

"Our commitment is to ensure free and fair polling and we are doing everything in this direction," the official told IANS. There have so far been no reports of any poll violence as 2.60 crore voters venture out to cast their franchise in the first phase.



Shri Ajay Mittal, Secretary, Information & Broadcasting Ministry, Shri C. K. Mishra, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Ministry, Shri Pahelaj Nihalani, Chairperson of CBFC and Dr. Henk Bekeedam, WHO Representative to India at The National Consultation on Implementation of Tobacco Free Film and Television Policy in Mumbai on February 10, 2017.

Modi likes peeping in bathrooms, searching Google: Rahul

Lucknow, Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi on Saturday ridiculed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "peeping into others' bathrooms" and said he was a complete failure.

Gandhi, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, was speaking to reporters after releasing a common minimum programme of the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance for the polls, when he launched the attack.

"The Prime Minister is fond of Google searching, peeping into others' bathrooms. Let him do that in his free time but his main job is that of a Prime Minister in which he has been a cent per cent failure," Gandhi said.

Gandhi's jibe came a day after Modi, while campaigning in the poll bound state, mocked the Congress leader for being the "most joked about politician".

The Prime Minister had earlier attracted the wrath of the Congress over his "bathing wearing a raincoat" barb at his predecessor Manmohan Singh.

The duo accused Modi of "distracting people from his failures" using fiery speeches trying to hood-

wink people "minor irritants" will be thrashed out.

"On the larger issue, we are together and there is full coordination between our leaders and workers," both the leaders said.

Rahul said Modi had done nothing for Uttar Pradesh in the last two years.

Akhilesh Yadav claimed that Modi was losing control over his mood and lan-

Brisk voting in UP, Agra logs maximum turnout

Lucknow, Taj city Agra led the voting percentage in the first phase of polling in Uttar Pradesh in the first four hours as 28 per cent of the electorate cast their votes, an official said on Saturday.

The communally polarised Muzaffarnagar also saw brisk voting earlier and by 11 a.m. the voting percentage hit 27. Firozabad, Mathura and Meerut were neck-to-neck at 21-22 per cent.

Noida, neighbouring New Delhi, where Pankaj Singh, son of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh is contesting the elections as

Priyanka Gandhi to campaign in Amethi, Rae Bareli

Lucknow, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the daughter of Congress President Sonia Gandhi, will kick off her campaign for the Congress party in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi and Rae Bareli towns from February 13, a party leader said on Friday.

She will be campaigning in the two family boroughs, represented by her brother, Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi, and her mother, for five days.

As of now, Priyanka would only be campaigning for the 10 party candidates in the two parliamentary constituencies, the party leader told IANS, declining to be named.

At a later stage, Priyanka might canvass for joint candidates of the alliance, as well, he added.

"She has always been campaigning in Amethi and Rae Bareli. For the first time her name is in the star campaigners' list. If a person's name is not in the star campaigners' list, then the cost of availing the helicopter would be borne by the can-

UP polls: Queues grow longer in Noida

Noida, Queues at polling booths in Noida grew longer as the day progressed during the first phase of the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls on Saturday.

Voters of all ages came in big numbers as the polling entered the third hour after starting at 7 a.m.

"The pace has picked up, early morning there was a very low turnout due to the cold weather. But now we can see voters coming in good numbers," an election official told IANS at Harola school polling booth in Noida sector 5.

Ashok Mishra, who owns a shop near sector 11, said: "In this election we want a change, we want 'Ram Raja', which will only come from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since their policies are for the benefit of the poor." Sakshi Chaurasia, 18, who came to cast her vote for the first time, said: "I have exercised my voting right for the first time. For me, employment and safety of women are of utmost importance."

Meanwhile, all factories and offices across Noida remained shut.

There were many voters who were seen searching for their names in the voter lists outside polling booths.

However, those who did not have their voter cards, were seen carrying authority cards.

