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G20 summit: India presents 9-point agenda on fugitive economic offenders

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during BRICS Leaders' Informal Meeting on the sidelines of G-20 summit, in Buenos Aires, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during BRICS Leaders' Informal Meeting on the sidelines of G-20 summit, in Buenos Aires, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018. Photo Credit: PTI The agenda presented by PM Modi calls for joint efforts by G-20 countries to form a mechanism that denies entry and safe havens to fugitive economic offenders. India on Friday presented a nine-point agenda to G20 member nations calling for strong and active cooperation among them to comprehensively deal with fugitive economic offenders. The agenda was presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the second session of the G20 Summit on international trade, international financial and tax systems.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) with U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) during the G20 leaders summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina on

November 30, 2018. PM Modi meets Trump, Putin ahead of G20 summit "Cooperation in legal processes such as effective freezing of the proceeds of crime, early return of the offenders and efficient repatriation of the proceeds of crime should be enhanced and streamlined," the agenda read. India also called for joint efforts by G-20 countries to form a mechanism that denies entry and safe havens to fugitive economic offenders. "Principles of United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNOTC), especially related to 'International Cooperation' should be fully and effectively implemented," it said. India suggested the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) should be called upon to assign priority and focus to establishing international cooperation that leads to timely and comprehensive exchange of information between the competent authorities and financial intelligence units. "FATF should be tasked to formulate a standard defini-



With Manvendra Singh, Congress takes the battle into Vasundhara Raje turf

The former BJP MLA is challenging the Chief Minister in a region she has held for over 30 years — first as MP and then as MLARiding on bumpy roads through the dusty villages of Jhalrapatan Assembly constituency in south-eastern Rajasthan, a Rajput outsider from the deserts of Barmer is challenging Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje in her home turf. Ms. Raje has assiduously cultivated the constituency for nearly 30 years, having been an MP from Jhalawar before being elected to the Assembly in 2003. Manvendra Singh, 54, son of former BJP leader and External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh, has been fielded as the Congress candidate from Jhalrapatan. The astute move has turned the contest into a high-profile electoral battle between the two Rajput leaders. Mr. Singh's candidature has generated a considerable interest among the electorate and he is getting an overwhelming support as he campaigns in the remote villages. Travelling through the small and nondescript villages of Pirawatehsil, 65 km away from Jhalawar district headquarters, Mr. Singh tried to meet his packed schedule of public meetings on Thursday evening. The villagers at Khera Nipaniya welcomed him with marigold garlands amid beating of drums and ushered him to the courtyard outside a house where he delivered a short speech. Dressed in the traditional attire with a colourful pagri (turban), Mr. Singh struck a chord with the



audience, as he asked them to decide if they wanted to vote for the "incoming government or the outgoing government." "The victory of Congress is certain. The only issue is the number of seats. A man in a nearby village told me that the Congress is going to get 150 seats," Mr. Singh said, as the villagers cheered and raised slogans. "Farmers here are standing in queues to get urea for their crops. No step has been taken to develop your villages, which fall in the Chief Minister's constituency. You must vote for the Congress with the same zeal that you show during the panchayat elections. The time has come for a meaningful change," Mr. Singh appealed to the villagers. The Rajput-dominated village, which falls in Gelani panchayat and has a population of 800, lacks basic amenities. The distributary with water from the Gagrin dam near Pirawa has bypassed the village. Villagers complain that no work under the Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been available for four years and only a few houses have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Speaking to The Hindu amid his campaign, Mr. Singh said he had received complaints about villagers being threatened with the removal of their names from MGNREGA job cards if they supported the Congress. "There is a fear factor because of the politics that has been run here for so long. It is unusual for me, as I am accustomed to a different kind of politics in Marwar (re Mr. Singh said he had found an element of retribution in the politics in Jhalawar, to which he was not exposed earlier. "Even the minimum support prices for crops are given here selectively. Such benefits are available to certain connected individuals. This has created a lot of resentment," he said. Mr. Singh, who was elected an MLA on the BJP ticket from Sheo in Barmer district in 2013, said he was receiving support from all communities, though there was some variation in percentage. "I am here to fight and win. I am not here just for the sake of contesting. The aim is to win. You can see my schedule (of meetings). The other day, I addressed as many as 27 meetings at a stretch." Asked if he could defeat Ms. Raje in her home turf, Mr. Singh quipped, "Inshallah! (God willing). Mr. Singh quit BJP at a Swabhiman rally in Barmer in September, following his differences with Ms. Raje over the denial of ticket to his father in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. He had stated that choosing the lotus was "our mistake." All the four Assembly seats in Jhalawar district — Jhalrapatan, Dag, Khanpur and Manohar Thana — are held by the BJP. The population in the rural areas of Jhalrapatan comprises mostly the farmers, agricultural labourers and marginal workers.

tion of fugitive economic offenders. FATF should also develop a set of commonly agreed and standardized procedures related to identification, extradition and judicial proceedings for dealing with fugitive economic offenders to provide guidance and assistance to G-20 countries, subject to their domestic law,"

it said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives for the G20 leaders summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina November 30, 2018. India committed to globalisation, reformed multilateralism, says PM Modi on G-20 sidelines. India also advocated setting up of a common platform for sharing expe-

riences and best practices including successful cases of extradition, gaps in existing systems of extradition and legal assistance. It said the G-20 forum should consider initiating work on locating properties of economic offenders who have a tax debt in the country of their residence for its recovery.

Modi shaping Army's surgical strike into a 'political asset', alleges Rahul

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of shaping the Army's 2016 surgical strike across the Line of Control (LoC) into a "political asset" and being "unsuccessful" in creating job opportunities for the youth. "Like during the Narendra Modi government, surgical strikes were conducted thrice during Manmohan Singh government. Are you aware of it? Mr. Modi actually reached into the Army's domain and shaped the surgical strike into a political asset." The surgical strike was made public as the BJP was fighting elections in Uttar Pradesh, he alleged. Army did 3 surgical strikes when Manmohan Singh was PM: Rahul Gandhi Addressing a gathering at Udaipur in poll-bound Rajasthan, he claimed that the non-performing assets (NPA) of banks was ₹2 lakh crore during the United Progressive Alliance rule and it was now ₹12 lakh crore. "The government waived loans of 15 to 20 industrialists. The banking system is concentrated only for them. NPA is not of Micro, Small & Medium Enter-



prises, traders, doctors or lawyers," he said. Army did 3 surgical strikes when Manmohan Singh was PM: Rahul Gandhi On demonetisation and the GST implementation, he stated that people have confusion about these. "It was a scam, which opened doors for big companies. Demonetisation and the GST shattered the economy and broke the common man's back." The NDA government had failed to create job opportunities for youth. When asked about data privacy, he said IT companies have understood that India and

China had large data. "Data should remain with people and not crony capitalists. That is our belief." Though the country had medical insurance schemes like "Ayushman Bharat," it did not have good hospitals. "We cannot run the country without pumping money into public health and education sectors," he observed. "India will surpass China if we have the right government for the next 15-20 years. Respect those who have skills, India will surpass China. China has a lead but we have not lost the competition," he added.

