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All eyes fixated on MP today

Congress confident of wresting power, BJP hopeful of 4th consecutive victory

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From political pundits to pollsters, honest netas to rabble rousers, satta bazaar to share market, the eye of the entire nation will be on Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday when it goes to poll after a "free for all" campaigning that often saw emotional issues taking the centre stage and concerns of the common man taking the back seat.

While the Congress is going all out to wrest power from the BJP which, though, wary of a 15-year anti-incumbency, is hoping that the mandate could still be in their favour for the fourth term.

Poll campaigning for the 230-seat Assembly came to an end on Monday.

Unlike the last Assembly polls in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura where Prime Minister Narendra Modi held the sway for the BJP, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was the main campaigner and face of the party in Madhya Pradesh. Modi held just over 10 election rallies in the State.

Besides him, BJP president Amit Shah, Home Minister Rajnath Singh and a number of Union Ministers, including Nirmala Sitharaman, Uma Bharti, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Narendra Singh Tomar, visited the State in the last few days.

The BJP had denied tickets to over 60 sitting MLAs to beat anti-incumbency while the Congress sought to put behind the internal rivalry among its satraps in MP like Kamal Nath, Digvijay Singh and Jyotiraditya Scindia. The rural unrest, the Congress hopes, may tilt balance in its favour as the BJP expects its "continued" hold over the urban voters and Opposition's lack of a clear chief ministerial candidate could

provide it the needed push to cross the winning line.

A total of 2,907 candidates are in the fray. The highest number of candidates contesting at one constituency is 34 at Mehgaon in Bhind, while the lowest number is 4 at Gunnor in Panna. The BJP has fielded 230 candidates while the Congress is contesting on 229 seats leaving one seat for Sharad Yadav-led Loktantrik Janata Dal. The BSP has fielded 227 candidates and the SP is contesting on 51 seats. The Aam Aadmi Party, contesting the Madhya Pradesh election for the first time, has fielded 208 candidates.

At present, the BJP, that has been ruling the State for 15 years, has 165 seats while the Congress has 58, the BSP has 4 and independents hold three seats in the MP Assembly.

A total of 650 companies of Central paramilitary forces have been deployed for security. 33,000 home guard jawans from various States have also been deployed. The model code of conduct was imposed on October 6.

The Congress has taken no chance and deployed nearly 50,000 party worker on 43 closely contested Assembly seats. A party leader said that during the last 15 years the margin of victory for the BJP on these seats has been low. These Assemblies have 10,429 booths and the party has deployed maximum manpower there.

The Congress is making maximum use of social media platform to draw the voters towards the grand old party through a mobile application 'Ghar Ghar Congress'.

"The workers for the past one week have been meeting voters by reminding them about the 'Ghar Ghar Congress' mobile app. For all those who do not have a smartphone, the

Congress workers are involved in door-to-door campaign," added the leader, mentioning that more and more workers have been sharing and explaining details about the party's manifesto and the benefits of giving a chance to the Congress.

A day before the Assembly elections in the State, Congress' internal assessment has claimed the party enjoys a 2.8 per cent lead over the BJP. The party thinks it is small lead but it is confident to cross the halfway mark by winning the majority of the 43 strategically identified seats.

Continued on Page 7



Security personnel outside a 'pink' polling booth ahead of Madhya Pradesh Assembly election in Bhopal on Tuesday. About 500 'pink' polling booths, to be managed by all-woman staff, have been set up in MP for the Assembly elections

PTI

BJP met 95% of 2013 poll pledges: Raje

Jaipur: The BJP on Tuesday released its manifesto for the December 7 Rajasthan polls, saying it met 95 per cent of the promises it had made in 2013.

The manifesto was unveiled by Union Ministers Arun Jaitley, Prakash Javadekar, and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, in the presence of BJP leaders and workers.

The BJP Government in the State met 630 of the 665 promises made in the 2013 Rajasthan manifesto, Raje said, prior to releasing the manifesto.

"The overall completion is 95 per cent," she said.

Raje highlighted several points of 2018 manifesto, saying 50 lakh jobs will be created in private sector in next five years and every year 30,000 jobs will be given in Government sector. The CM said up to ₹5,00,00,000 per month will be given as unemployment allowance to eligible youths above the age of 21 years.

PTI

Vote out family parties Cong, TRS from T: PM

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the BJP is the only option before Telangana as both "family parties" the Congress and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti have destroyed the State over the last six decades and caused misery and sufferings to them.

Addressing two election rallies in Nizamabad and Mahbubnagar, Modi also urged the people of Telangana not to allow the Congress to re-enter the State and follow the example of States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal and Tamil Nadu where the Congress could not return to power even after 40 years.

"If you elect the BJP in the State and we already have a BJP Government at the Centre, you will get double 'Kamal Chhap' (Lotus symbol) engines and we will take Telangana far off on the path of development," he said.

Continued on Page 7



PM Narendra Modi addresses an election rally in Nizamabad on Tuesday

PTI

KCR dares PM to debate on power scene, tells Modi don't lie for votes

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister and Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) on Tuesday challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a public debate on the power supply situation in the State and said the Prime Minister should not lie for the sake of votes.

KCR was responding to Modi's criticism that the people in the State are without electricity. Earlier in the day addressing an election rally in Nizamabad, Modi had charged the KCR Government with failure on all fronts, including ensuring availability of electricity to many people of the State.

Addressing an election meeting in Mahbubnagar on Tuesday, KCR said he is ready for a debate with Modi at any place of his choice. KCR, who claims to be providing the 24-hour free power to farmers and uninterrupted power supply to all households in the State as his major achievement, called Modi "an ignorant and lying Prime Minister". Challenging the PM to show where was the power problem in the State, KCR said, "I never thought Modi was so ignorant PM. It is not appropriate for the Prime Minister to speak lies for the sake of votes," he said.

B'desh court bars Khaleda Zia from contesting next month's elections

PTI ■ DHAKA

In a major setback to jailed former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, a top court on Tuesday ruled that a person jailed for more than two years cannot contest polls, effectively ruining her chance to participate in the December 30 polls.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson, who is convicted in two graft cases, cannot contest the upcoming 11th general election next month.

"She is disqualified from taking part in the upcoming elections," Alam told a Press conference, hours after the High Court issued a rule saying persons jailed for more than two years even if their appeals are pending with the courts cannot contest the polls.

Details on Page 13

RBI Guv appears before Parliamentary panel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI Governor Urjit Patel on Tuesday committed to a Parliamentary Committee to give in writing his views on some of the controversial issues, which may include the Government citing never-used powers to get the central bank on the discussion table, said sources.

Patel, who appeared before the 31-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, said the economy would get a boost from oil prices cooling off from four-year highs and said fundamentals were "robust", they said.

The RBI Governor also told the Members of Parliament that credit growth was 15 per cent and the impact of November 2016 demonetisation has a transient impact on the economy.

Patel was earlier sched-

uled to appear before the panel on November 12.

He, however, did not answer specific questions on the Government invoking Section 7 of the RBI Act, NPAs, the autonomy of the central bank and other contentious issues, sources said.

Sources said Patel made a presentation about the state of the economy as well about the world economy to the committee and several members asked questions. His views on the economy were "optimistic".

"He stayed clear of controversial questions like Government invoking special powers, instead he gave intelligent replies without saying anything," they said.

Members also asked questions on the implementation of the Basel III capital adequacy norms for banks. To this, a source said the Governor replied that adherence to the global norms was India's com-

mitment to G-20 nations.

Another source said that as there were a large number of questions, the Governor was asked to file written replies in 10-15 days.

The RBI Governor appeared before the panel days after the RBI's face-off with the finance ministry over issues ranging from the appropriate size of reserves to be maintained by the central bank to easing of lending norms for small and medium enterprises.

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh is also a member of the committee headed by senior Congress leader and former Union minister M Veerappa Moily.

India's banking system, particularly state-owned banks, are grappling with huge bad loans. Recently, there has been a liquidity crisis for the important NBFC sector following re-payment default by IL&FS.

Rahul didn't mention his 'gotra', but of Nehru's: Raje

Jaipur (PTI): Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje said Tuesday the 'gotra' mentioned by Rahul Gandhi while offering a puja was that of former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and not of the Congress president. A priest, who presided over the puja offered by Rahul during his visit to the Pushkar lake in Ajmer district on Monday, had claimed that the Congress chief's 'gotra' was 'Dattatreya' and he is a Kashmiri Brahmin. The Bharatiya Janata Party had been questioning the Congress chief over his temple visits during elections and even asked what his 'gotra' was.

Addressing a rally in Ajmer's Nasirabad town, Raje said: "Rahul Gandhi did not mention his 'gotra', the 'gotra' mentioned was that of Nehruji. He should have mentioned the 'gotra' of his father (Rajiv Gandhi) and grandfather (Feroze Gandhi)."

29 IPS officers transferred

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The state government on Tuesday night shifted 29 IPS officers. Mirza Muneer Beg will be SP, Philibhit, in place of Om Prakash Singh, who will be now be SSP, Jhansi, in place of Vinod Kumar Singh, who comes to Lucknow as SP, ATS, SP, Law and Order, Sunil Gupta will be SSP, Gorakhpur, in place of Shalabh Mathur while Poonam will be SP, Kheri, in place of Ram Lal Verma, who goes to Allahabad as commandant of 4th battalion PAC. Mathur will be attached to DGP office.