Over two crore voters are exercising their voting rights for 73 seats spread across 15 districts. The state assembly has 403 seats and polling will be held in another six phases before the results are declared on March 11. According to election officials, more voters are expected towards the afternoon. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh's son Pankaj Singh is making his debut in the polls. He is the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate from here.

Akhilesh, Rahul release Common Minimum Programme

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi on Saturday released a Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance's Common Minimum Programme (CMP) to the people of the state.

In a joint press conference in Lucknow, the leaders released the list of 10 commitments to the people of Uttar Pradesh, which includes smart phones, skill development, free cycles and homes for the poor.

The duo offered free smart phones, 20 lakh youth skill training, loan waiver for farmers, cheap power to farmers, 33 per cent reservation for women in government jobs.

"We want a young and visionary government for Uttar Pradesh," Rahul Gandhi said.

YSRCP leader stopped from attending Women's Parliament

Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh police on Saturday detained opposition YSR Congress Party leader Roja as she was proceeding to attend National Women's Parliament at Amaravati.

The actress-turned-politician was detained for more than an hour at Gannavaram Airport here and was later forcibly taken towards an undisclosed location. She informed media houses that she was being taken towards Ongole in a vehicle.

Roja entered into a heated argument with police officials for detaining her though she was invited to attend the Women's Parliament and she had the invitation and entry pass.

Several YSRCP leaders including women legisla-



President Pranab Mukherjee visiting an exhibition on Solar Power Project after its inauguration at Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum Complex in New Delhi.

Two Lok Sabha MPs join Panneerselvam camp

Chennai, Two Lok Sabha members on Saturday extended support to acting Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam by joining his camp.

The two members -- Ashok Kumar representing Krishnagiri constituency and Sundaram representing Namakkal -- visited Panneerselvam at his residence here.

Earlier, sitting Rajya Sabha member

Panneerselvam revolted against AIADMK General Secretary V.K. Sasikala on Tuesday night alleging that he was forced to resign as Chief Minister to pave the way for Sasikala to occupy that chair.

Subsequently around five legislators, one sitting MP, party old-timers, former legislators and others have started expressing their support to Panneerselvam.--IANS

Theatre of the absurd in Tamil Nadu

By Amulya Ganguli

The tradition of hero worship has queered the pitch for the succession battle in Tamil Nadu. In normal circumstances, it should have been up to the MLAs to choose the next Chief Minister.

But the shadow of Jayalalithaa, who is revered as Amma (mother) and Puratchi Thalaivi (revolutionary leader) even after her death by the AIADMK cadres, has ensured that the contestants for the post will have to depend on her memory to acquire legitimacy.

Therefore, the support among the legislators for Jayalalithaa's former aide, Sasikala, is based not on any political calculation but on her earlier proximity to Amma, which is why Sasikala is called Chinnamma or younger sister. But for this fortuitous closeness, Sasikala would have been nowhere in the picture.

On the other hand, the outgoing Chief Minister, O. Panneerselvam, has based his claim for the position on the fact that he was twice chosen by Jayalalithaa to act in her absence -- once when she was incarcerated in 2014 and again during her last fatal illness.

Moreover, Panneerselvam has said that Amma's "soul" has told him to remain as the Chief Minister.

Evidently, he did not receive the message before he resigned. But, now, he has

suitable for a democracy, where reverence for a person should not be allowed to derail the routine process of the transfer of power in accordance with the existing rules. In this case, it would be best for the two contenders to submit themselves to the will of the legislators in the absence of a claim based merely on companionship or amidst allegations of coercion or directives from beyond the grave.

It is not surprising, however, that AIADMK politics has taken such a theatrical turn because from its inception in 1972, the party has been led by larger-than-life figures like its founder, M.G. Ramachandran, and his protégé and successor, Jayalalithaa.

The result was that the cadres, as well as the followers, became imbued with feelings of awe and veneration for their heroes, leading them even to take their own lives in the event of a leader's death.

About 30 people committed suicide after MGR's death.