Judges told to practise constitutional compassion



Justice Kurian Joseph. File photo: H. Vibhu Don't come to court with a closed mind, says Kurian Joseph It is the duty of a judge to study the case file, but he or she should not come to court with a 'closed mind', retired judge of the Supreme Court Kurian Joseph said here on Friday. Speaking at a farewell function organised by Kerala lawyers practising at the Supreme Court, Mr. Joseph said the mere fact that "you have studied the case does not mean you should be deaf to the arguments of the lawyer in court." "In fact, a judge with a 'closed mind' and who has already made up his or her mind on the outcome of the case even before hearing the submissions of the counsels for the parties does more harm than good for the litigants who have come for justice," he said. Every judge should give lawyers a full hearing. Shutting out the lawyer was like putting a lid on the voice of the litigant. This kind of conduct did not serve the ends of justice. It was only recently that Attorney General K.K. Venugopal urged Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi to give a full hearing to a lawyer. The veteran lawyer had intervened when the Chief Justice briskly dismissed a case before fully hearing the lawyer. Mr. Joseph, who retired on November 29 from the apex court and is widely hailed as a 'humanitarian judge', has disposed of 8,500 cases in the Supreme Court and 66,000 in High Courts, Supreme Court lawyer V.K. Biju said at the function. Mr. Joseph has advised fellow judges to practice "constitutional compassion" in courtroom. "Compassion from the court is not the charity of a judge, it is the bounden duty of a constitutional court," he said. Chief Justice Gogoi had hailed Mr. Kurian as a 'personal friend' with whom he shared an emotional bond that overcame the geographical distances of their native States of Assam and Kerala.

Voting for sixth phase of panchayat polls begins in J&K

Voters leave after casting their votes for the panchayat elections, on the outskirts of Srinagar. File photo Voters leave after casting their votes for the panchayat elections, on the outskirts of Srinagar. File photo |Photo Credit: AP Voting began at 8 am at 3,174 polling stations — 410 in the Kashmir division and 2,764 in the Jammu division. Polling for the sixth phase of the nine-phased panchayat election began at over 3,100 polling stations in Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, officials said. Voting began at 8 am at 3,174 polling stations — 410 in the Kashmir division and 2,764 in the Jammu division — they added. The officials said 771 polling stations — 410 in the Kashmir division and 361 in the Jammu division — were categorised as hypersensitive. As many as 7,156 candidates were in the fray for 406 sarpanch and 2,277 panch seats in the sixth phase, while 111 sarpanches and 1,048 panches were elected unopposed, they added. A total of 5,97,396 voters were eligible to exercise their franchise for the sarpanch constituencies and 4,57,581 for the panch constituencies, the officials said. In the fifth phase of polling on November 29, the state had witnessed a voting percentage of 71.1, including 33.7 in the Kashmir division and 85.2 in the Jammu division. In the fourth phase, the polling percentage was 71.3, including 82.4 in the Jammu division and 32.3 in the Kashmir division. In the third phase, the state had recorded a polling percentage of 75.2, including 55.7 in the Kashmir division and 83 in the Jammu division. The voting



percentage was 71.1 in the second phase with an overwhelming 80.4 per cent polling in the Jammu division and 52.2 per cent in the Kashmir division. Similarly, in the first phase of polling on November 17, the voting percentage was 74.1, including 64.5 in the Kashmir division and 79.4 in the Jammu division. The results for the first five phases have been announced by the respective returning officers.

A.P. govt. stalled consent, says CBI

The CBI headquarters in New Delhi. File photo: Sandeep Saxena The CBI headquarters in New Delhi. File photo: Sandeep Saxena Accuses ACB of using confidential information to trap Central excise official In the first face-off with the Andhra Pradesh government after withdrawal of general consent, the Central Bureau of Investigation has accused the State government's Anti-Corruption Bureau of using the inputs it had furnished seeking specific permission to proceed against a public servant. The CBI said its Visakhapatnam unit received a written complaint from one K. Lokesh Babu on November 28, alleging a bribery demand by Mukku Kali Rajeswar, Superintendent, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), for not raising objections in the CGST returns filed by the complainant's firm. "Immediately on receipt of the written complaint, the CBI (Visakhapatnam) Superintendent of Police wrote a top secret letter addressed to the Principal Secretary (Home) of the Andhra Pradesh government and sent the letter by hand to the Principal Secretary through a Deputy SP rank officer of CBI," said the agency. In this letter, the agency requested the State government to issue a specific consent to the CBI to lay a trap. It also wanted the information to be kept confidential and not to be shared with any other party. The SP also called on the Principal Secretary (Home) at her office in Velagapudy on November 29 and requested for early action in issuing the specific consent under Section 6 of the DSPE Act to enable the CBI to register the case and lay the trap, the agency said.



However, the State government allegedly did not issue the specific consent and instead shared the details with the State ACB. The ACB laid a trap on November 30 evening against

the accused Central government official by using the contents of the request letter. "Further, State ACB also issued a press release as if the complainant had directly approached them," said the CBI.

If GDP is rising, where are the jobs?: Chidambaram

Dissecting numbers: Congress leaders Shashi Tharoor, P. Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal and Manish Tewari at an interactive programme held in New Delhi on Friday. Dissecting numbers: Congress leaders Shashi Tharoor, P. Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal and Manish Tewari at an interactive programme held in New Delhi on Friday. |Photo Credit: Special Arrangement If every other indicator points south how is your GDP pointing north, asks Chidambaram Days after the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog released the back-series data of GDP, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Friday mocked the Narendra Modi government for the figures that claimed that the NDA's four years in government saw higher economic growth than the UPA's. "Even after this redefinition, the pattern of growth and decline remain exactly the same, just that the entire curve has moved down a jot. The pattern is that the best years of India's growth were 2004 to 2014 since Independence. They cannot erase the fact," Mr. Chidambaram said.

Editorial

The death debate: on Justice Joseph's views on capital punishment

(Gns News) In questioning the merits of retaining the death penalty, Justice Kurian Joseph has re-ignited a debate that is important and requires serious thought. What he said cannot be ignored, though the law laid down in Bachan Singh (1980), upholding the validity of the death penalty and laying down guidelines for awarding death in 'the rarest of rare' cases, still holds the field. Even the other two judges on the Bench have disagreed with Justice Joseph's view that the time has come to review the death penalty, its purpose and practice. But it is impossible to ignore the ethical and practical dimensions of the debate in a world that is increasingly questioning the wisdom of capital punishment. Justice Joseph has underscored the arbitrary manner in which it is awarded by different judges and the way public discourse influences such decisions. Concerns over judge-centric variations have been raised in the past. The Supreme Court itself spoke of the "extremely uneven application" of the norms laid down in Bachan Singh. The Law Commission, in its Report in 2015, said the constitutional regulation of capital punishment attempted in that case has failed to prevent death sentences from being "arbitrarily and freakishly imposed". Justice Joseph seems to endorse the Commission's assertion that "there exists no principled method to remove such arbitrariness from capital sentencing". In individual cases, much of the conversation about the maximum sentence that may be imposed usually revolves around the nature of the crime, its gravity and cruelty, and the number of fatalities. In recent times, public outrage, the need for deterrence, and the clamour for a befitting punishment to render substantial justice have dominated the discourse. Theories of punishment on whether it ought to be punitive, retributive, reformative or restorative are less relevant to the public imagination and the law enforcers when the crime is grave and heinous. There is a conflict between those who sense the danger of inconsistent application and those who believe in condign justice. This conflict can be resolved only if the debate is taken to a higher plane: a moral position that there shall be no death penalty in law, regardless of the nature, circumstances and consequences of an offence. The Supreme Court has covered considerable ground in limiting the scope, to the 'rarest of rare cases'. Post-appeal reviews and curative petitions are routinely admitted. Review petitions are now heard in open court. The treatment of death row prisoners has been humanised, and there is scope for judicial review even against a sovereign decision denying clemency. If there still prevails a perception of arbitrariness in the way death sentences are awarded, the only lasting solution is their abolition. The views of the Law Commission and Justice Joseph should not be ignored.