Surendra Bahadur will be SP, Mau, in place of Lalit Kumar Singh, who will be SP, Fire Services, while Sunil Kumar Singh will be SP, Rae Bareilly. Ganesh Prasad Singh will be SP, Banda, in place of S Anand who will be the new SP, Pratapgarh, while Amit

Kumar will be the new SP, Balrampur, in place of Rajesh Kumar who will now join as SP, Intelligence, in Bareilly. Rohit Kumar will be SP, Maharajganj, in place of Rakesh Pratap Singh, who will now join at Gonda in the same capacity replacing Lallan Singh, who will be SP, Intelligence. Dr Satish Kumar will be SP, Barabanki, in place of VP Srivastava, who will now join as SP, EOW. Saheb Rasheed Khan will be SP, Computers, in Lucknow. Kuldeep Narain will be commandant of 33rd PAC in Jhansi, Ashok Kumar Verma will be commandant of 30th PAC in Gonda, Vikas Kumar Vaidya will be commandant of 26th PAC in Gorakhpur, Arun Kumar Srivastava will be SP, Women Power Line, and Surya Kant Tripathi will be SP, ATC, in Sitapur. SP, Ambedkarnagar, Vipin Kumar Mishra and SP, Mirzapur, Shalini will swap their present posting.

CAPSULE

US STANDS WITH INDIA ON 26/11 JUSTICE: TRUMP

Washington: Expressing solidarity with the victims of the 2008 Mumbai attack, US President Donald Trump has said the US stands with the people of India in their quest for justice. **P4**

BIHAR SHELTER HOME: SC SLAMS GOVT'S APPROACH

New Delhi: The SC on Tuesday termed as "very shameful" and "inhuman" the conduct of the Bihar Government in not taking appropriate action following the allegations of physical and sexual abuse of children at several shelter homes.

PAK TO INVITE MODI FOR SAARC SUMMIT

Islamabad: n an effort to break the logjam in bilateral ties with India, Pakistan has decided to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit to be held there.

MIZORAM ELECTIONS LITMUS TEST FOR CM

Aizawl: Polling in Mizoram will be held on Wednesday with over 7.70 lakh voters expected to exercise their franchise in the state where Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla is seeking a third consecutive term and the BJP looking to uproot the Congress in its last bastion in the Northeast.

THIEVES COCK A SNOOK AT COPS

Lucknow: Cocking a snook at police alacrity in Hazratganj, a highly secured zone of Lucknow, thieves targeted a wedding reception at Balrampur Gardens and also sneaked into the flat of Samajwadi Party's state president Naresh Uttam Patel in Mantri Awas some time on Monday night. The thieves decamped with cash, jewellery and other belongings from both the places. **See Page 3**

Jail inmates allege death threats from staff, STF

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

While the findings of the investigation conducted in connection with Rae Bareilly jail incident are still to be disclosed, yet another video of the prison went viral showing some inmates allegedly getting death threats from senior jail officials and the Special Task Force (STF) officers besides inmates being served with very poor quality foods.

Additional Director General, Prisons, Chandra Prakash, however, rebutted the

The revelation comes a day after six jail officials were suspended for failing to check the clandestine entry of liquor and firearms inside the prison

charges of threat and added that the video of poor quality food seemed to be made on the same

day on which the earlier clippings were made and they were still probing the issue in-depth before taking any further action.

The revelation comes a day after six jail officials, including a senior jail superintendent, were suspended for failing to check the clandestine entry of liquor and firearms inside the prison.

In a video clip that has gone viral on social media, prisoner Anshu Dixit claimed that he, along with fellow inmates Sohrab Khan and DS Singh,

were being threatened by "jail officials and senior STF personnel". Naming all the officers, Dixit said if he or his fellow inmates were killed, an FIR must be registered against them.

In a separate video, Dixit and his fellow inmates allegedly showed the poor quality of food being offered inside the jail and further claimed that a "parallel canteen" was being run inside the prison premises.

"In the other canteen, besides sweets and aloo paratha, cigarettes and other things are

available. This facility is availed by a large number of inmates and lakhs of rupees are earned everyday. The money is shared from the bottom to the top," the prisoners alleged.

Reacting to the video, Chandra Prakash said: "The videos are old and were shot as the inmates were facing strict action by the prison staff." "The allegations (of death threat) are vague. Anyone can make such an allegation. The state government has already taken strict action in the matter," he added.

On Monday, a video of the Rae Bareilly jail showing inmates having drinks inside the barack went viral on social media. The clip also showed one of the inmates ordering liquor on a mobile phone, and another demanding extortion.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), after coming to power in UP in March last year, had shifted over 100 criminals from one jail to another to make their crime machinery ineffective.

Despite the dons being lodged in jails, their gangs continued to indulge in crimes like

murder, kidnapping, dacoity and extortion, a senior police officer said. A musician's call from jail is enough to terrorise businessmen, contractors and even government officers. Those who refuse to follow their diktats are threatened, attacked or killed, he added.

The incidents have come to light at a time when the jail administration is in the process of upgrading prisons with multi-level security system and installation of machines to check clandestine entry of illegal weapons.

Maurya confident of BJP win in 3 states

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said the BJP would form the next government in all the three poll-bound states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. He said Shivraj Singh would take oath of office as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for the fourth consecutive terms after the counting of votes on December 11. Maurya was addressing the caste convention of the Dalit-Khatik on Tuesday. He said there was no difference between Maurya and Khatik communities as they were one and the same thing.

Maurya also sounded very optimistic about the construction of the temple at Ayodhya saying the "temple would be constructed during the regime of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath". He added the BJP

would win all 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP in 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

"The BJP represents the politics of hope and development while the Opposition is rudderless and without any agenda. The Opposition is like a wedding party without a groom. The Opposition are badly divided, full of candidates with aspirations to become the next Prime Minister," said Maurya, adding "every other day, there is a new candidate staking claim for the top office in the country".

"Come what may and let them pull all stops, the BJP will get 60 per cent of the Lok Sabha seats in the country and the rest of the political space will divided among myriad Opposition parties," claimed Maurya. Maurya alleged that the welfare of Dalits and other backward castes was never on the agenda of all previous government at the Centre and the state. He

asserted that it was the BJP which made sincere efforts for the uplift of the Dalit communities. He said there was no dearth of money for the economic welfare of Dalits as both the Centre and the state government had devoted substantial share of the exchequer for the poor communities.

He said for the first time free LPG connections had been provided to over 4 crore families across the country of which over 50 lakh benefited in UP alone. Continuing his tirade against the Opposition parties, particularly the Samjawadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Deputy Chief Minister said: "Had the previous government taken care for the welfare of Dalits and other socially and economically backward communities, they have by now joined the economic mainstream of the country like rest of other communities."

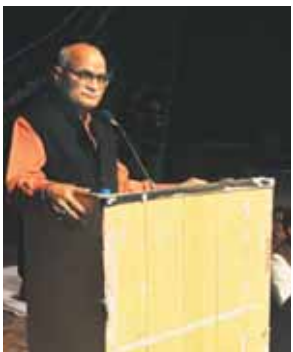


Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya addressing the caste convention of the Dalit-Khatik on Tuesday.

Power staff stir from Jan 8

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

UP power employees will join the nationwide two-day strike from January 8 next year against the Indian Electricity (amendment) Bill 2018. The power employees are also demanding the restoration of the old pension scheme. The All India Power Federation and National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) have served a notice on the Centre announcing to proceed on strike in case the government remained firm on its stand for the amendment in Indian Electricity Act. The power ministry is expected to push Electricity Amendment Bill in the forthcoming winter session of Parliament which provides for segregating the distribution network business and the electricity supply business.



Shailendra Dubey

"Twenty-five lakh members of NCCOEEE (power engineers and employees) will go on lightning strike if the Government takes the unilateral decision of bifurcating the existing distribution system of power supply," co-convenor of NCCOEEE and chairman of All India Power Engineers'

Federation Shailendra Dubey said on Tuesday.

In order to make masses aware about the "draconian change", which is anti-people and pro-corporate houses, NCCOEEE will stage a massive demonstration in Delhi during the winter session of Parliament, Dubey added. The separation will pave the way for introducing a new system where consumers will have the option to choose from multiple electricity service providers in their areas, similar to that of telecom services.

Justifying the move of NCCOEEE, Dubey said it was virtually privatising the profit and nationalising the losses in power sector. "The worst part of the move is that it will be a "bumper profit" gift to corporate houses for which the power consumers will have to pay," he added.

S-I shoots self inside Bareilly police station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A police sub-inspector reportedly shot himself dead inside Baradari police station in Bareilly on Tuesday morning. Later, police reached the spot and shifted the victim to a hospital but the doctors pronounced him "dead upon arrival".

Singh was presently posted in Maharaa police station in Etah and was under suspension.

A three-page suicide note was recovered from his possession in which he held home guard Ved Prakash responsible for his death.

Reports said that Singh claimed that when he was posted at Baradari police station as Mal Khana incharge till

August 2017, he trusted Ved Prakash and handed the latter all keys to look after the work. Singh said that suddenly when he was handing over the charge, he checked the belongings and was shocked to learnt that a huge cash (kept after being recovered during demonetisation), along with some valuables, were missing from the Mal Khana.

He said that when he enquired about it from Ved Prakash, the latter escaped and his seniors asked him to produce all items or face action.

When he tried to contact Ved Prakash, his efforts went in vain and he was placed under suspension.

DMs asked to identify land for Ramlila

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Pursuing the Hindutva agenda, Yogi Adityanath government has directed District Magistrates of 10 districts to identify public land for the annual cultural event of Ramlila in their respective district and take measures for the demarcation of the land by constructing a boundary wall. The orders issued by the Cultural Affairs department have been issued to districts of Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Varanasi, Chitrakoot, Ayodhya, Prayagraj and Firozabad.

The land for the Ramlila should be identified as per the revenue records and as per the established traditions and conventions. The District Magistrates have been asked to submit the project report for the implementation of the scheme for the Ramlila grounds.