There were also violent riots which made the police issue shoot-at-sight orders. After Jayalalithaa's death, too, more than 70 people died of shock, according to the AIADMK.

Given such adulation, it is understandable why Sasikala should have thought along with a section of the party's MLAs that it was only a question of time before she became the Chief Minister.



CPI-ML General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya addressing a press conference in Patna.

Business Brief III

Cosmo Films commissions significant capacity expansion at Vadodara

Ahmedabad:

Cosmo Films, a leading manufacturer of biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) films which go in for packaging, lamination & labeling applications, has announced startup of its tenth, 10.4 metre BOPP line. With installation of this new line, the company will increase its annual capacity by 40%, taking it to 1.96 lakh MT. Company's current annual capacity stands at 1.36 lakh MT. The new line whose announcement was made in October 2015 has been commissioned ahead of its schedule and has been installed at company's existing facility at Karjan, near Vadodara, India which already houses BOPP lines, extrusion coating & chemical coating lines and a metallizer. The commissioned line is the most advanced line available in the market today in terms of its width and output and is the first 10.4 metre line to be installed in the country. The line is equipped to deliver both superior quality products with minimized scratches, oil or additive spots & high surface energy as well as consistent quality due to automatic changeovers. The line is also capable of producing films as thick as 80 microns to cater to segments like textiles which require thicker films.

Speaking on the development, Mr. Pankaj Poddar, CEO, Cosmo Films Ltd said, "I am pleased to inform that the line has been installed ahead of its schedule and well within the projected capex of 200 crores. The high speed line equipped with automated changeovers and automatic consumption of waste will not only lead to an increase in power savings but also help the company with its overall operational efficiencies. The new line is expected to contribute to substantial growth in sales and profit in Financial Year 2017-2018."

HDFC Securities launches "Quick Apply" for IPO investments

New Delhi,

HDFC Securities, the leading stock broking company in India, announced the launch of "Quick Apply," a unique feature for the customers that allows them to seamlessly carry their IPO, bid 24x7, in a three-step process. In a paradigm shift from providing ease in applying for IPOs and helping the retail customers enter the capital markets space, HDFC Securities has simplified the bidding process in just 45 seconds* or less* through this feature, which is available on android and iOS mobile devices. Quick Apply is an initiative to draw a large number of customers to the primary market and allow them to reap the benefits of initial stock listing. The launch of this facility is in line with the digital initiatives undertaken by the company. This feature has received great response from the customers wherein one of the recently concluded IPOs; it has attracted more than 18,000 first time investors. For them, investing in the IPO has been made quicker than buying a movie ticket.

Surprise your love with Frederique Constant Valentine's Day

New Delhi,

A watch is an essential piece that combines style and practicality. Gifting a watch is a timeless gift that says you care. This Valentine's Day surprise your love with Frederique Constant - Slim line Moon phase Quartz collection. Frederique Constant the ultimate Accessible Luxury collection represents the utmost of elegance and is the perfect match the persona of your lady love. This particular model comes with a stunning mother of pearl dial protected by diamond-hard sapphire crystal. The delicate hands are hand polished to a rich sheen and the moon phase display is located at the 6 o'clock position.

The technical wizards at Frederique Constant have also designed the watch so that all functions (hours, minutes and moonphase) are adjustable through a single crown, and in spite of their petite appearance, every watch in the range is water resistant to three atmospheres. The collection has 6 brand new models from leather to steel straps to choose from making it on the list of "Must Have". So this Valentine's surprise the one who makes your life special and reveal your feeling with a token of your affection.

Suspension of IndiGo's security training institute licence revoked

New Delhi,

Budget passenger carrier IndiGo on Friday said that suspension of its aviation security training institute's licence has been revoked. Earlier, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had suspended the training institute's licence for lapses in its examination system. "The BCAS order suspending our aviation security training institute licence stands revoked," an IndiGo spokesperson was quoted as saying in a statement. "IndiGo accords utmost importance to the safety and security of its passengers and operations. We have always demonstrated compliance with all regulatory requirements."