Craving spice in the Bay Area

(Gns News) Yes, Indian breads are having a wild moment in San Francisco - pork belly paratha at August 1 Five, naan and smoked salmon at Babu Ji, or a parmesan kulcha at Rooh, anyone? But the celebrated Indian chefs at these new restaurants are also giving diners in the Bay Area a contemporary tour of regional flavours, with fresh local produce. Rooh's executive chef, Sujan Sarkar - familiar to many for his starring role at Delhi's Olive Bar & Kitchen and Ek Bar, the artisanal cocktail address, has taken to San Francisco's seasonal bounty with gusto. So summer's apricots find a place in the chili marmalade he serves with his Kashmiri lamb ribs. And the intuitive chef has worked the city's current raw fish poke craze to his advantage with his tuna bhel, featuring luscious cubes of sustainably caught ahi. Meanwhile, at Dosa on Fillmore Street, San Francisco's first South Indian restaurant that continues to draw everyone from Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg to Bollywood stars, seasonal vegetables feature with the Hyderabad lamb chops. Anjan Mitra, co-owner along with his wife Emily, who opened Dosa 10 years ago, says they were the first to introduce spice-driven cocktails in the city, a trend that many have explored since - Rooh's craft cocktail line-up visits the six rasas of Ayurveda! The two experts share their different approaches to Indian fine-dining in this city of hills. Craving spice in the Bay Area

Ten years of traditional Indian food and Dosa continues to be popular in SF. We deep dived into Bengali recipes recently that my grandmother had passed down via my mother. This to me is far more interesting than fine-dining meals over multiple courses. This trend of regional Indian cuisines is still early in SF, but we have always introduced dishes that no one had eaten before, such as Dhansak and Shorshe Mach. I believe the true opportunity here is to expose cultures outside India to the wonderful diversity of the Indian culinary landscape. How have you given the Dosa kitchen a luxe makeover? We use freshly shaved Alba truffles on Uthappams, and Artic Char with mango curry... the list goes on. You introduced a coding system on the Dosa menu which caters to gluten-free, nut-free and other diet requirements. We've been serving Quinoa uthappam and paleo cauliflower rice for years! If you make it delicious and healthy, you will find an audience. Tell us about the food trip you planning for San Franciscans interested in regional Indian cuisine. The Great South India Food Journey will cover Mumbai, Kochi, Periyar and Kumarakom over 10 days, from November 25. There are plans to get the traveller exposed to local restaurants but also to home cooking. Liam Mayclem (the Emmy award winning radio and TV star) who I have known via the food scene in SF for many years, will join us and it will be an intimate group of 20.



Details: nandajourneys.com Craving spice in the Bay Area Your style of progressive Indian cuisine has gone down well in SF. People love creations like the Liquid Egg Bhurji (featuring foam with dehydrated garlic chutney with a salicornia pakoda) and the pani puri (his version resembles a broken egg, potato and spices, with a bubble containing pas-

son fruit water as the 'yolk'). But the variety of local produce is an advantage. I've featured raw scallops in ice apple and a seasonal cocktail, Liquid Khatti Khubaanee, teams vodka, apricot purée, Licor 43, pineapple and nutmeg. The famous Rooh masala - chilli, guava, curry leaf powder - is used judiciously in some dishes. Is there an ingredi-

ent you hope to introduce soon at Rooh? We will be adding game to the menu, possibly rabbit. And I want to use bamboo rice, which is healthy, with no starch. Black garlic is trending. I enjoy using it and activated charcoal in my experiments. Personally, what seasonal produce in SF are you most excited about? Ramps (smaller than scallions with a mild

onion flavour) are available for very short periods and are foraged like truffles. The stalks are fermented and are delicious. From London to Delhi and now, San Francisco... is it going to be just Indian cuisine from now on? My training is in modern European and French cuisine and the techniques hold strong for my culinary expression. My clients in London (Madonna dined thrice at his former restaurant, Almada), India and now SF, all enjoy fresh ingredients and creativity on the plate. Rooh celebrates the innovative spirit of modern India. Next up is a gastrobar in Manhattan in September, with small eats and Indian-inspired cocktails.

A blessing in disguise, says government

The government had acquired about 46,000 acres under the GO for various projects, including 7,500 acres for the controversial Mallannasagar project, and nothing can be done with them, government sources said. A top official told The Hindu that the State government will frame rules for the Bill that was passed by the Assembly as soon as it receives Presidential assent and the same will be implemented to expedite the process of land acquisition. Another official said the government had slowed down land acquisition as it was aware of the cases being pending in the court. Now that the judgment has come, the government will overcome the shortcomings in the GO as pointed out by the court by framing appropriate rules under the Bill. The court justified the government stand of voluntary procurement of land. Since the court had earlier said that relief and rehabilitation measures of the government were not commensurate with provisions in the Central Act and therefore the government cannot go ahead with land acquisition, he said the "voluntary procurement of land will be harmonised with R&R provisions of the Central Act by the rules under the State legislation". In the wake of Thursday's development, the State government speeded up getting Presidential assent for the State legislation by sending the Bill to the Union Home Ministry. This Ministry as well as the Law Ministry will look into the Bill and refer it to the President. It may be recalled that a delegation of Congress had recently requested President Pranab Mukherjee when he was here not to give his assent to the Bill as "ill-conceived" and the State government did not have the power to amend a Central Act. The government countered the argument saying Article 254 of the Constitution allowed amendments to the Central Acts to suit the States' needs provided the President gave his consent. A Supreme Court judgement in July 2011 upheld such amendments by State Assemblies to the Central Acts.

Icelanders seek to keep their language alive

(Gns News) Chronicling sagas: Law books penned in Icelandic on calf-skin in 1363 is displayed at a museum in Reykjavik. APEgill Bjarnaso Chronicling sagas: Law books penned in Icelandic on calf-skin in 1363 is displayed at a museum in Reykjavik. APEgill Bjarnaso The unique Old Norse dialect, seen by many as a source of identity and pride, is being undermined by the widespread use of English. When an Icelander arrives at an office building and sees "Solarfrí" posted, they need no further explanation for the empty premises - The word means "when staff get an unexpected afternoon off to enjoy good weather." The people of this rugged North Atlantic island settled by Norsemen some 1,100 years ago have a unique dialect of Old Norse that has adapted to life at the edge of the Arctic. But the revered Icelandic language, seen by many as a source of identity and pride, is being undermined by the widespread use of English, both for mass tourism and in the voice-controlled artificial intelligence devices coming into vogue. Linguistics experts, studying the future of a language spoken by fewer than 400,000 people in an increasingly globalised world, wonder if this is the beginning of the end for the Icelandic tongue. Former President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir said that Iceland must take steps to protect its language. She is particularly concerned that programs be developed so the language can be easily used in digital technology. "Otherwise, Icelandic will end in the Latin bin," she warned. Teachers are already sensing a change among students in the scope of their Icelandic vocabulary and reading comprehension.



studies suggest children at their first-language acquisition are increasingly not exposed to enough Icelandic to foster a strong base for later years," he said. Concerns for the Icelandic language are by no means new. In the 19th century, when its vocabulary and syntax were heavily influenced by Danish, independence movements fought to revive Icelandic as the common tongue, central to the claim that Icelanders were a nation. Since Iceland became fully independent from Denmark in 1944, its presidents have long championed the need to protect

the language. Asgeir Jonsson, an economics professor at the University of Iceland, said without a unique language Iceland could experience a brain drain, particularly among certain professions. "A British town with a population the size of Iceland has far fewer scientists and artists, for example," he said. "They've simply moved to the metropolis." The problem is compounded because many new computer devices are designed to recognize English but they do not understand Icelandic. "Not being able to speak Icelandic to voice-activated fridges, interac-

tive robots and similar devices would be yet another lost field," Mr. Jonsson said. Icelandic ranks among the weakest and least-supported language in terms of digital technology along with Irish Gaelic, Latvian, Maltese and Lithuanian according to a report by the Multilingual Europe Technology Alliance assessing 30 European languages. Iceland's Ministry of Education estimates about 1 billion Icelandic krona, or \$8.8 million, is needed for seed funding for an open-access database to help tech developers adapt Icelandic as a language option.