The wall around the Ramlila ground will be 6-8 feet high and mural paintings will be there on the wall so that the entire campus can be developed as Ramayana campus," said the order. Special emphasis has been laid on the construction of gates of the ground.



NOTICE

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Missing cop, son found murdered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational double murder in Sant Kabir Nagar, a police constable and his son where found dead on Tuesday morning. Both were killed some time on Monday night and their bodies were dumped at separate places to conceal the crime.

Reports said that the body of the police jawan, identified as Om Prakash Pandey (55), was recovered from Budhakala roundabout in Sant Kabir Nagar in the wee hours of Tuesday while his son Jayendra's body was later recovered from a canal near Dandwa village later in the morning. According to preliminary investigations, both of them were missing since Monday evening. Both the victims were brutally hacked to death and their faces was crushed by some blunt object which pointed that the killers were known

to the victim hence they wanted to conceal their identity. The police constable was posted in Binjore and was presently under suspension. A case has been registered and further investigations are underway.

Meanwhile, in Pratapgarh, an elderly person was shot dead due to old enmity in Dherhana village. Reports said that Shiv Kumar Vishwakarma (60) was killed by Suraj Singh when he was sitting near his tubewell on Monday night. He was rushed to a hospital but died during treatment. An FIR was registered and the police have launched a hunt to nab the accused. In a separate case reported from Muzaffarnagar, a nine-year-old boy was allegedly sodomised and threatened by a man at Pinna village of the district. Reports said that Praveen Kumar (20), who is absconding, had threatened the boy with dire consequences if he spoke about the

assault. Station house officer (SHO) of Kotwali police station Anil Kumar said a case was registered against the accused after a complaint was lodged by the boy's father. According to the complaint, Kumar took the boy to a field in the village and sodomised him. The victim narrated the ordeal to his father on returning home. The police launched a probe to trace Kumar. In one more incident, two men accused of sodomising a minor boy in Mathura were arrested. Salman and Hasin, who were on the run since November 4, were caught on Monday evening, Charthaval police station SHO Santosh Kumar said. Another accused in the case Gulfam was arrested earlier. According to police, the men had shot a video of the act.

Meanwhile, in Mau, a two-year-old child and two women were killed and four other women injured on Tuesday

when an SUV hit them while overtaking a bus in Muhammadabad Gohna area. Chandni (2), Neha (27) and Shyama Devi (60) were killed on the spot while the four injured women were rushed to a hospital where their condition was stated to be stable. The SUV driver was detained. In a separate case in Barabanki, two sisters were killed when the two-wheeler they were travelling in was hit by a tractor-trolley on Lucknow-Faizabad highway. The deceased were identified as Farheen Bano (18) and Sabreen (20). The incident occurred on Monday when the two sisters, along with Afreen were travelling on the highway on a two-wheeler. All three were rushed to a hospital, where Farheen and Sabreen were declared "brought dead". The police seized the tractor-trolley and launched a manhunt to nab the absconding driver.

BJP ignoring farmers' issues: RLD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Rashtriya Lok Dal's senior Reader Anil Dubey on Tuesday said the BJP had ignored farmers' issues during its regime and it was presently portraying itself to be their well-wishers. "It is a time of sowing of crops but farmers are not getting fertilisers and seeds easily as cooperative societies are lying closed in most of the districts," he pointed out.

The senior RLD leader said the party would launch a massive agitation to expose the BJP's misgovernance in the time to come. Dubey said the BJP leaders were now covering up their failures and misleading farmers by making false claims. "Even as farmers are facing a lot of difficulty in getting fertilisers and seeds and cooperative societies are lying



Anil Dubey

closed, the state BJP government is claiming that the same is available in abundance at different centres in the state," he said.

Hitting out at the Union government led by BJP, Dubey said the government had utterly failed in fulfilling its promise. "It has failed to provide jobs to youths, one-and-a-half times more price for crops to farmers and doling out ₹15 lakh to each of them. Contrary to it,

the corruption and price hike are hitting the all-time high. The law and order in the BJP-ruled states has derailed. To divert the attention of the public from its poor performance, the BJP leaders are raking up temple issue," he said.

The RLD leaders expressed surprise over the hike in fuel prices. "In the international market, the price of crude oil is low. Despite this, the price of diesel and petrol is witnessing steep spurt," he pointed out.

Dubey said the BJP misgovernance had been exposed and public would give a befitting reply to the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. "We will hold agitation in different districts in the time to come. The party is planning to hold a meeting with the district level RLD workers and leaders. Right now our leaders are busy

in Assembly election in Rajasthan. The plan of holding the agitation will be decided by the senior leaders in the time to come," he said.

RLD sources said the issue related to farmers was one of the hot issues in the ongoing Assembly elections. "Nearly all leaders of the parties, grouped against the BJP, are hitting the BJP on farmers' issue in speeches. The RLD always remained ahead in the race for fighting/voicing their concern for farmers' interest. So speaking on the issue this time and side stepping from the temple issue is part of a well chalked-out strategy of the senior leaders. The RLD leaders had been asked to focus on farmers' issue as it would give them an edge in states where RLD is contesting Assembly election," the sources said.

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NOTICE

1. Approval under Regulation 6(1) & 15 of CERC(Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulation 2009 & Regulation -6 of CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations/2014 for true up of transmission tariff for 2009-14 period & determination of transmission tariff for 2014-19 period for assets under Common Scheme for 765 kV Pooling Station and Network for NR, Import by NR from ER and Common Scheme for network for WR and Import by WR from ER and from NER/SR/WR via ER in Eastern, Northern and Western Region.
The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (1) Rajasthan Rajya Vidut Prasaran Nigam Limited, (2) Ajmer Vidut Vitran Nigam Ltd, (3) Jaipur Vidut Vitran Nigam Ltd, (4) Jodhpur Vidut Vitran Nigam Ltd, (5) Punjab State Electricity Board, (6) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (7) Power Development Deptt, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (8) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd, (9) Delhi Transco Ltd, (10) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, (11) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd, (12) North Delhi Power Ltd, (13) Chandigarh Administration, (14) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd, (15) North Central Railway (16) New Delhi Municipal Council (17) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board, (18) Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Ltd, (19) Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd, (20) Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd, (21) Electricity Department, Govt. of Goa (22) Electricity Department, Administration of Daman & Diu (23) Electricity Department, Administration of Dadra Nagar Haveli (24) Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (25) Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd, (26) Bihar State Electricity Board, (27) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd, (28) Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd, (29) Damodar Valley Corporation, (30) Power Department, Govt of Sikkim, Gangtok, (31) Jharkhand State Electricity Board.

2. Tariff details:

a. 2009-14 Block

Asset details (DOCO)	2012-13	2013-14
Asset-1:765 kV, 240 MVAR Bus Reactor at Balla S/S (1.10.2012)	379.98	887
Asset-2:765 kV Line bays at Sasaram S/S (for 765 kV Sasaram-Fatehpur TL under SASAN Project (1.6.2013)	-	842.40
Asset-3:765 kV, 3X110MVAR Bus Reactor along with associated bays at Sasaram Sub-station (1.3.2013)	65.12	851.11
Asset-4:400 kV D/C (Quad) Ranchi (New) - Ranchi (Old) - I CKT I Transmission line and associated 400 kV line bays at Ranchi (New) S/S & Ranchi (Old) Sub-station (1.2.2014)	-	555.86
Asset-5:765 / 415 kV, 3x500 MVA ICT-II at Ranchi along with associated bays at 765 kV Ranchi (New) SS (1.2.2014)	-	217.93
Asset-6: Combined Asset of Asset 6 (a): 765 kV 3x80 MVAR Bus Reactor-II along with associated bays at Ranchi 765 kV S/s, Asset 6 (b): 400KV 125 MVAR Bus Reactor-I along with associated bays at Ranchi 765 kV S/s & Asset 6 (c): 400KV 125 MVAR Bus Reactor-II along with associated bays at Ranchi 765 kV S/s (1.2.2014)	-	230.74
Asset-7:240 MVAR Switchable line Reactor along with associated bays at Biliapur Pooling Station (1.11.2012)	362.05	946.26
Asset-8: 240 MVAR Bus Reactor at Agra S/s (1.1.2013)	254.61	1051.82

b. 2014-19 Block

Petition details	Total Cost upto 31.3.2019	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Combined Asset 1 to 8	62599.56	11058.81	11169.59	11132.58	11041.14	10846.67

(i) Line Length: 77,311 kms, (ii) No of Bays: 5(400kV) 9(765kV), (iii) Effective DOCO: 1.9.2013

3. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

4. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th Floor, Chandrakol Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : GURGAON Date : 28.11.2018 Sd/- General Manager (Commercial)

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No. F. 22-1 / 2018-ES. 4
Government of India
**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
ES. 4 SECTION**

2019 COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Online application is invited from eligible Indian nationals for the "2019 Commonwealth Scholarship in the United Kingdom" for Masters or Doctoral degree program. For scholarship details and eligibility conditions, please visit www.mhrd.gov.in/scholarships.

(Note : Master Degree programs which are less than 2 years in duration of foreign universities are not equivalent to Master Degree in India.)