JINDAL WORLDWIDE LIMITED
 Regd. Off: "Jindal House", Opp. Dmart I.O.C. Petrol Pump Lane, Shivranjani Shyamal 132 Ft Ring Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad - 380015 CIN: L17110GJ1986PLC008942 Ph: 079-71001500 Website: www.jindalworldwide.com

STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2016
 (Pursuant to Regulation 47(1)(b) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015) (Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ending 31.12.2016	9 months Ending 31.12.2016	Corresponding Quarter Ended in P.Y. 31.12.2015
(Refer Notes Below)		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	23056.50	78823.86	25376.19
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1496.23	4957.50	1758.12
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1496.23	4957.50	1391.93
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1301.09	4259.21	1084.18
5	Total Comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1301.09	4259.21	1084.18
6	Equity Share Capital	2005.20	2005.20	2005.20
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the Previous Year	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Earnings per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
	1. Basic :	6.49	21.24	5.41
	2. Diluted :	6.49	21.24	5.41

Notes: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges (BSE & NSE) under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com) and also on the website of the Company.

For Jindal Worldwide Limited
 Sd/- (Dr. Yamunadutt Agrawal)
 Chairman / Director DIN: 00243192

Date : 10th February, 2017
 Place: Ahmedabad

SHREE GANESH ELASTOPLAST LIMITED
 119, Ground Floor, Kamdhenu Complex, Opp. Sahajananad College, Polytechnic, Ahmedabad-380 015.
 ANNEXURE I CIN : L25200GJ1994PLC021666

Statement of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Third Quarter ENDED 31/12/2016
 (Rs. in lacs)

Sr.	PARTICULARS	Quarter ended 31/12/2016	Nine Monts ended 31/12/2016	Quarter ended 31/12/2015
(Refer Notes Below)		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	Total income from operations (net)	286.48	865.57	398.00
	Net Profit/Loss from ordinary activity after tax	(12.87)	6.22	(40.05)
	Net Profit/Loss after tax (after extraordinary items)	(12.87)	6.22	(40.05)
	Paid up equity share capital	550.20	550.20	550.20
	Reserve excluding Revaluation Reserves	-	-	-
	Earning per Share (Face value Rs 10) (Not annualized)			
	(a) Basic	(0.23)	0.11	(0.73)
	(b) Diluted	(0.23)	0.11	(0.73)

Notes :
 1. The above results have been reviewed by Audit Committee and thereafter approved and taken on record by the Board in its meeting held on 10th February, 2017.
 2. Previous years' Quarters figures have been regrouped / rearranged wherever necessary.
 3. The company operates in one segment, hence no separate segment reporting is given.

By order of Board of Director
 SHREE GANESH ELASTOPLAST LIMITED
 Bharat V Mashruwala (Whole Time Director)
 (DIN:03440503)

Date : 10 February, 2017
 Place: Ahmedabad

ASHIMA LIMITED
 Reg. Office : TEXCELLENCE COMPLEX, NEAR ANUPAM CINEMA, KHOKHARA, AHMEDABAD - 380 021, GUJARAT, INDIA.
 CIN: L99999GJ1982PLC005253; E mail: texcellence@ashima.in; Tel.No.: 91-79-67777000; FAX: 91-79-22773061

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 2016.
 (Rs. in Lacs, except per share data)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31/12/2016	Half Year ended 31/12/2016	Quarter ended 31/12/2015
1	Total Income from Operations	5,128.78	14,947.08	5,732.36
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(302.75)	(1,874.31)	(580.40)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2,457.74	886.19	(580.40)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2,457.74	845.15	(580.40)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
6	Equity Share Capital	12,845.39	12,845.39	3,336.88
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year*	-	-	-
8	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each) (not annualised)			
	1. Basic :	(0.24)	(1.64)	(1.75)
	2. Diluted :	(0.24)	(1.64)	(1.75)
9	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each) (not annualised)			
	1. Basic :	1.91	0.72	(1.75)
	2. Diluted :	1.91	0.72	(1.75)

* Reserve excluding revaluation reserves as on 31st March, 2016 was Rs.(19,074.96) lacs.