The fishing nets are cast wide

(Gns News) The bright façade of the shops near Julu Khana Kaman are a contrast to the fading, dusty brown heritage structure behind them. Among these shops, a few stand out. You'd dismiss Mohd. Khaleeq Ali's Al Madinah Collections as any regular store that sells readymade garments. Ali is placing a few mannequins in front of the store and hanging a few garments near the name board. That's when we notice a small board Blue Sea Fishnets - claiming to be the sole agent for tuf ropes, nylon fishing nets and mono nets. Nearby, there's Meena Fishing Line and Siddiq's Fishing store. In fine print, you get an idea of what these stores actually specialise in - fishing rods, hooks, reels and lankans. Fishing equipment and lankans are a curious combination. We probe further. Blue Sea Fishnets, says its present owner Mohd. Khaleeq Ali, was started 60 years ago when Hyderabad's many water bodies were thriving. "A lot more people used to fish then. My father established the store. We used to have many fishing hooks," he says. Nets, he says, came to be used widely since the 80s. The store began sourcing fishing nets with holes of different dimensions, from Mumbai. "These are all handmade, nylon nets. Some of these nets take three to four months to make. We get them in big bundles and cut them as per sale requirements," he says, showing one net with medium-sized holes that costs Rs. 2500. Lakes in the city have been polluted and encroached upon over the years

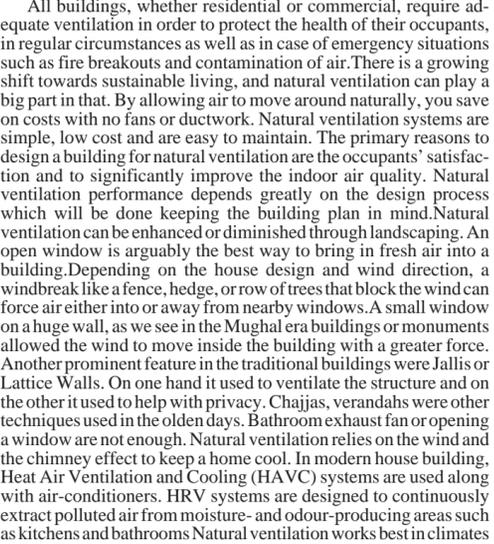


and monsoon vagaries have depleted them further. When sales began declining Ali began selling garments. "Since we've been around, those who want fishing nets know where to come. We don't need to display the nets prominently," he says. A threat to the sale of these fishing nets also comes from Chinese-made nets, he points out. "These nets are made of plastic, priced around \$50 and are not durable," he says dismissively. Ali has also seen many in the younger generation of the fishing community take up jobs in the IT and ITES sector. Remember malls and high-rises across the city covered in nets during Telangana agitation prior to the formation of the new State? During that

brief period, Ali saw brisk sales. "A lot more people began to supply nets to everyone. Those were pigeon nets," he says. Nearby, Meena Fishing Line prominently displays fishing twines and Siddiq Fishing 'Articals' (the typo is on their name board) stocks fishing rods and hooks in different sizes. As the store owner Md. Imtiaz arranges these hooks on the counter, a group debates the demand for fishing equipment. "Soon after demonetisation when all our businesses suffered, we had plenty of time. All of us could have gone fishing for hours," one man quips. It takes a while for the guffaws to settle down.

Let the air in, freely

All buildings, whether residential or commercial, require adequate ventilation in order to protect the health of their occupants, in regular circumstances as well as in case of emergency situations such as fire breakouts and contamination of air. There is a growing shift towards sustainable living, and natural ventilation can play a big part in that. By allowing air to move around naturally, you save on costs with no fans or ductwork. Natural ventilation systems are simple, low cost and are easy to maintain. The primary reasons to design a building for natural ventilation are the occupants' satisfaction and to significantly improve the indoor air quality. Natural ventilation performance depends greatly on the design process which will be done keeping the building plan in mind. Natural ventilation can be enhanced or diminished through landscaping. An open window is arguably the best way to bring in fresh air into a building. Depending on the house design and wind direction, a windbreak like a fence, hedge, or row of trees that block the wind can force air either into or away from nearby windows. A small window on a huge wall, as we see in the Mughal era buildings or monuments allowed the wind to move inside the building with a greater force. Another prominent feature in the traditional buildings were Jallis or Lattice Walls. On one hand it used to ventilate the structure and on the other it used to help with privacy. Chajjas, verandahs were other techniques used in the olden days. Bathroom exhaust fan or opening a window are not enough. Natural ventilation relies on the wind and the chimney effect to keep a home cool. In modern house building, Heat Air Ventilation and Cooling (HAVC) systems are used along with air-conditioners. HRV systems are designed to continuously extract polluted air from moisture- and odour-producing areas such as kitchens and bathrooms. Natural ventilation works best in climates with cool nights and regular breezes. In coastal climates, many seaside buildings are designed with large ocean-facing windows to take advantage of cooling sea breezes. For dry climates, natural ventilation involves avoiding heat building during the day and ventilating the building at night. The use of natural ventilation is definitely an advantage with the rising concerns regarding the cost and environmental impact of energy use and is therefore possible as a real solution for the future. Natural ventilation can reduce building construction costs and operation costs and reduce the energy



consumption for air-conditioning and fans. Studies have shown that people who are staying in buildings with natural ventilation have fewer building related symptoms such as headaches, eye irritation. Sick building syndromes symptoms are also reduced by more than 65% with a natural ventilation solution. Natural ventilation has very low energy consumption, and thus a very limited CO2 emission. All types of ventilation systems have their good points and bad points, and the natural solution is no exception. That said, it is an option that brings considerable cost savings,



consumption for air-conditioning and fans. Studies have shown that people who are staying in buildings with natural ventilation have fewer building related symptoms such as headaches, eye irritation. Sick building syndromes symptoms are also reduced by more than 65% with a natural ventilation solution. Natural ventilation has very low energy consumption, and thus a very limited CO2 emission. All types of ventilation systems have their good points and bad points, and the natural solution is no exception. That said, it is an option that brings considerable cost savings,

Rann Utsav 2018-2019: Your Guide Into India's Biggest Cultural Fest

The extreme temperature of Kutch can get to you as it is really hot in the noon and really cold during the night. Pack accordingly and don't forget to carry your medicines along. That's all for now, see you at the Rann Utsav 2018! Share on: Facebook Twitter Gmail LinkedIn One of the biggest cultural festivals of India - the Rann Utsav 2018 is a festival that is going to change your perception of Indian culture. It begins in early November and continues till late February. Come, visit the largest salt desert in the world, that is the Rann of Kutch and celebrate the colours of India as it truly is. Come, visit the largest salt desert in the world, that is the Rann of Kutch and celebrate the colour white in a way you'd never have imagined. Located in the white deserts of Gujarat is the Great Rann of Kutch is widely known as the "the largest salt desert in the world". The Little Rann of Kutch sprawls across a salt desert landscape covering over 5000 sq.km. It is by far, one of the best places to visit in Gujarat. Rann Utsav 2018 Slogan: "Aapne Kutch nahi dekha toh kuch nahi dekha, Kuch din toh guzaro Gujarat mein" - meaning, if you haven't seen Kutch, you've seen nothing; stay for a while in Gujarat! Rann Utsav Slogan: "Aapne Kutch nahi dekha toh kuch nahi dekha, Kuch din toh guzaro Gujarat mein" - meaning, if you haven't seen Kutch, you've seen nothing; stay for a while in Gujarat! To put it simply, the Rann Utsav is a celebration of Indian culture. It's the ultimate buffet of art, music, dance and



tradition alongside adventure sports, shopping tents and music concerts. The Rann Utsav is colourful extravaganza that celebrates the majesty of the desert with a blend of modernity and ethnicity. The best time to visit the white paradise, the Rann of Kutch is during the winter between late October and February on a full moon's night. It is during the 3 months of the Rann Utsav 2018 that the world's most unique desert come to be home to the thousands of travellers visiting the Rann of Kutch from across the globe. With temperatures dropping down to a minimum of 2 degrees Celsius, this otherwise deserted land transforms into a land of culture, colours and merriment during the Rann Utsav 2018. In temperatures dropping down to a minimum of 2 degrees