Applicants are required to apply online on both EAS and MHRD portals, the URL of which are :

i) Commonwealth Scholarship Comission's EAS portal https://fs29.formsite.com/m3nCYaUform62/form_login.html by **19.12.2018 (16:00 GMT)** and

ii) The Ministry of Human Resource Development Portal <http://proposal.sakshat.ac.in/scholarship> by **17.01.2019**.

davp - 21201 / 11 / 0011 / 1819

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RECRUITMENT AGAINST SCOUTS & GUIDES QUOTA

Employment Notice No. S&GQ 2018-19 Dated: - 01.12.2018
Online Closing date: 24.12.2018 (up to 23:59 hrs.)
Online applications are invited from Scouts & Guides persons having minimum educational and Scouts & Guides Qualification for recruitment in Grade Pay ₹1900 and ₹1800 against Scouts & Guides Quota 2018-19 on North Central Railway, till 23:59 Hrs of closing date for the quota/vacancies, as indicated below:

SN	Post	Scale of Pay	No of Post	Distribution
1	Group 'C'	₹ 5200-20200/- with corresponding Grade Pay ₹ 1900/-	02 (Two)	Over North Central Railway
2	(Erstwhile) Group-D	₹ 5200-20200/- with corresponding Grade Pay ₹ 1800/-	06 (Six)	02 post each for Allahabad, Agra and Jhansi Division

● The candidate may apply for Grade Pay ₹ 1900 or Grade Pay ₹ 1800, or both

● The above quota is open to all candidates provided that he/she is fulfilling the prescribed norms.

● Employment Notice alongwith prescribed format of application and other details, such as-Educational qualification, Age, Mode of Selection, Examination Fee, how to apply and other Important instructions are available in the issue of **Rozgar Samachar / Employment News, New Delhi dated 01 to 07 Dec. 2018** and also w.e.f **01.12.2018** at Railway Recruitment Cell / NCR / Ald's website-www.rrcd.org & www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

Chairman, 1180/18 FA Railway Recruitment Cell, NCR, Allahabad

f North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in railwaynorthcentral@CPNCR

Thieves cock a snook at police patrolling in Ganj

Decamp with cash, jewellery from SP state president's flat and Balrampur Gardens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Cocking a snook at police alacrity in Hazratganj, a highly secured zone of Lucknow, thieves targeted a wedding reception at Balrampur Gardens and also sneaked into the flat of Samajwadi Party's state president Naresh Uttam Patel in Mantri Awas some time on Monday night. The thieves decamped with cash, jewellery and other belongings from both the places. Left red-faced, the police expedited probe into both the cases, albeit without success.

As per reports, burglars broke into the Dalibagh flat (number 602 in Block A), allotted to Naresh Uttam, some time on Monday night. The incident came to light when Uttam's driver Jagat Narayan reached the flat around 5:10 am on Tuesday. "I found the locks broken but the door was closed

from inside. As the keys of the flat remain in possession of my boss and his gunner besides me, I called my boss. He sent two of his men there. When we broke open the door and entered the flat, the almirah door was lying flung open and articles strewn across the floor," Narayan told the police.

Hazratganj SHO RR Singh said Jagat Narayan lodged a complaint after which a case was registered in this connection. "Jagat Narayan did not give details of the articles and cash stolen and said it would be confirmed by Uttam," the SHO said. He added that sub-inspector Dharmendra had been assigned the case and asked to expedite the probe. Police sources said the thieves made off with cash and some important documents from the flat. While the Hazratganj police were preparing to start investigations into the case, a Wazirganj resident, identified as Mohammed Aquil, reached the police station with a complaint of theft at Balrampur Gardens where he had organised a wedding reception of his nephew on Monday night.

Aquil said that a bag containing cash and jewellery was stolen from the venue between 12:30 am and 1 am on

Wednesday. "The bag contained Rs 5 lakh that the guests offered as 'blessings' and jewellery worth lakhs of rupees. We searched for the bag in every nook and corner and also inquired from the staff there, but to no avail," he told the police.

Earlier, on November 23, unidentified miscreants had stolen stamps worth Rs 42,000, a computer and several case files from the chamber of senior advocate and general secretary of Lucknow Bar Association Suresh Pandey at Jahangirabad Mansion near Hazratganj crossing.

With two more incidents of theft coming to the fore in Hazratganj, locals flayed the Lucknow police for lax patrolling. "The police have yet to solve the theft at Jahangirabad Mansion. They are yet to obtain the CCTV footage even though my chamber is located close to Hazratganj crossing and the entire area is under CCTV surveillance," Pandey said.

Residents of the multi-storey Mantri Awas said a number of theft cases had taken place in different flats in the past. "The police have managed to crack just one or two cases so far," the residents said.

Duped by land shark, farmer attempts to set self on fire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Piqued at losing his land to a land shark in Pratapgarh district, a farmer attempted to immolate himself outside CM's residence under Gautampalli police station on Tuesday afternoon. However, the bid was foiled as police reacted just in the nick of time.

As per reports, the farmer, identified as Arun Kumar (56), reached outside the CM's residence and took out a bottle of kerosene from his bag. Before he could douse himself in kerosene, cops deployed there surrounded him and snatched the bottle from him.

Arun was taken to a hospital and later sent back to Pratapgarh in the custody of a police team from Pratapgarh. "Senior government officials were informed about the incident," a police

spokesman said. Arun told mediapersons that his land was grabbed by a land mafia of his village in 2014. "An FIR was been registered in this connection in Pratapgarh but the land shark started bullying him even as I did not get any help from the police as top officials are said to be in favour to the accused," he alleged.

He said he was left with no option but to immolate himself. "I thought it was the only way to get Pratapgarh police to hear my plea and help my children get back the land," he said. He added that he had no hope of as the Lucknow police passed the buck to Pratapgarh counterparts. "The cops told me that senior government officials had been apprised of my plight and they assured every possible help. I hope I get justice," he said.

Man shot at over old dispute

Lucknow (PNS): A group of miscreants shot at a man in Madaion when he was going to his in-laws' house on Monday night. While locals claimed that the man was shot at after he offered resistance to the miscreants eve-teasing his wife, police said the man was shot at over an old dispute.

Ajay Kapoor, along with his wife Sharda Kapoor, was going to his in-laws' house in Rahim Nagar on Monday night. When he reached near a factory in the area, a group of miscreants surrounded him from all sides. "They beat up my husband and misbehaved with me. Later one of them, identified as Kaushal Pandey of Preti Nagar of Madaion, opened fire at him," Sharda told the police. Madaion SHO Pradeep Singh said Ajay suffered firearm injuries on his right shoulder. "Ajay has been admitted to the KGMU Trauma

Centre where he is yet to be operated upon," he said, adding that the complainant had named Kaushal Pandey, Vipin Kumar, Chetan Singh, Ashutosh Tiwari, Raghvendra Pratap, Abhishek, Vivek and Shivam besides several others. "The police have registered a case of murderous assault and rioting while armed with weapons and on other counts. Efforts to nab other miscreants are on," he said.

He discounted the claims that the miscreants attacked the victim over eve-teasing. "Nothing of this sort has surfaced in the probe as yet. Further investigations are on," he explained. The SHO said the attackers were ruffians and would pick fights over minor issues. "Ajay had lodged a case against the accused in the past as well. It seemed that they attacked him in vengeance," he said.



Governor Ram Naik taking salute of cadets on NCC Day at Riverfront on Tuesday

Pioneer

Scientists bid to make available affordable herbal healthcare

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Scientists discussed ways for developing uniform protocols for documentation and scientific validation of local traditional herbal medicines for offering affordable healthcare products to people of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries.

Scientists and policy-makers from IORA countries who are attending a six-day international workshop on "Diversity, documentation, gene banking and database for medicinal plants", which began on Monday at the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), deliberated upon the issues related with the preparation of database on taxonomic information and available records of the traditional herbal medicines used in their local healthcare systems.

Opening up the subject for discussion, Dr K Ganeshaiah, former head of the department of Forestry and Environmental Science at the University of Advance Studies, Bengaluru, who has played an important role in the creation

of a database of digitalised inventory of biological resources of India for National Bio-resource Development Board of the Department of Biotechnology, demonstrated the functioning of various user-friendly tools and hyperlinks for knowledge retrieval from this mega database of India's plants and animal bio-resource. He asked the IORA delegates to use this information resource as a template to build upon their own databases and then come out with a unique data set of medicinal plants that are of common as well as unique to all IORA member states.

He also urged the scientists to pay more attention on building upon image-based identification systems for easy and correct identification of medicinal plants and assist the plant collectors and herbal practitioners in collecting and employing the correct raw material in the preparation of herbal drugs. He also demonstrated the working of a data set 'Vriksha Ayurveda', wherein the description of a medicinal plant can even be traced to shlokas in the old Vedic and

other Ayurvedic scriptures.

Harsha Hegde from National Institute of Traditional Medicines of Indian Council of Medical Research at Belagavi (Karnataka) emphasised the need for proper scientific documentation of local health practices (LHPs) that are of widely followed in all IORA nations. He said all documentation endeavours in the medicinal plants sector must start with compilation of information on popular traditional medicines and therapies that are being practiced by local healers.

The delegates visited National Seed and Field Gene Bank facility of medicinal plants situated at CIMAP. They were also given a practical orientation by AK Gupta on the indexing and preparation of passport data sheets of conserved biodiversity accessions in these gene banks. The delegates were also taken to Kukrail forest for a hands-on orientation on methods for sustainable plant collection from the wild assisted by Narendra Kumar and V Sundereshan of CIMAP.

Groom's uncle held for revelry firing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Revelers indulged in incessant firing during a marriage function in Saadatganj police area on Monday night, caring two hoots to the directive on complete ban on the same. Police came to know about the incident when a video went viral on social media and the activist pilloried them for turning a blind eye to the menace.

Left red-faced, the police on Tuesday arrested the

maternal uncle of the bridegroom in connection with the revelry firing. However, the bridegroom was given a clean chit. The police had earlier warned of action against bridegrooms if someone in their wedding opened fire.