Note:
 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Nine Months Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Nine Months Financial Results are available on the websites of BSE Ltd. at www.bseindia.com, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. at www.nseindia.com and at www.ashima.in.

FOR, ASHIMA LIMITED
 CHINTAN N. PARIKH
 CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

PLACE: AHMEDABAD
 DATE: 11TH FEBRUARY, 2017

LINK PHARMA CHEM LIMITED
 Regd. Off.:162, Nandesari Industrial Estate, Nandesari, Dist. Baroda-391 340

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DEC, 2016
 (Rs. in Lacs)

SR NO	PARTICULARS	3 MONTHS ENDED 31.12.16	PRECEDING 3 MONTHS ENDED 30.09.16	CORRESPONDING 3 MONTHS ENDED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR 31.12.15	YEAR TO DATE FIGURE FOR CURRENT PERIOD ENDED 31.12.16	YEAR TO DATE FIGURE FOR PREVIOUS PERIOD ENDED 31.12.15	YEAR TO DATE FIGURE FOR PREVIOUS PERIOD ENDED 31.03.16
		UNAUDITED	UNAUDITED	UNAUDITED	UNAUDITED	UNAUDITED	AUDITED
1	Income from Operation						
	Net Sales / Income from Operation (Net of Excise Duty)	383.11	417.23	273.87	1,236.63	885.27	1,234.38
	(b) Other Operating Income						
	Total Income from operations (net)	383.11	417.23	273.87	1,236.63	885.27	1,234.38
2	Expenses						
	a. Cost of Materials consumed	109.54	179.62	104.68	479.68	263.14	465.46
	b. Purchase of Stock - in- Trade						
	c. Change in Inventories of finished goods work in progress and stock - in - trade	(7.38)	(11.78)	63.32	22.11	54.38	18.31
	d. Employee benefit expenses	61.77	54.35	52.99	162.55	147.89	339.31
	e. Depreciation	18.36	23.35	21.77	65.07	71.77	93.32
	f. Other expenditure	172.99	141.41	138.07	420.61	401.39	427.27
	Total Expenses	355.28	386.95	380.83	1,150.02	938.57	1,343.67
3	Profit from Operation before other income, financial cost and exceptional items (1-2)	27.83	30.28	(106.96)	86.61	(53.30)	(109.29)
4	Other Income	0.14			0.14	2.27	274.16
5	Profit before financial cost and exceptional items (3+4)	27.97	30.28	(106.96)	86.75	(51.03)	164.87
6	Finance Costs	22.68	17.33	21.42	57.16	55.02	90.91
7	Profit from Ordinary Activities after finance cost but before exceptional items (5 - 6)	5.29	12.95	(128.38)	29.59	(106.05)	73.96
8	Exceptional items						
9	Profit/(+) Loss(-) from ordinary activities before tax (7+8)	5.29	12.95	(128.38)	29.59	(106.05)	73.96
10	Tax expenses						
	a) Income Tax						14.09
	b) deferred Tax						0.66
	c) Adjustment of previous year taxes						
	Total Provision for Taxation						14.75
11	Net Profit (+) / Loss (-) from ordinary activities after tax (9-10)	5.29	12.95	(128.38)	29.59	(106.05)	59.21
12	Extraordinary items (Net of tax expenses)						
13	Net profit (+)/loss (-) for the period (11-12)	5.29	12.95	(128.38)	29.59	(106.05)	59.21
14	Paid-up equity shares capital	444.06	444.06	444.06	444.06	444.06	444.06
	Face value of shares	Rs. 10/-	Rs. 10/-	Rs. 10/-	Rs. 10/-	Rs. 10/-	Rs. 10/-
15	Reserves excluding revaluation reserves as per balance sheet of previous accounting year						
16	Earning Per share (EPS)						
	a) Basic and diluted EPS before Extraordinary Items for the period, for the year to date and for the previous year (not to be annualized)	0.02	0.29		0.07		1.33
	b) Basic and diluted EPS after Extraordinary Items for the period, for the year to date and for the previous year (not to be annualized)	0.02	0.29		0.07		1.33