Celsius, this otherwise deserted land transforms into a land of culture, colours and merriment during the Rann Utsav 2018. Why Is The Rann Of Kutch White In Colour? The Rann Utsav 2018 is held when these tiny salt crystals gloriously reflect the silver moonlight, giving it a heavenly glow. The Rann Utsav 2018 is held when these tiny salt crystals gloriously reflect the silver moonlight, giving it a heavenly glow. What we see today was once a part of the Arabian sea and its residue, the white salt marshes blankets the landscape colouring it in white. On a closer look at the white "sand" of Kutch, you will see a thousand crystal of salt dazzling. So if you have been planning a visit to the Rann Utsav 2018, you know that a full moon's night is your best bet!

I see this as a 'significant chance' for India, says Steve Waugh

Ranji Trophy: Punjab completes formalities

(News Track) Mohammed Shami, second left, celebrates with teammates after taking a wicket during their tour cricket match against Cricket Australia XI in Sydney, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018. Mohammed Shami, second left, celebrates with teammates after taking a wicket during their tour cricket match against Cricket Australia XI in Sydney, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018. | Photo Credit: AP Geoff Lawson rates the current Indian attack as one of the best he has seen in a long time. Former Australia captain Steve Waugh says the upcoming four-match rubber is a "significant chance" for India to win their first Test series Down Under. The series begins with the first Test in Adelaide on December 6. "I will see this as a significant chance and they would have prepared for this tour for a long time, I think it's going to be a really close series," Waugh told ESPNcricinfo. India captain Virat Kohli is likely to be the biggest threat for the Australian bowlers, as they look to maintain their unbeaten record at home against the Asian giants. Asked how Australia would tackle the Kohli threat, Waugh said, "He is a great player and loves the big moment, a bit like Tendulkar and Lara. They wait for these big series and that's where they want to show their best. So who is the danger man for Australia? They have got

some really good batsmen, they have got a very good all-round team." Former wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist said the visitors would mainly bank on their talismanic skipper to get runs on the board. "Virat is clearly the best player in the world at the moment. So India will look to him to score heavily but all are going to have their challenges and as to how will the Australian batting line-up," Gilchrist said. The big-hitting batsman of yesteryears was of the opinion that the Australian pace attack comprising Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood could pose tough questions. "I think Pat Cummins is outstanding, Hazlewood is almost McGrath like with his bowling. Those three guys and there are couple in the wings who are high quality fast bowlers." Lawson praises Indian quicks Former fast bowler Geoff Lawson believes the current Indian attack is one of the best he has seen in a long time and will challenge the Australian batsmen in the four-Test series. "They have got some terrific fast bowlers, as good a group as I've seen for a long time and they've got the spinners that always do the job," Lawson told reporters. "Ishant Sharma's last time out here got extra bounce. Umesh Yadav bowls freak (deliveries), Mohammed Shami has been swinging it, Bhuvneshwar Kumar swings it as well. "They



are not going to play all four, they are going to play three and maybe one or two spinners," Lawson said. Playing international cricket in the 1980s, Lawson has 180 Test wickets to his name. He said starting the series in Adelaide will work in India's favour. "The first Test (is) in Adelaide, so they got their wish there didn't they, not playing in Brisbane or Perth. "They've got four good guys and they've got

some extra pace so that will be a big challenge I'm expecting a really good series." In the only warm-up game against Cricket Australia XI before the Test series, the prime candidates for India's Test attack

got a good workout with pacemen Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma all bowling over 20 overs and frontline spinner R. Ashwin sending down more than 30.

(News Track)

Wreckers-in-chief: Vinay Choudhary and Mayank Markande did the damage for Punjab, sharing seven wickets between them when Delhi batted the second time. Wreckers-in-chief: Vinay Choudhary and Mayank Markande did the damage for Punjab, sharing seven wickets between them when Delhi batted the second time.

Rana feels the first innings debacle led the home team down Punjab took a session and a little more on the third day to complete a 10-wicket victory over Delhi in their Ranji Trophy match at the Ferozeshah Kotla on Friday. Resuming at 106 for four, Delhi folded up for 179, leaving Punjab to get five runs for the win. The win took Punjab's tally to nine points from three matches while Delhi has just four to its credit. "It's disappointing but we were not at our best strength. We ought to have exploited the home advantage but the first innings debacle let us down. The pitch did not play to our expectations and that cost us," said Delhi skipper Nitish Rana, referring to the 107 that the team posted on the first day. Punjab skipper Mandeep Singh was



pleasantly surprised by the lack of fight from the Delhi camp. "It was a tough pitch to bat on but you could have scored by applying to the job. You had to wait to tackle the straight and low ball, essentially play on the front foot. I think Delhi had an inexperienced batting line-up and for us it was a good toss to lose," said Mandeep. Rana pointed out the Dhruv Shorey dismissal in the second innings, off first ball, given leg-before to a played-ball, as the decisive blow on the second day. "That decision hurt us. I also did not play the right shot. Also, Siddharth (Kaul) bowled really well (for Punjab). We should have batted better," noted Rana. "I don't think I have

batted in tougher conditions," observed Mandeep. "The footwork had to be decisive. That is the key on such pitches," he added. Delhi — 2nd innings: Gautam Gambhir c Gupta b Kaul 60, Hiten Dalal lbw b Choudhary 27, Dhruv Shorey lbw b Choudhary 0, Nitish Rana c Abhishek b Kaul 10, Himmat Singh b Choudhary 1, Anuj Rawat c Mandeep b Markande 12, Kunwar Bidhuri lbw b Pannu 2, Varun Sood lbw b Markande 25, Pulkit Narang c Jivanjot b Choudhary 31, Vikas Mishra lbw b Markande 0, Simarjeet Singh (not out) 0; Extras (b-6, lb-4, w-1): 11; Total (in 84.2 overs): 179. Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-72, 3-98, 4-99, 5-99, 6-105, 7-119, 8-173, 9-179.

Play hard but fair: Cricket Australia chairman tells players ahead of India Tests



(News Track) After the ball-tampering controversy, the Australian players have devised their own cultural pact. After the ball-tampering controversy, the Australian players have devised their own cultural pact. After the ball-tampering controversy, the Australian players have devised their own cultural pact. | Photo Credit: AP "I don't think people want us to be quiet but they want us to play with respect to the game" Cricket Australia's new chairman Earl Eddings has urged his Test side to "play hard but fair" in the series against India, his comments coming at a time when 'elite honesty' has emerged as the buzz word in its setup. The series starts with the first

game in Adelaide on December 6. The players have devised their own cultural pact and, under new coach Justin Langer, are expected to have 'elite honesty'. "Just play good, hard cricket. I don't think people want us to be quiet but they want us to play with respect to the game, play hard but fair, and win well and lose better," Eddings was quoted as saying by Sydney Morning Herald. "The old adage is you don't say much when you win and say even less when you lose. I think we have a great team, they are fine young men, and I think they will do that. "My advice to the guys is to go out and play your

natural game and try as hard as you can. That's all Australians want to see," Eddings said.

Eddings got the job after predecessor David Peever was forced to step aside having lost the support of key states NSW and Victoria. His arrival followed the damning Longstaff report into the culture of the governing body, coming after the sandpaper ball-tampering scandal in South Africa when David Warner, Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft were suspended. Eddings had hoped the Adelaide Test would continue to be staged under lights, but the visitors had reservations.