The accused, identified as Siddiq of Nagam, came to Taj Marriage Hall to attend the marriage function of his nephew Rizwan. He started firing with his double-barrel gun, making the guests scared

out of their wits. There was a stampede-like situation at the venue and Siddiq fled the scene sensing danger.

SHO, Saadatganj, Neeraj Ojha said Siddiq was identified on the basis of a CCTV footage and was arrested. "We have recommended cancellation of his gun license," Ojha said. He admitted that the SSP had warned that the bridegrooms might also face jail term. "But in this case, the bridegroom was found to be innocent," he explained.

Assailants of BJP leader's kin identified

Lucknow (PNS): The Vibhuti Khand police identified the miscreant who had attacked BJP leader's kin Ankit who, along with a female friend, was partying at Tamasha Bar in Wave Mall on Saturday night. Gomti Nagar CO AC Srivastava said the accused, identified as Ajay Pratap Singh, is the son of a Sugarcane department official and belongs to Barabanki. He said Ajay's father Ashok Kumar Singh (52) was arrested for giving

shelter to the accused and help him flee. "We reached the house of Ajay, who was present there, on Monday night but Ashok helped him run away, so he was arrested," he explained.

Meanwhile, the Thakurganj police recovered a semi-developed foetus, wrapped in a polythene bag lying on roadside, on Tuesday morning. Police said it was the foetus of a girl child. "We sent the foetus for autopsy and further investigations are on," a police said.

GST hits woodwork, artificial flowers' sale



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

GST adversely affected traders of Woodwork from Saharanpur and the sellers of artificial flowers from Nagaland look towards Lucknow Mahotsav in the hope of some good sales. They admitted that the bumper sale at the Lucknow Mahotsav during the past few years had helped them in keeping their craft alive.

The Saharanpuri woodwork occupies a major portion of the Lucknow Mahotsav Grounds being run at the Smriti Upvan with some exquisite pieces in furniture which include sofas, side tables, swings, garden chairs and dining tables. The huge number of furniture pieces occupy the left side of the main cultural pandal. These carved pieces which are made of sagwan wood carry the look of a vibrant antique furniture which fits well in a royal ambience.

Mohammad Akhtar from Saharanpur while talking to 'The Pioneer' said that they work all the year round in order to showcase their stuff at the Mahotsav. "Since the implementation of the GST the woodcraft trade has been affected badly and we have begun to pin our hopes of survival on the sales at the Lucknow Mahotsav. The Mahotsav has never disappointed us in the past and will also not do so now. We are expecting bumper sales since we have seen in the past that all the stuff gets sold here at the time the Mahotsav concludes," he said. Akhtar said that the Lucknow Mahotsav had given them profits even at the time of demonetisation. "We faced the impact of GST and demonetisation in Saharanpur but not at Lucknow Mahotsav," he added.

He said that over the years they had changed the designs and fused the modern with the traditional. "We have brought sofas which like couches have one drooping shoulder and we have sofas with carvings which carry the latest designs and we have new designs in



the carvings also. The most expensive of the pieces is over Rs 1 lakh," he said. He admitted that a majority of the visitors want to retain the old look of the furniture. He admitted that there was an increase in the prices of the Saharanpuri furniture since last year because of the GST. "The increase is Rs 3000-4000 more than last year for every piece of furniture. The cost of wood has also added to the price. Earlier the wood which we procure from the mandi cost Rs 1,800 per foot and now it costs Rs 2,500 per foot which adds to the increase in the price of the final product," he said.

Similar views were shared by Aboli Wotsa from Nagaland who has set up a stall of artificial flowers. "The GST has impacted the flower trade very badly wherein the cost of the raw material has increased to a large extent. Whenever we buy any material we have to pay GST and also the transportation charges. However, we have not increased the prices of flowers which range from Rs 20 per piece to Rs 150 per stick," she said. Her flowers are made of some interesting stuff which include maize leaves and cloth that she has obtained from Thailand. The flowers are made of soft wood which is twirled and wrapped in floral shapes.

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Public Relations - North Central Railway

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMU TRAIN BETWEEN BUJAR-VARANASI-BUJAR

It is notified for the information of Railway Passengers that the Indian Railways have decided to introduce a New MEMU Train No. 63229/63230 to run between Buxar-Varanasi-Buxar as per the following timings and stoppages:-

63229/63230 Buxar-Varanasi-Buxar MEMU				
TRAIN NO. 63229		STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 63230	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
---	06:15	Buxar	22:00	---
06:25	06:26	Chausa	21:04	21:05
06:31	06:32	Baraklan Halt	20:58	20:59
06:38	06:40	Gahmar	20:51	20:53
06:45	06:46	Karahiya Halt	20:45	20:46
06:51	06:52	Bhadaura	20:39	20:40
06:57	06:58	Usia Khas Halt	20:33	20:34
07:05	07:07	Dildar Nagar	20:26	20:28
07:15	07:16	Darauli	20:17	20:18
07:24	07:26	Zamania	20:09	20:11
07:37	07:38	Dheena	19:58	19:59
07:45	07:46	Sakaldiha	19:46	19:47
07:55	07:56	Kuchma	19:38	19:39
08:50	08:55	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya	19:12	19:17
09:17	09:18	Vyasnagar	18:47	18:48
09:32	09:33	Kashi	18:37	18:38
09:45	---	Varanasi	---	18:25

Date of Regular Run : 63229 from Buxar and 63230 from Varanasi on 29.11.2018.

Note :- The inaugural Special run of Buxar - Varanasi MEMU will take place on 28.11.2018 with distinct train no. 03229 from Buxar at 15:00 hours to reach Varanasi at 18:00 hrs. While it's return special train no. 03230 will depart from Varanasi on 28.11.2018 at 19:35 hrs. to reach Buxar at 23:45 hours the same day.

Note : The Train No. 54267/54270 Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya - Varanasi - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya passenger will be cancelled permanently w.e.f. 29.11.2018

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Lucknow Mahotsav: Bhajan singers cast a spell

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Soft and soulful bhajans created a religious ambience at the Lucknow Mahotsav on Tuesday evening. Kishore Chaturvedi and Swati Rizvi set the tone for a melodious evening with some melodious bhajans. Young singer Maithili Thakur also had the audience spell-bound.

Chaturvedi made the evening entertaining by interspersing his bhajans with explanations and adding classical nuances to his notes. He also engaged the audience by asking them to sing 'Govind jai jai...' and 'Hanuman Chalisa...'

He started off with 'Japo Ram Ram Sri Ram...' and then sang a fast-paced bhajan 'Achatam Keshavam...', following it up with 'Kaun kehta hai Bhagwan aate nahi...' The duo also presented popular bhajans such as 'Payo ji maine...' and 'Jai Ram sukhdai...'

Maithili Thakur, who has



Swati Rizvi, Kishore Chaturvedi and Maithili Thakur performing at Lucknow Mahotsav on Tuesday



Pioneer

participated in several competitions and reality shows and has a huge fan following on social media, was the second singer of the evening, who made an instant connect with the audience as she performed along with her brothers.

She started off with 'Jo bhaje Hari...', following it up with 'Mera apki kripa...' and 'Aisi lagi lagana...'

While talking to *The Pioneer*, Maithili admitted that she herself was surprised that she had taken the social media

by storm. "I woke up one day to see my videos being shared on popular social networking pages," she said.

However, she admitted that it did not happen overnight and she had been preparing over the years. "I come from Bihar,

so I started singing in Maithali and then in other languages. I have been trained by my father and grandfather and we will be unfolding our talents in the coming days," she said.

Kishore Chaturvedi said that bhajans appealed to those

with a spiritual bent of mind. He admitted that there had been a change in the preference of listeners.

"Earlier, bhajans were mostly from literature and those that came from saints but now, we cannot sing them in a simple manner that we used to do earlier. We need to decorate them and explain the lyrics to the audience. It is similar to what a mother does when she gives medicine to her child. She mixes sweet drops with the bitter medicine which serves the purpose," he said. The singer said that he was singing at the Lucknow Mahotsav after a long time. "I was asked to perform earlier but it was mainly in the category of local performers, which I refused since I wanted to perform as a main artiste," he added. About his journey, he said he had dabbled into several kinds of genres and could also sing ghazals and Bollywood songs, but bhajan was his forte," he added.

Conference on plants and environmental pollution inaugurated



Governor Ram Naik at the conference on Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The 6th international conference on plants and environmental pollution, jointly organised by International Society of Environmental Botanists (ISEB) and National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow (NBRI), was inaugurated on Tuesday by Governor Ram Naik. The Governor welcomed all the delegates and distinguished scientists from all over the world. He said he hoped that the gathering would provide an opportunity to discuss and draft the solution for consistently increasing problems due to climate change and environmental pollution, affecting millions of people over the globe.

The Governor said that pollution not only affected plants but also indirectly affected insects and other animals dependent on plants, hence research was needed to find out the impact of pollution on plants and animal products used by humans in daily life. He also emphasised the need to find out new energy resources in order to meet out the energy demand in future in context to ever increasing human population and consistently changing

environmental conditions.

Earlier, NBRI director SK Barik welcomed all the guests and dignitaries and apprised them of the history and achievements of the institute.

Albert Reif from Institute of Forest Sciences, Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources, Albert-Ludwigs University (Freiburg, Germany), discussed the impacts of environmental pollution on vegetation. He discussed the importance of land use methods in forest conservation with examples of oak trees. On this occasion, the Governor also honoured nine scientists and researchers with the fellowship of International Society of Environmental Botanist (ISEB).