1) The above results were taken on record by Board of Directors at its Board Meeting held on 09th February, 2017
 2) The Statutory Auditors of Company have carried out limited review of the above results. 3) Previous period figures have been regrouped/rearranged, whenever necessary.

FOR & ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD
 S.G. THAKUR
 MANAGING DIRECTOR

Place : Vadodara
 DATE : 09-02-2017

STERLING GREENWOODS LTD.
 CIN No : L51100GJ1992PLC017646
 Sunrise Centre, Opp.Indraprasth Tower, Drive-In Road, Ahmedabad-380054. Ph.:26851680/26850935

Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 31st Decemebr,2016
 (Rs. in lakh except per share data)

SCRIPT CODE : 526500

Particulars	Quarter Ended			9 Month ended		Year Ended
	31.12.16	30.09.16	31.12.15	31.12.16	31.12.15	
	Unaudited			Unaudited		Audited
1	Income from Operations					
	(a) Net Sales/Income from Operations	33.45	37.96	63.33	247.59	161.36
	(b) Other operating income					
	Total Income from operations (net)	33.45	37.96	63.33	247.59	161.36
2	Expenses					
	(a) Cost of material and Land	8.74	8.76	0.49	35.72	21.20
	(b) Sales return of stock-in-trade	17.60	60.55	Nil	78.15	Nil
	(c) Changes in inventories of finished goods, work-in-progress and stock in trade	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	8.17
	(d) Employee benefit Expenses	37.01	43.38	23.06	118.77	69.72
	(e) Depreciation and amortisation expenses	17.25	17.25	17.00	51.75	69.03
	(f) Development Expenses	1.00	4.61	0.64	13.08	1.92
	(j) Other expenses	35.55	46.82	15.14	129.24	42.76
	Total Expenses	117.15	181.37	56.33	426.71	186.60
3	Profit / (Loss) from operations before Other Income, finance costs and exceptional Items(1-2)	(83.70)	(143.41)	7.00	(179.12)	(25.24)
4	Other Income	8.48	4.21	10.01	15.26	29.89
5	Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities before finance costs and exceptional Items(3-4)	(75.21)	(139.20)	17.01	(163.85)	4.65
6	Finance Costs	24.34	5.61	21.18	44.77	65.52
7	Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after finance costs but before exceptional Items(5-6)	(99.55)	(144.81)	(4.17)	(208.62)	(60.87)
8	Exceptional items	(12.98)	(160.29)	Nil	(270.90)	Nil
9	Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities before tax (7-8)	13.42	15.49	(4.17)	62.27	(60.87)
10	Tax expense (including Deferred tax)	Nil	Nil	Nil	10.01	Nil
11	Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax (9-10)	13.42	15.49	(4.17)	52.26	(60.87)
12	Extraordinary Item (net of tax expenses)					
13	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (11-12)	13.42	15.49	(4.17)	52.26	(60.87)
14	Share Profit/(Loss) of Associates	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
15	Minority Interest	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
16	Net Profit/(Loss) after taxes, minority interest and share of profit/(loss) of associates	13.42	15.49	(4.17)	52.26	(60.87)
17	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of Rs. 10 each)	423.96	423.96	423.96	423.96	423.96
18	Reserve excl. Revaluation Reserves as per balance sheet of previous accounting year					
19.i	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)					
	Basic & Diluted	0.32	0.37	(0.10)	1.23	(1.44)
19.ii	Earnings Per Share (After extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)					
	Basic & Diluted	0.32	0.37	(0.10)	1.23	(1.44)

NOTES :-
 1. The aforesaid Financial Results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on February 10, 2017.
 2. The Management identifies and monitors 'Real Estate' and 'Resorts and Club Membership' as the Business Segment.
 3. Previous period's/year's figures have been regrouped/rearranged wherever necessary, to confirm to the current quarter's/year's classification.