"Day-night Test cricket is a way of the future. You don't play it in all countries and at all venues. Certainly in Adelaide, you have seen how successful that has been," Eddings said.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't get it done this year but we are going to have one in Brisbane. If you have the right Test at the right spot, day-night Test cricket is fantastic. Under current International Cricket Council rules, the visiting nation can reject the host nation's request when it comes to scheduling. However, that is set to change under the new Test championship program from next year.

Murali Vijay struck a confident hundred while KL Rahul scored a half-century in the warm-up game against Cricket Australia XI, easing off any worries in the Indian dressing room in their final outing before the first Test. Vijay, returning to the Test squad after being dropped midway through the England tour, celebrated his comeback with an unbeaten century off 118 balls. He looked solid throughout the innings on the fourth day, and had reached his half-century off 91 balls. Thereafter he sped through the second fifty-runs, off only 27 balls, getting to three figures off 118 deliveries. He hit 26 runs off Jake Carder (0-41) in one over to race to his hundred.

Cricket Australia XI vs Indians: Vijay finishes tour game with hundred

Earlier, Rahul scored 62 (98 balls) as the duo put on 109 runs for the opening wicket as India finished at 211-2 (43.4 overs) in their second innings at stumps on day four of the tour game against Cricket Australia XI here at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Rahul batted with greater confidence than in recent times, hitting eight fours and a six, as he warmed up for the first Test. At times, he did look shaky with circumspect timing, as seen in his dismissal off a full toss caught at mid-wicket. Hanuma Vihari (15 not out) came out at number three and finished unbeaten at stumps.

This was after Cricket Australia XI finished at 544 (151.1 overs) in their first innings and kept India in the field for as long as possible. India had scored 358 in their first innings. Mohammed Shami (3-97) did not bowl on this final day, while R Ashwin (2-122 in 40 overs) and



Ishant Sharma (1-73 in 22 overs) sent down a majority of overs in the morning session. India though tested their fifth bowling options again as Vihari (0-34), Virat Kohli (1-27) and Murali Vijay (0-17) sent down 13 overs between them. Harry Nielsen (100) scored a hundred off 170 balls, including nine fours, and was out caught at mid-off as he hit a skier off Kohli. The hosts' lower order all got good runs with Daniel Fallins (43), Luke

Robins (38 not out) and Jackson Coleman (36) keeping the visitors chasing leather in the sun. The latter duo added 57 runs for the final wicket. So much so that India brought on Jasprit Bumrah (1-0) and Kuldeep Yadav (0-3), not initially included in the 14-man list at the start of the game, to bowl after lunch. Bumrah looked in good rhythm as he bowled Coleman with a well-aimed yorker off his seventh delivery.

ISL: BFC manages to eke out full points



(News Track) Making amends: BFC's Rahul Bheke atoned for a own goal with this effort in the final minutes. Rahul Bheke turns hero from villain with a late effort Bengaluru FC left it late yet again, but a raucous Sree Kanteerava Stadium was not complaining on Friday. Rahul Bheke struck with two minutes left in regulation time as the home side overcame FC Pune

City 2-1 and opened up a five-point gap at the top of the ISL table. After Udanta Singh's superb opener had been cancelled out by an own goal from Bheke, BFC missed a multitude of chances. It appeared that Carles Cuadrat's men would come to regret their profligacy but Bheke redeemed himself as the fans erupted.

The game got off to a lively start, and the opening goal was not long in coming. It was a stunner. A long diagonal pass from Dimas Delgado was received by Harmanjot Khabra near the corner flag. He laid the ball for Udanta Singh, who drove into the box, shimmied past left-back L. Fanai, and buried a fine left-footed shot inside the far post. Minutes later, Delgado — whose return here clearly infused life into BFC's play — slipped Chenchu Gyltshen through. The Bhutanese striker's shot was only stopped by the outstretched boot of goalkeeper Kamaljeet Singh. BFC was driving forward with ease, encountering little resistance through the middle of the pitch. So it was a surprise when Pune's equaliser arrived, a goal completely against the run of play. It was the product of a counter-attack that Marcelinho was at the heart of.

The Brazilian sprang down the right flank, putting Marko Stankovic through. The latter swept a cross into the box, when Bheke needlessly stuck his right foot out and deflected the ball into his own net. The defender, playing in an unfamiliar centre-half role on the evening, may have been better off controlling the ball with his left foot. The rest of the half was largely one-way traffic, though. BFC had multiple chances: Gyltshen headed over from close range.

Erik Paartalu's rasping shot came off the crossbar, Sunil Chhetri failed to beat the keeper from close range, and Xisco's long-range effort went wide. At the end of the first period, BFC had 14 shots on goal to Pune's two. The visitor had failed to hit the target even once. It seemed as if this would come to cost BFC, but Bheke would provide the final twist. The result: Bengaluru FC 2 (Udanta Singh 11, Rahul Bheke 88) vs FC Pune City 1 (Rahul Bheke 15-OG).

Kohli's advocacy of Test cricket gives hope to David Gower

(News Track) David Gower was speaking at the inaugural Ranji Memorial Public Conversation on Cricket in London. Kohli's advocacy of Test cricket gives hope to David Gower. File David Gower was speaking at the inaugural Ranji Memorial Public Conversation on Cricket in London. File | Photo Credit: M. Moorthy The former England captain believes Kohli's comments after losing the Test series against England 1-4 this year are significant. Virat Kohli's endorsement of Test cricket has given hope to former England captain David Gower about its future, amid fears that the traditional form is in danger due to the rise of T20s. The popularity of Test cricket has dwindled after the introduction of the shortest format, which led to the mushrooming of multiple leagues, including the cash-rich India Premier League (IPL), which have witnessed cricketers earning handsome salaries. While T20 cricket is always played in front of packed houses, most times sparse crowds await Test cricket, unless the matches are held in England and Australia. Kohli, who is the number one Test batsman in the world, has often expressed



his love for Test cricket. For him, the five-day cricket remains the "most beautiful format of the game", despite the hype surrounding the T20 format. Gower believes Kohli's comments after losing the Test series against England 1-4 this year are significant. "We had a fantastic series against India, closer than the margin suggests," said Gower during the inaugural Ranji Memorial Public Conversation on Cricket in London. "It is a reflection of the balance of power if Virat says that -- you've got a lot of people

who will listen," said the 61-year-old, adding that the launch of next year's World Test Championship will help in the popularity of Test cricket. Test cricket could receive a fillip if Kohli can break India's jinx in Australia by winning the four-year Test series, which starts with the opening match at Adelaide on December 6. India have never won a Test series in Australia in 11 attempts. One of the most dominant Test nations in the past, the West Indies have seen a massive decline in the popularity of the format and Gower

said it won't be an easy task to revive the five-day form in the Caribbean. "If you are talking about the Caribbean, you are not talking about one nation but several nations," he said. File David Gower was speaking at the inaugural Ranji Memorial Public Conversation on Cricket in London. File | Photo Credit: M. Moorthy The former England captain believes Kohli's comments after losing the Test series against England 1-4 this year are significant. Virat Kohli's endorsement of Test cricket has given hope to former England captain David Gower about its future. "You are talking about socio-economic problems and it's disjointed."

Of some consolation to traditionalists is that the debate is nothing new, with Test cricket still alive and kicking. "In this ultra-modern age, counter-attractions have multiplied many times... They (young people) just haven't the time to devote to cricket or is it they just can't be bothered to dash home to tea, then to the local cricket ground?" he added. Of some consolation to traditionalists is that the debate is nothing new, with Test cricket still alive and kicking.