In a special session, INSA honorary scientist JS Singh delivered a lecture on current environmental crisis and discussed the impact of climate change and environmental pollution due to human activities. In other sessions of the day, various researchers presented their work through about 12 special lectures, 37 oral presentations and 85 posters. In the end, the vote of thanks was presented by ISEB secretary JS Singh

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा विधि विस्तार सूचना
इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं० 141/ वि.प्रा.म.प्र.ल./ 2018-19 जो कि दिनांक 20.11.2018 को खोली जानी थी अब बिन्ही अपरिहार्य कारणों से अब दिनांक 17.12.2018 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 18.12.2018 को 13.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। **अधीनस्थ अभियन्ता,** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड – प्रथम, उ० प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि०, कक्षा सं० 111 से 114, भूतल, पारेषण भवन, विभूति खण्ड-11, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक – 2338 दिनांक 27.11.2018, “राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये”

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा विधि विस्तार सूचना
इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं० 133/ वि.प्रा.म.प्र.ल./ 2018-19 जो कि दिनांक 27.11.2018 को खोली जानी थी अब बिन्ही अपरिहार्य कारणों से अब दिनांक 05.12.2018 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 06.12.2018 को 12.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। **अधीनस्थ अभियन्ता,** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड – प्रथम, उ० प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि०, कक्षा सं० 111 से 114, भूतल, पारेषण भवन, विभूति खण्ड-11, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक – 2338 दिनांक 27.11.2018, “राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये”

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि० ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना अनुमती पत्रों / ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्ध निविदायें दो भागों में दिनांक 24.12.2018 को 17.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है।
(1) ई-निविदा संख्या 15/वि.प्रा.ख./गो./ 2018-19: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अधीन 220 कं०वी० गोण्डा (220 कं०वी०) – गोण्डा (400 कं०वी०) इन्टरकनेक्टर लाइन के विनिर्माण टावर लोकेटरों पर सिट्टी की भारई सामग्री कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु० 1000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 26.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे, निविदा भाग-2 (प्राइज पाट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु० 118.00 (जी०एस०टी० सहित)।
(2) ई-निविदा संख्या 16/वि.प्रा.ख./गो./ 2018-19: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अधीन 132 कं०वी० उपकेंद्र तुलसीपुर पर 132/33 कं०वी० एल० एवं 250 कं०वी०/१० परिलैक के डेल्टा अभिगं सामग्री कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु० 1000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 26.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे, निविदा भाग-2 (प्राइज पाट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु० 118.00 (जी०एस०टी० सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क एवं ड्राफ्ट/मोडी अतिशायी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम – पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं० – 0181002100120697, IFSC Code – PUNB0018100, RTGS / N.E.F.T. के माध्यम से जमा कराई जानी है तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा जोख्य यूटीआर संख्या, खाते का नाम, निर्गतकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित चे-इन विलेज की स्कैन कापी, ईएमडी के लिए बैंक गारंटी की स्कैन कापी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन मेल की प्रतियाँ, ई-टेंडर प्रपत्रों के साथ ऑन लाइन अपलोड की जायेगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के भाग-1 में तकनीकी बिड (बैन कार्ड, इन्फार्मेशन रिटर्न, जी०एस०टी० पंजीकरण की रखा-प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव स्या-प्रमाणित छायाप्रति) का अनिवार्य है। धरोहर राशि / निविदा शुल्क न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का भाग-2 सिसमें दर्द हो जानी है, नही खोली जायेगी। भाग – 2 में दर्द एवं सांख्यिक नियम व शर्तें होनी चाहिये। हार्ड कापी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। निविदा का भाग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय भाग (प्राइज बिड दर्द एवं शर्तों) दिनांक 24.12.2018 को 17.00 बजे तक www.etender.up.nic.in पर खोलने के लिए अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 26.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे एवं भाग-2 (प्राइज पाट) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा / निविदाओं को अस्वीकार / विमाजित करने का अधिकार अधोस्तराधिकारों के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/निविदा राशि रॉलव व सराई निविदायें वसीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। **अतिशायी अभियन्ता,** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड उ०प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन लि०, 220 कं०वी० उपकेंद्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोण्डा। संख्या – 1891 / वि०प्रा०ख०/गो०/ई-टेंडरिंग/ 2018-19, संख्या-15 एवं 16/दिनांक-27.11.2018, “राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये”

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि० ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना
इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं० 133/ वि.प्रा.म.प्र.ल./ 2018-19 जो कि दिनांक 27.11.2018 को खोली जानी थी अब बिन्ही अपरिहार्य कारणों से अब दिनांक 05.12.2018 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 06.12.2018 को 12.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। **अधीनस्थ अभियन्ता,** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड – प्रथम, उ० प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि०, कक्षा सं० 111 से 114, भूतल, पारेषण भवन, विभूति खण्ड-11, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक – 2338 दिनांक 27.11.2018, “राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये”

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited (P U V V N L)
Purvanchal Vidyut Bhawan, Vidyut Nagar P.O. - D.L.W., Varanasi-221004. Tender Date Extension The tender invited for through e-tender no. EAV-113/18-19 the date of bid opening is hereby further extended and details for the same have been mentioned below : **Sl.No. 1. Tender Specification No. EAV-113/18-19, Material Name 11 KV HT XLPE CABLE (3x70 sq. mm.), Date & time for submission of tender documents Date : 10.12.2018, Time : 15:00 PM, Tender opening date & time Date : 11.12.2018, Time : 15:00 PM, Other terms and conditions shall remain same. (S.K.Bharati), Superintending Engineer (MM-I) No. 4756, Date 27.11.18, "Save electricity in the interest of Nation".**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, 3RD C.D.(M) U.P. JAL NIGAM, GHAZIPUR
Letter No.:1426/निविदा/74 Date-22/11/18
SHORT NOTICE TENDER
1. The e-bids are invited on behalf of the Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam from Contractors/firms registered in U.P. Jal Nigam in class "A" as in category of water supply scheme having required qualification, capabilities and experience for the Work of Construction of O H T, Pump House, Staff Quarter, Boundary Wall and its appurtenant Work and supply of Pipe for rising main & Distribution System and laying, jointing of rising main, and Distribution System, house connection & appurtenant works on item rate Turn Key contract basis under Kathar single Village Water Supply Scheme Block-Bhanwarkol Distt. Ghazipur. The interested bidder can apply online through the e-procurement portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> only from 27-11-2018 to 13-12-2018 (up to 5:00 PM). The Pre-bid meeting is to be held on 01-12-2018 at 03:00 Noon and said bid will be electronically opened on 14-12-2018 at 03:00 Noon in the presence of bidders or their authorised representatives in the Office of the Executive Engineer 3rd Construction Division (Maintenance), U.P. Jal Nigam, Ghazipur. The details of the works can be seen at the website www.upjn.org & <https://etender.up.nic.in> or in the Office of the Executive Engineer 3rd Construction Division (Maintenance), U.P. Jal Nigam, Ghazipur.

shades of blue and black and one can change the designs by rearranging sequins through the touch of the fingers," he said. Parmar said that they made cushion covers in different designs and in zardozi print which were totally hand-made.

He said that cushions would always be popular amongst the visitors and he had tried to use dazzling patchwork designs to attract the attention of the buyers. "The designs have to be something which are not available in the entire Mahotsav so that buyers can immediately pick up the wares," he said.

Akhtar Hussain from Lucknow, who has showcased items made of clay, terracotta and plaster of Paris, said that he had made tables which could be used as stools. "These can be used as pieces in furniture and cost Rs 1,050 and also as decoration pieces." In terms of other innovations he said



that they had also developed wood-like paints which give the clay decoration piece a wooden look. Akhtar said that the trend of using decoration pieces made of clay has increased over the years. "People want to use them because firstly they are cheaper than the decoration pieces

made of metal and secondly they can be disposed of easily when they become old," he added. He said that they prepared these products from the clay of the ponds and lakes and some of the stuff made of plaster of Paris was brought from Kolkata.

Ashfaq Ali, incharge of the

Youngsters dance away at Yuva Mahotsav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Yuva Mahotsav witnessed a dance competition amongst youngsters at the main pandal of Lucknow Mahotsav venue. The occasion saw the participation of more than 70 participants who had been shortlisted after the pre rounds held at Aishbagh Ramleela ground.

Key organiser Mayank Ranjan said that they had received an overwhelming response. "This not only showcases the talent of children but also the keen interest of parents. The participants were



seen dancing to different popular Bollywood numbers. This was followed by calligraphy and writing competitions," he added.

Meanwhile, the Tourism department is organising a Kite Mahotsav under the aegis of Lucknow Mahotsav. Neeraj Pahuja from the Tourism department said that the festival would be held on December 2 and 3 at 1090 Park and was slated to be a big attraction for both foreign and local tourists. He said Lucknow had a great Connect with kite-flying.

CITYBRIEFS

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

A special travelling exhibition, 'The Future of the Food: Pulses', was inaugurated at Regional Science City by director of Indian Institute of Pulses Research (Kanpur) N.P. Singh. Singh said it was a pleasure to inaugurate the exhibition for the benefit of students and general public. State-of-the-art technology has been used in the exhibition which focuses on why the pulses are important food and how they offer significant nutrition's and health advantages due to their high-protein and essential amino acid content besides being a source of complex carbohydrates and several vitamins and minerals. "In view of the biological nitrogen fixation capacity of most leguminous species, their ecological importance is likely to increase in future," he said.

SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

A sustainability exchange programme was inaugurated at Uma Hari Krishana Awasthi Hall of Lucknow University on Tuesday. Students of western Sydney, Australia, and



Australian university students at LU

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation, along with Regional English Language Office (RELO), on Tuesday started a five-day training programme for the promotion of English language knowledge and business communication for its newly recruited executives. The training programme was inaugurated by director of North India office of the US Embassy (New Delhi) Ariel Pollock at the Centre of Excellence for Training (CoET) auditorium in Transport Nagar Metro Depot. LMRC managing

director Kumar Keshav and other senior officials were present for addressing and encouraging the trainees. The objective of the training programme is to improve the English language proficiency, communication and soft skills of the executives (assistant managers) so that they can properly execute their work and issue clear directions within and outside the organisation. "In this era of globalisation and cross-cultural communication, such training programmes are vital for simplifying various barriers for cross-cultural exchanges," Pollock said.

SCHOOLSCAN

QUANTA COMES TO A CLOSE

The 4-day International Science Olympiad, 'Quanta-2018', organised by City Montessori Schools' Chowk campus, came to a close on Tuesday as the contests closed and the cultural presentations by participating teams took over, ending with the closing and prize distribution ceremony. The chief guest on the occasion was former judge of Allahabad High Court Justice Khemkaran, who formally inaugurated the closing and prize distribution ceremony and awarded trophies, medals and certificates to the winners. A cultural show was held in which the students of different countries gave expression to the mission of Quanta.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)	
ADMISSION TO THE POSTGRADUATE COURSES - 2019 SESSION	
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the following postgraduate degree/diploma courses of Ranchi University commencing from May, 2019 and conducted at this Institute.	
GROUP A	GROUP B
1. Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology Duration Qualification	- 4 seats- (NO RESERVATION) - 2 years - M.Phil (Medical & Social Psychology/Clinical Psychology) from any recognized University
2. M.Phil in Clinical Psychology Duration Qualification	- 12 seats (UR-06, OBC-03, SC-02, ST-01) - 2 years - M.A./M.Sc. in Psychology regular course of a recognized University with minimum 55% marks for UR and 50% marks for SC, ST & OBC in aggregate.
GROUP C	GROUP D
3. M.Phil in Psychiatric Social Work Duration Qualification	- 12 seats (UR-06, OBC-03, SC-02, ST-01) (02 PH) - 2 years - M.A. in Sociology or Master in Social Work regular course of a recognized University with minimum 55% marks for UR and 50% marks for SC, ST and OBC in aggregate.
4. Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing Duration Qualification	- 15 seats (UR-08, OBC-04, SC-02, ST-01) (02 PH) - One year - 'A' Grade Certificate or Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery.
15%, 7% and 27% seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and OBC candidates respectively, subject to availability of such candidates. There shall also be 3% horizontal reservation for physically-handicapped persons (only for locomotor disabilities of lower limbs between 50% to 70% or as per the Govt. of India Rules in this regard) subject to availability of such candidates. If candidate is not available between 50% to 70% then 40% to < 50% may be considered for Physically handicapped category. If suitable candidates are not available under the reserved categories, seats will be filled up by un-reserved category candidates. There is no reservation in Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology course.	
Candidates who are seeking reservation benefit in the OBC category should submit a certificate as per DOPT O.M. No. 36033/1/2013-Estt.(Res.), dated 13.9.2017.	
The application form is to be submitted electronically ONLY by internet to CIP website: www.cipranchi.nic.in on or before December 28, 2018. Hard copy of the application form will not be entertained. Payment has to be made through online transfer.	
Examination Fee :-	
a. For Unreserved and OBC candidates	:- Rs.400/- (Rs. Four Hundred) only
b. For SC/ST candidates	:- Rs.300/- (Rs. Three Hundred) only
The amount should be paid online in the Bank of Baroda, Kanke Branch in favour of "Account Name:- Fellowship & Scholarship, Account No.:- 26260200000167, IFSC code is BARB0KANKEE (fifth character is Zero and MICR code is 834012004. Please note that the examination fee is non-refundable.	
From the pool of applicants' suitable candidates would be asked to appear for a written examination and interview/practical at this institute, which shall be between February 17 th to 22 nd 2019. The last date for joining the courses is May 31 st , 2019. The candidates are strongly advised to visit the C.I.P. website from time to time for relevant information and instructions. Please download the prospectus of respective course and go through it carefully before filling-up the application form.	
Please visit www.cipranchi.nic.in for details regarding this advertisement.	
Sd/- Director Central Institute of Psychiatry	

No space for talent in dynastic Cong: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Tuesday accused the Congress of considering “sur-name as a political brand” as he waded into the controversy triggered by the Opposition party that launched personal attacks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Jaitley said the BJP will “gladly accept” the challenge of 2019 general elections if the Congress wants it to be between Modi — the son of lesser-known parents — and someone who is known for his parentage rather than capacity, merit and competence.

In a Facebook post titled “What was the name of Sardar Patel’s father”, Jaitley said in a dynastic party like the Congress, talent and merit has no space and the crowd around the family is the cadre.

Jaitley’s post comes against



“The reason for this is simple. Decades of Congress rule, naming colonies, localities, cities, bridges, airports, railway stations, schools, colleges, universities, stadiums after one family was intended to declare the ‘Gandhis’ as India’s royalty

the backdrop of some Congress leaders naming family members of Modi. Jaitley said while the age of the Prime Minister’s mother was made a subject matter of the electoral debate, his father’s anonymity was commented upon as an inadequate credential of the Prime Minister.

“The debate whether India should be a dynastic democracy has been ignited by a self-goal of the Congress Party... The argument given was that if

you represent the legacy of a well-known family, it is a political point in your favour.

Millions of talented political workers who come from modest family backgrounds would fail by the Congress test of leadership. Merit, talent, ability to inspire and lead would not be a virtue. The Congress considers only a great surname as a political brand,” Jaitley added.

He said even his “well-informed friends” did not have

a “definitive answer” when asked to name Mahatma Gandhi’s father, Sardar Patel’s father or his wife.

“The reason for this is simple. Decades of Congress rule, naming colonies, localities, cities, bridges, airports, railway stations, schools, colleges, universities, stadiums after one family was intended to declare the ‘Gandhis’ as India’s royalty. They were ‘officially glorified’ as the blue-blooded family of India. The others did not matter,” Jaitley said.

Mahatma Gandhi’s father was Karamchand Uttamchand Gandhi, while Sardar Patel’s wife’s name was Diwali Ba and father was Jhaverbhai Patel.

He said although Sardar Patel, who was a frontline leader of the freedom movement and was the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India, negotiated the transfer of power with the

British, the Congress Government rejected the proposal to build his statue at Vijay Chowk in the national Capital.

“The country had to be satisfied with installation of his statue at traffic round-about on Parliament Street,” Jaitley said.

He said the dangers of officially glamourising one family at the cost of those who made a far greater contribution “is dangerous” both for the nation as also for the party to which they belong.

“The contribution of other great stalwarts like Patel and Subhash Chandra Bose is downplayed. Members of one family are projected as larger than life. Their aberrations become national aberrations. The party adopts them as its ideology,” Jaitley added.

He said the silver lining is that country is changing and aspirational India judges parties and leaders very harshly.

Security up as 5 terrorists on prowl to hit Capital

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In what has sent the security agencies into a tizzy, a group of five Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists has infiltrated into the national Capital and is suspected to be planning to hit vital installations.

The group is also suspected to have procured arms to execute its insidious plan, according to alert issued by the Intelligence agencies.

The group is in touch with an arms supplier operating out of Nepal and Saudi Arabia, an Intelligence Bureau report has warned.

Following the IB alert, the security agencies have been put on a high alert and security has been beefed up at all vital installations in Delhi, National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining States.

The five members of the group include — Abu Musaib, Abu Azhar, Rehman Afghani, Abu Wakeel and Saifulah Bhai. The group members reached the national Capital earlier this month and after collation of inputs by the agencies, a high level alert was issued on November 18.

The group also includes two over ground workers (OGWs), one each from Sopore and Anantnag in Jammu & Kashmir. The weapon provider Jaffer Rizwan operates both from Saudi Arabia and Nepal and has links with the JeM group hiding in Delhi, says the alert.

All stakeholders in security establishment, including Central paramilitary forces, the Delhi Police and others have been advised to take maximum precaution and remain on high alert.

Security at all sensitive installations, including the airport and Delhi Metro besides Government buildings have been further strengthened in view of the alert, officials said.

Latest sinister plan of Jaish comes amid inputs that Pakistan-based group’s chief Maulana Masood Azhar has successfully undergone kidney implant at a military hospital in Pakistan. The outfit’s bid to hit Delhi also comes against the backdrop of the setback it has suffered at the hands of security forces in J&K over last one year.

Inputs here also suggest the bid to target Chinese consulate in Karachi was a ploy by the outfit to assert its presence in disturbed Baluchistan region.

Sources said JeM and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) are part of the security architecture put in place by the Pakistani agencies ISI and Pakistan Army for security of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Chinese Government reimburses the security expenditure incurred on securing the CPEC. The attack could be aimed at seeking more funds from China for securing the CPEC by citing grave challenge from the Baloch insurgents.

Sushma holds talk with Romanian Foreign Min

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held wide-ranging talks with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu to strengthen ties between two countries during his four-day visit to India. During the discussions, Sushma highlighted the constructive cooperation between the two countries on international and bilateral issues, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Sushma expressed India’s commitment towards strengthening of existing bilateral ties

and broadening its scope, it said.

Melescanu also reaffirmed Romania’s support for a permanent seat for India in a reformed UNSC.