Segmentwise Revenue, Results and capital employed along with the quarterly results

Particulars	Quarter Ended			9 Month ended		Year Ended
	31.12.16	30.09.16	31.12.15	31.12.16	31.12.15	
	Unaudited			Unaudited		Audited
Segment Revenue						
Real Estate Business	0.00	4.83	63.33	135.92	161.36	297.11
Resort Business	33.45	33.13	0	111.67	0	11.97
Total	33.45	37.96	63.33	247.59	161.36	309.08
Less: Intersegment Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Sales/Income from Operations	33.45	37.96	63.33	247.59	161.36	309.08
Segment Result						
Profit/(Loss) before tax and interest from segment						
Real Estate Business	59.56	43.39	17.01	172.79	4.65	-51.00
Resort Business	-21.77	-22.33	0	-65.76	0	-6.11
Total	37.79	21.06	17.01	107.03	4.65	-57.11
Less : i. Interest	24.37					

News in a Nutshell

Atletico's Gimenez has infected wound in right leg

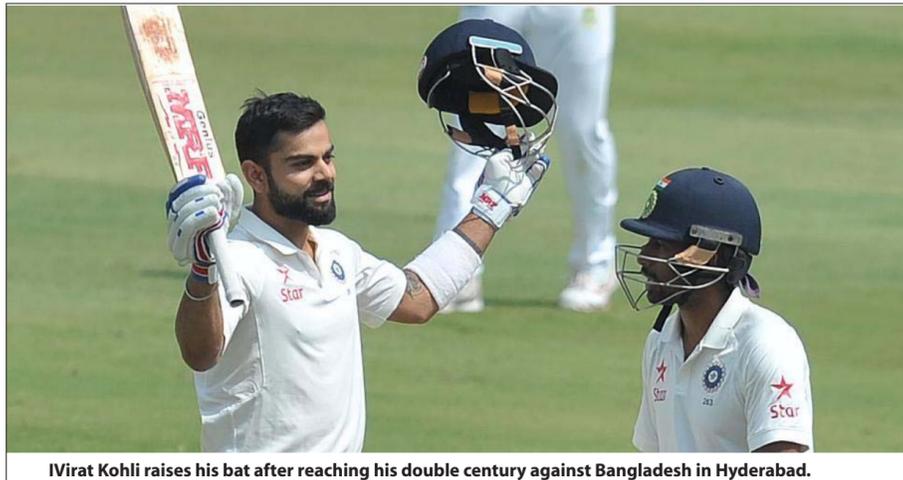
Madrid, Spanish football club Atletico Madrid have announced that defender Jose Maria Gimenez was not able to train for two days because of an infected wound in his right leg.

PSG level Ligue 1 leaders on points with 3-0 win over Bordeaux

Paris, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) footballers boosted their confidence ahead of a crucial clash against Barcelona in UEFA Champions League last 16 as they crushed Bordeaux 3-0 here, provisionally levelling with Ligue 1 leaders Monaco with one more game played.

Argentina striker Pratto joins Sao Paulo

Rio de Janeiro, Brazilian football club Sao Paulo has signed Argentina striker Lucas Pratto from Atletico Mineiro in a four-year deal.



Virat Kohli raises his bat after reaching his double century against Bangladesh in Hyderabad.

Indian pacers inflict early jolts on Bangladesh on 3rd day

Hyderabad, Pacers Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma put India in a strong position as Bangladesh posted 125/4 in their first innings at lunch on the third day of the one-off Test at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Saturday.

night 41/1, Bangladesh ran into trouble early on when a mix-up between Tamim Iqbal and Mominul Haque, along with an excellent piece of fielding by Yadav, saw the former being run out at the non-striker's end.