Hockey World Cup: Crucial for India to improve PC conversion rate



(News Track) More consistent: India's cause would be well served if Harmanpreet Singh can make his flicks count more often. | Photo Credit: Getty Images Harendra insists more variations and different flicks would be tried out against Belgium on Wednesday. India earned five penalty corners and converted two, neither direct. Belgium could not convert any of its seven. On a stage like the World Cup, those numbers may well be the difference between winning and losing. India's woes in the department are not new. At the Asian Games, the conversion rate was far below the 50% — a huge improvement on the three out of 33 that it managed at the Commonwealth

Games. The reluctance of successive coaches to not attempt too many variations or even give more opportunities to the second and third line of drag-flickers in the side has also remained an unsolved mystery. Coach Harendra Singh insisted things have changed. "There will be a lot more variations seen here and they will be done regardless of the situation or state of the game. We have worked on our drills and we will certainly try and use them." Also, like we did against South Africa, all three of our players — Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar and Amit Rohidas — will get their chances," he told The Hindu on the team's rest day after its opening game here.

Shane McLeod, on the other hand, credited improving standards of defence. "Teams are getting very good at defending corners.

The goalkeeping is also at a very high level internationally at the moment. "Our goalkeeper (Vincent Vanasche) is at a very high level and Sreejesh has taken some very big steps in that area in recent years," the Belgian coach admitted. But both agree that the final flick is just 1/3rd of the entire routine even though the scorer alone gets both the bouquets and brickbats. "In the first match also, there was problem with both injection and stopping at different moments, and once we couldn't stop.

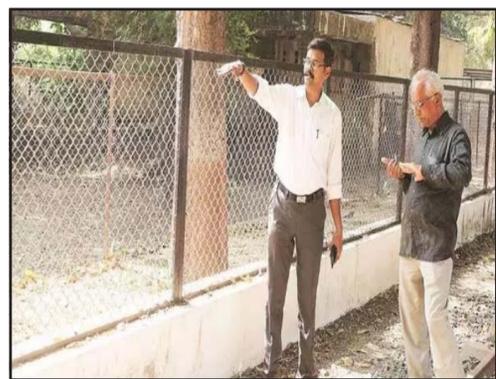
Access to decent housing to make Mumbai global city: Devendra Fadnavis

(Gns.News) Action Taken Report on quota to be tabled in Assembly: CM Devendra Fadnavis maratha quota, maratha reservation, government consult OBC leaders, Backward class commission, Maharashtra winter session, Mumbai news, latest news, Indian Express CM Devendra Fadnavis said the Development Plan (DP) of 2034 was all inclusive and is focused at not just creating sustainable infrastructure but also mass affordable housing. (File Photo) Access to decent housing will make Mumbai a global city, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said. Fadnavis, who was speaking at the Mumbai 2.0 event here, said the world's largest slum redevelopment project of Dharavi was on fast track and actual work would commence in the next two to three months. "Mumbai is not just a financial and commercial capital of the country, it is a multi-



brand. Mumbai is also a start-up capital. But if we have to make the megapolis a global city, then it is necessary to have access to decent housing and not just infrastructure," he said. Fadnavis said the Development Plan (DP) of 2034 was all inclusive and is focused at not just creating sustainable infrastructure but also mass affordable housing. "One of the plans we have is Dharavi redevelopment. The project, which was stalled for over 20 years, has now picked up and we are hopeful that in the next two to three months actual work on it will begin. I believe this will be the world's largest redevelopment project," he said.

Guajarat: Dogs kill six blackbucks inside Vadodara zoo



(Gns.News) "As per the preliminary reports, the cause of death is shock leading to cardiac arrest and respiratory failure due to the attack by the dogs. The blackbucks are very sensitive and timid animals and they tend to suffer cardiac arrest in situations like such. Of the six animals which died, three had prominent dog bites," said Dr C B Patel, a member of the

panel that conducted autopsy. Zoo officials said that a watchman, who reported for work at 7 am, heard dogs barking, and on reaching the enclosure of the blackbucks he found three dogs there. He alerted other watchmen who shooed the dogs away. "We have set up an inquiry into the matter and are investigating as to how did the stray dogs sneak inside the enclosure. The blackbuck enclosure is double-fenced mesh that are more than 5 feet high. Of late, stray dogs have been a menace but we had not faced such a situation earlier. Once we conclude the inquiry, we will take adequate steps to control the dog menace and also ensure more security and safety of the animals," said Pratyush Patankar, the curator of the zoo.

Pune: PMPML to buy more buses, PMC to help it out with Rs 116 cr



(News Track) The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has allotted Rs 116 crore to the Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) so that the transport body can purchase 240 CNG buses for its fleet. In a proposal tabled before the civic body's standing committee on Friday, the PMC administration sought permission to allot Rs 116.17 crore to PMPML. The transport body, which often faces criticism over its ageing vehicles and breakdown of buses, has decided to add a total of 400 buses to its fleet, to improve services for lakhs of commuters in Pune. The PMC has to bear 60 per cent share of the PMPML's expenditure, while the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) takes care of the rest, as the transport service covers areas under both civic bodies. "Power should be given to the municipal commissioner to release the funds to PMPML in phases and also make provisions for it in the civic budget for the next financial year," said Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao. In May, the PMPML's board of directors had decided to purchase 400 CNG non-AC buses, to be mainly used on the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) route. The PMC, in its proposal, said while the civic body has made a budgetary provision of Rs 73 crore in the current financial year, it would need more money to pay for the purchase of 240 buses. The PMPML had carried out the tender process thrice and finalised a proposal from TATA Motors to supply the buses at a cost of Rs 48.4 lakh per bus. The decision by the Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML), to purchase 400 CNG buses, comes after it faced much flak over the ageing vehicles in its fleet. While efforts have been made earlier to improve the transport body's service, they haven't had much impact due to shortage of buses. In fact, due to overcrowding of buses and breakdown of the vehicles, commuters have often been stranded midway. Now, Rs 116 crore has been allocated by the PMC for purchasing 240 buses and PMPML officials plan to introduce more buses along new routes. The frequency of buses will also be increased to make the transport service a commuter-friendly one. A recently published draft of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) for Pune metropolitan region had revealed that at least 1,500 more buses were needed in the region. "Currently, there is a need for 3,000 buses to meet the need of local residents, but there are only 1,500 buses, as per the bus supply index accessed from PMPML," said Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority chief Kiran Gitte. He said the Pune region would need as many as 3,800 buses by 2028 to accommodate its increasing population, and it was necessary to take steps to strengthen the PMPML's fleet. What farmers at the protest march in Delhi are demanding from the Narendra Modi government The CMP had also pointed out the need to ensure that more areas were covered by PMPML buses, as well as better frequency of service. It states that only 19 per cent Pune residents used public transport, and this percentage has to be increased to 50 per cent by 2028. Gitte said public transport services needed to be improved in rapidly growing areas such as Shikrapur, Charoli, Wadgaonshinde, Manjari Khurd, Kesnand, Chande, Nande, Kirkitwadi, Yewlewadi, Handewadi and Punawale.