Kohli spending 'smoother' days as captain: Ganguly

Kolkata, Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Friday said current skipper Virat Kohli is going through relatively smooth initial days as skipper.

While he has 15 to his name in the longest version of the game, in ODIs where he is known to be more lethal, he has 27. From Kohli to Wriddhiman Saha, who also scored his second Test century on Friday with an unbeaten 106, Ganguly said the diminutive Bengal stumper's transformation came with his maiden three-figure score in the West Indies last year.

HIL: Kalinga Lancers, UP Wizards play 2-2 draw

Lucknow, Gonzalo Peillat's successful penalty corner conversion at the dead end helped Uttar Pradesh Wizards hold Kalinga Lancers 2-2 in the Coal India Hockey India League (HIL) at the Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium here on Friday.

goal, in the same minute, Lancers skipper Furste equalised the score-line via a penalty corner which he slammed to the left bottom corner.



India captain Virat Kohli celebrates with teammates the wicket of Bangladesh's Soumya Sarkar on Day 2 of the Hyderabad Test on Friday. Live streaming and live cricket score of India vs Bangladesh is available online.

India drub Lanka to enter final of T20 Cricket World cup for Blind

Hyderabad, Prakash J.s unbeaten 115 off 52 balls (23 fours) and his unbroken opening partnership of 175 runs with Ajay Kumar Reddy (51 not out) helped India beat Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the first semi-final of the T20 Cricket World Cup for the Blind here on Friday.

outstanding fielding restricted Sri Lanka's score as they effected four run-outs in front of an enthusiastic crowd at the Lal Bahadur Stadium. India then chased down the target in just 13 overs.

Advertisement for Dr. Vinod Chandra Ghosh, a specialist in various sports and fitness, located in Ahmedabad.

Guwahati set to host Himalayan Region Games in April

New Delhi, After Guwahati successfully organised the South Asian Games last year, Assam's major city is all set to host the Himalayan Region Games from April 21 to 30, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced here on Thursday.

Shakib hits half-century as India tighten grip

Hyderabad, Shakib Al Hasan scored a defiant half-century even as India inched closer towards inflicting a follow-on against Bangladesh at tea on the third day of their one-off cricket Test at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Saturday.

ball stay in the middle, stepped out of his crease to hit against the turn but could only manage to find Umesh Yadav at mid-on.

CAS sanctions Russian athlete Savinova for 4 years for doping

Lausanne, The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Friday sanctioned Russian 800-metre runner Mariya Savinova for four years over violations of anti-doping rules.

Mainz beat Augsburg 2-0 in Bundesliga

Mainz (Germany), Mainz returned to their winning ways by beating Augsburg 2-0 via goals from Levin Oeztunali and Jairo Samperio Bustara in the 20th round opener of the German football league here.

Kenya's Jephchirchir sets women's half-marathon world record

Dubai, Reigning world champion Peres Jephchirchir of Kenya clocked a winning time of one hour five minutes and six seconds to set a world record in the women's half-marathon at the RAK Half Marathon in Ras al-Khaimah here on Friday.

Vasco name ex-Brazil striker Fabiano in squad

Rio de Janeiro, Vasco da Gama have revealed they are close to signing Luis Fabiano by registering the former Brazil striker in their squad for the Rio de Janeiro state football championship.

pears in Vasco da Gama's squad, said the forward was still "awaiting an international transfer". Fabiano played a vital role in helping Tianjin Quanjian earn promotion to the Chinese Super League in 2017, scoring 23 goals as the club clinched the first division title in October.

Benfica striker Jonas on Beijing Guoan radar

Rio de Janeiro, Chinese football club Beijing Guoan has made a bid to sign former Brazil striker Jonas Oliveira, according to media reports.



South Africa are the new No.1 ranked ODI side in the world after securing a 5-0 whitewash over Sri Lanka.