Shiv Sena, BJP will together defeat Opposition in 2019: Devendra Fadnavis



(News Track) Challenging the Opposition's criticism against industrial growth and investment, Fadnavis said: "The foreign direct investment in Maharashtra accounts for Rs 3.36 lakh crore between 2015 and 2018. Whereas, the FDI between 2009 and 2014 (Congress-NCP rule) was Rs 1.80 lakh crore." By Express News Service | Access to decent housing to make Mumbai global city: Devendra Fadnavis Muslim groups seeking quota can approach SBCC for survey: Fadnavis Action Taken Report on quota to be tabled in Assembly: CM Devendra Fadnavis land for housing project, affordable housing, Maharashtra government, gavran land, Prime Minister Awas Yojana, Mumbai News, Indian Express Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis (Source: File Photo) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that the Shiv Sena and the BJP will together defeat the Congress-NCP in the 2019 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Taking recourse to poetry in Marathi, he urged the Opposition to engage in introspection and realise the high speed pace of growth and development in Maharashtra. At the Assembly, he said in Marathi: "2019 cha mahasangram ala javal. Baji marnar senecha baan bhajapche kamal (the 2019 big battle has come closer. The Shiv Sena's bow and arrow and BJP's lotus (the party symbols) would win." Urging the opposition parties to indulge in introspection instead of heaping criticism against the ruling BJP-led government, he said: "If you look at the progress card in all core sectors and mega-projects, Maharashtra is marching ahead. What the Congress-NCP could not achieve in 15 years of their rule, we have achieved more than that in housing, agriculture, industries and infrastructure." Against the target of 7.38 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for rural Maharashtra, total houses sanctioned were 5.91 lakh. The government has completed 5.82 lakh houses. The government intends to complete the housing projects under the PMAY by 2020, instead of 2022. Challenging the Opposition's criticism against industrial growth and investment, Fadnavis said: "The foreign direct investment in Maharashtra accounts for Rs 3.36 lakh crore between 2015 and 2018. Whereas, the FDI between 2009 and 2014 (Congress-NCP rule) was Rs 1.80 lakh crore.

Delhi's air quality poor, CPCB issues notices to SDMC, EDMC for inaction

(Gns.News) New policy favours e-vehicles, taxes ones run on petrol, diesel Delhi pollution, delhi air quality, delhi air, air quality index, delhi vehicles, delhi government, indian express CPCB chairman S P Singh Parihar sought a response to the same within 48 hours. (Express Photo) While Delhi's air quality recorded slight improvement due to favourable meteorological conditions on Saturday, pollution watchdog CPCB has issued showcause notices to SDMC and EDMC for failing to control air polluting activities under their



jurisdiction. The overall air quality index (AQI) of Delhi was 299, which falls in the poor category, according to CPCB data. In-

creased wind speed helped in dispersion of pollutants, authorities said. The Central Pollution Control Board said the air pollution level was "very poor" in 16 areas and it was "poor" in 15 areas. In two separate notices issued on November 29, CPCB asked for explanation why action should not be initiated for prosecution of the commissioners of South Delhi Municipal Corporation and East Delhi Municipal Corporation for failing to control air polluting activities under their jurisdiction. CPCB chairman S P Singh Parihar sought a response to the same within 48 hours.

Mumbai: Bird hits overhead wire, metro rail services affected



Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar Metro: MMOPL to continue with current fare structure till November 30 Rs 2,000-crore government guarantee can solve Metro tussle: MMOPL

Mumbai metro rail, metro rail services in mumbai, metro rail services hit, mumbai metro services hit, mumbai news, indian express The train was taken out of service for inspection, said MMOPL spokesperson. (Representational image)

Metro services were affected for a brief period on Saturday afternoon after a bird hit an overhead wire of the rake operating between Versova and Ghatkopar. According to a commuter, a loud sound was heard in the Versova-bound metro train that left from Ghatkopar station around 3.05 pm. The incident happened while the train was about to reach Jagruti Nagar station. The train was brought to a halt and the commuters were evacuated. The rake has been sent to the metro car depot. A Mumbai Metro One Private Limited (MMOPL) spokesperson said, "The overhead equipment (OHE) between Ghatkopar and Jagruti Nagar was impacted and a Versova-bound train came to a temporary halt at 3.07 pm. The commuters from the train were safely evacuated at Jagruti Nagar station as a precautionary measure, and the train was taken out of service for inspection. The issue has been resolved now. Train services are back to normal."

Statue of Unity: Vijay Rupani gives December 15 deadline for completing pending works

(News Track) As part of the preparations for the all-India DGP conference, which will be held next month at the Statue of Unity complex in Kevadiya colony of Narmada district, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Friday visited the site and reviewed preparations. This is for the second time that the annual DGP conference will be held in Gujarat and will be presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During his meet with the officials from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Rashtriya Ekta Trust (SVPRET), Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL), Narmada district collector's office and others, the Chief Minister set a deadline of December 15 to complete all the pending works and to add new tourist attractions like an aerial tour by helicopter. The three-day DGP conference will be held between December 20 and 22.



"Chief Minister proposed to start a two-seater helicopter tour of the place like the one at Niagara falls as an attraction for the tourists. For this, we have been asked to invite private players and finalise it. Apart from that the discussions pertained to enhancing facilities for tourists visiting the site — their stay and food. At the government rest houses we have been asked to accommo-

date non-government employees too. And even if someone is not staying there, they can still avail food facilities at the guest house. For all this, we have been given a deadline of December 15," said Narmada District Collector RS Ninama. According to L&T officials, managing the complex, they have been asked to expedite their work and complete the construction of the

Sreshtha Bharat Bhavan before December 15. What farmers at the protest march in Delhi are demanding from the Narendra Modi government Sources also said that the Sardar Patel museum, located at the base of the statue, will see an overhaul before the DGP conference with additional inputs provided on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Rupani was accompanied by Chief Secretary J N Singh and Gujarat Sahitya Akademi chairman Vishnu Pandya. To ease long queues, tourists now have been given specific time-slots for their visit, hence reducing the number of tourists within a certain time period. According to official figures, 2,78,169 people have visited the SoU site so far, generating a total revenue of Rs 6,45,59,283.

New data centre in Kolkata by next year: Sify Technologies CEO

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) service major Sify Technologies is setting up a new data centre in Kolkata and the facility is expected to be inaugurated by February next year. "We are setting up a near 50,000 sq ft data centre in Kolkata for customers in the eastern region, for that matter any other customers can also subscribe to this service. The data centre will be inaugurated at Rajarhat by February, 2019," Emerging Tech Conclave. "We are also working with some of the state government organisations to move them to adopt cloud-based services," Nath said. During the Idea Exchange session, moderated by The Indian Express Pvt Ltd executive director Anant Goenka, Nath said West Bengal had the strong mindset to implement all emerging digital services and the state was focusing on skill development.

Two accused of abducting Gautam Adani 20 years ago acquitted

Nearly 20 years after the alleged kidnapping of businessman Gautam Adani, the owner of Adani Group, for ransom, an Ahmedabad court on Friday acquitted two main accused — former gangsters Fazlur-Rehman alias Fazlu and Bhogilal Darji alias Mama. Rehman, who is facing several other criminal charges, is at present lodged at Sabarmati Central Jail, while Darji is out on bail. Kunal N Shah, the lawyer of the two accused, said that Additional District Judge D P Patel acquitted his clients as the prosecution had failed to establish the kidnapping and their roles in it. According to Shah, the victims, including Adani, never turned up for deposition despite repeated summons issued by the court. Besides, the witnesses, including the investigating officers, didn't testify clearly of what exactly had happened," Shah said. On January 1, 1998, Adani and one Shantilal Patel were allegedly kidnapped from Mohammad pura while they were on their way in a car. It



was alleged that a scooter forced the car to stop, and then a group of men came in a van and abducted both of them. Then Sarkhej police Sub-Inspector R K Patel had lodged an FIR against nine accused, including Rehman, Darji, Mohammed alias Raja Javed, Jayesh Ratilal Darji, Riaz, Akil, among others. It was alleged that the accused sought Rs 15 crore as ransom, and after they received the amount, Adani and Patel were released. The

chargesheet was filed in 2009 and charges were framed in 2014 against the duo. The charges were framed under IPC sections 365 (kidnapping), 144 (unlawful assembly) and Arms Act among others. Originally from Bihar, Fazlu, in mid 50s, is one of the most-feared extortionists and underworld don, who is reported to be a rival of fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar. He was active in Gujarat in early 1990s and early 2000s, and is facing similar charges in various districts.