“The two sides reiterated the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council,” the statement said. Romania will take over the Presidency of the European Council in January 2019. The Romanian Foreign Minister also met the deputy national security advisor during his visit from November 23-27. **PTI**



Minister of State (MoS) for Railways Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated the General Meeting of All India Station Masters' Association (AISMA) in the national Capital. Over 3,000 station masters, including Lady Station Masters from across 7,500 stations of 68 divisions of Indian Railways' network, participated in the two-day event. Minister for Heavy Industries (State) Babul Supriyo, national vice-president BJP Shyam Jajoo, Chairman Railway Board Ashwani Lohani and Secy General AIRF Shiv Gopal Mishra and other Railway Board dignitaries were present on the occasion

BIHAR SHELTER HOME ABUSE

SC slams State for ‘inhuman’ approach, favours CBI probe

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday termed as “very shameful” and “inhuman” the conduct of Bihar Government in not taking appropriate action following the allegations of physical and sexual abuse of children at several shelter homes and favoured a CBI investigation in these matters.

A Bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur said the State was “very soft” and “very selective” in registering FIRs against the perpetrators and asked the Bihar Government whether these children were not the citizens of this country.

The apex court also asked the counsel appearing for the Bihar Government as to why FIRs have not been lodged under Section 377 (unnatural offences) of the IPC despite there being allegations that children were sodomised at the shelter homes.

“What are you doing? This is very shameful. You may have filed a detailed affidavit (in the court) but if a child is sodomised, you cannot say that it is nothing. How can you do this? This is inhuman,” the bench, also comprising justices SA Nazeer and Deepak Gupta, told State’s counsel. During the hearing, Justice Gupta

observed, “Every time I read this file, I am hit by the tragedy of the case. It is tragic.”

The Bench said after going through the allegations and the manner in which state police was dealing with them, “We are of the view that the state police is not doing its job as is expected. We would like the CBI to deal with these allegations.”

The counsel representing the CBI, which is already probing the Muzaffarpur shelter home case in Bihar where several women inmates were allegedly raped and sexually abused, said he would seek instructions on the issue by Wednesday.

‘Vote against BJP if demands not met’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Mizoram, farmer leaders and social activists have appealed that farmers should not vote for the BJP if their demands are not fulfilled. They said, “*Note bandi ka jawab, kisan vote bandi se denge* (farmers will respond to Modi Government’s demonetisation decision by not giving their vote to it)”.

Thousands of farmers from across the country are expected to assemble at Ramnala Maidan on November 29 and march to Parliament street the next day to demand a special joint Session of Parliament to discuss agrarian crisis. They are covering more than 10,000 km across 21 States. The march is expected to be second major



farmer’s protest in the national Capital in two months.

“Farmers should vote to those who will fulfill their demands,” said noted activist Medha Patkar and Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav in a Press conference on Tuesday.

“Despite PM Modi’s recent statements that he had taken initiatives to solve farmers’ distress, the issues remain. For this betrayal, farmers will give Modi

(AIKSCC) leaders said.

The farmers march demands that the two Kisan Mukti Bills — for guaranteed remunerative prices and for freedom from indebtedness — be debated and approved in Parliament. A cultural programme ‘Ek Sham Kisan Ke Naam’ dedicated to farmers would be held at the Ramnala ground on the first day of the congregation, where prominent singers Jasbir Jassi, Rabbi Shergil, Hari Om Panwar, Bhanga group of Jalandhar and Asmita theatre group will perform.

Leaders of all non-BJP political parties have been invited for the November 30 rally at Parliament Street. The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar have also been invited for the meeting. All Indian Kisan Sangarsh Coordination Committee

SC asks SIT to file fresh report on ex-CBI chief



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked CBI’s Special Investigation Team (SIT) to file a fresh status report giving details of probe into charges of “abuse of official position” by former CBI chief Ranjit Sinha who had allegedly tried to scuttle the probe in coal scam cases.

The top court also asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI to file their updated status reports on pending coal scam cases and the stages of their trial.

A special bench headed by Justice M B Lokur, monitoring the probe by the CBI and the ED into the coal scam cases, asked the SIT to file a status report on probe into the charges against Sinha.

“Scope of investigation of SIT has been confined to investigate the abuse of authority committed by Ranjit Sinha with a view to scuttle the inquiry and investigation conducted by the CBI in coal scam cases. The status report is upto January 15, 2018. Latest report till December 31, 2018 be filed by on or before January 15, 2019,” said the bench also comprising Justices Kurian Joseph and A K Sikri.

Scientists successfully grows ‘Monk fruit’ on Indian soil

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian scientists have successfully grown the Chinese ‘Monk fruit’ in Himachal Pradesh’s Palampur district. Monk fruit, which hails from China, has high nutritious value, low calories and sweetness that comes from a natural compound that does not increase blood sugar, making it safe for consumers with diabetes.

Probably in first-of-its kind efforts, scientists from the Indian Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (IHBT), a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) lab, are now busy working towards development of good agricultural practices and vari-



etal improvement of the Monk fruit. They hope to make it available for sale in Indian market soon for the diabetic patients and manufacturers seeking a low-calorie ingredient.

“Since India is home to 62.4 million people with diabetes Type 2, this is wondrous fruit for them. We have been successful in our experiments at our farms. “Now, we are focus-

ing for process technology and product development (extract) from Monk fruit. We hope intense sweeteners made from the juice of this fruit will soon be available in the market,” said Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director CSIR-IHBT, Palampur.

Dr Probir Kumar Pal, Senior Scientist, IHBT explained that “Keeping in mind importance and essen-

tiality of non-nutritive natural sweetener, and diverse agro-climatic conditions here, we introduced its seeds from China through NBPGR-ICAR early this year.

After intense research, the quality fruits have also been harvested at Institutional Experimental Farm.

“Now, a team of scientists including agronomist, chemist, plant breeder and molecular biologist from the IHBT are intensively working towards development of good agricultural practices and varietal improvement,” Dr Pal said.

Though Monk fruit is the native of China, this plant is not commercially cultivated even in the neighbouring country due to lack of proper agro-tech-

nique, suitable cultivar and scientific knowledge. Here we have successfully grown it by ensuring adequate climatic conditions and agro-techniques.”

In spite of high demand for non-caloric sweeteners from natural sources, Monk fruit accounts for a small share of the alternative sweetener market, remaining at about 2.2 per cent in natural sweetener markets. Thus, the market share of monk fruit is small because of the limited supply.

However, global demand is gradually on increase in view of rising number of diabetes and obese. According to an estimate, the global market for Monk fruit is expected to generate ₹379.4 million revenue by the end of 2026, said Dr Pal.

Varun Gandhi pens ‘A Rural Manifesto’ with rural distress

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Away from the political slugfest, BJP MP Varun Gandhi has penned a massive 870-page book exploring reasons of rural indebtedness, deepening distress, slowing down of agriculture growth and income, failure of ‘Mandi system’, decrease in land-holdings, rising suicides by farmers even as he seeks to find out why rural economy is in shambles even after over six-decades of independence and ‘dives deep’ to look at the root causes” and solutions.

“This is a solution-oriented academic critique. The book is blameless in its scope and seeks to find out how to solve a problem,” said the BJP MP,



“My primary concern is that farmers, labourers, weavers and others vote their concerns rather than vote religion, region or their caste. Then politicians would also react to their concerns swiftly

who has been away from the political blitzkrieg his party has unleashed in the States undergoing the poll process.

The book — *A Rural Manifesto-Realising India’s future through her villages* — according to the BJP MP, “The feasibility of an Indian village as an independent socio-economic entity, capable of sus-

taining itself independent of external linkages.”

Varun argues that for several centuries farmers were the real strength behind Indian economy, generating agriculture surplus and trade revenues brought in by its rural entrepreneurs in handicrafts, calico and metal work but suddenly over last couple of centuries

“India’s natural competitive advantage had vanished”.

“Our agricultural techniques grew outdated, our handicrafts, once pillaged by the British, found fewer and fewer markets. Such an event draws natural questions — how did India’s demographic change transform its rural economy,” he questions in the book.

It focuses on the impact of rising prices of agricultural inputs, availability of water, soil suitability and pest management, highlighting the narrow window of economic benefit for the marginal farmer.

The well-researched book that goes back and forth into the historical incidents of farmers movements, including that led by Mahatma Gandhi in

Champaran, Bihar, explores what it means to be a marginal farmer in present days, while providing solutions to improving the economic viability of marginal farming and highlighting the role non-farm income plays in supplementing oneself below the poverty line.

Asked whether he would present a copy of the book to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Varun said, “Yes, of course!” He went on to say that there would not be any formal release of his tome. “I would be going across the country with 14 lectures, the first being at IIM Ahmedabad, second IIT Mumbai and third at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore,” he said. His lecture series would begin from November 30.

On the possibility of ruling elites and political parties taking a leaf out of his book, the Sultanpur MP said, “My primary concern is that farmers, labourers, weavers and others vote their concerns rather than vote religion, region or their caste. Then politicians would also react to their concerns swiftly,” said the BJP MP and sought to move away from controversies.

He said the idea of writing book came from the hinterland of the country during his travel, campaigning and meeting students of universities in States.

Would you be applying the solutions (in the book) to your own constituency? “In 2009, I decided I would give my MP’s salary to the family where a sui-

INSHORT

OPP: NO CITIZENSHIP ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS

New Delhi: Bangladeshi nationals, including Hindus, should not be granted citizenship as proposed in the Citizenship Amendment Bill, Opposition members on Tuesday suggested saying India is a secular country and nationality should not be granted on the basis of religion, sources said. The suggestion was given by the Congress and other Opposition members at a meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the bill which is chaired by BJP MP Rajendra Agrawal, a source who was present in the meeting said.

SoP ON CHILD ABUSE IN PROCESS: CENTRE TO SC

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that it was in the process of preparing a standard operating procedure (SoP) to address the problems of abuse and violence against children, including those living in child care institutions (CCIs) across the country.

SUBMIT REPORT ON NANDINI SUNDAR: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Chhattisgarh Government to apprise it of the status of investigation in the murder case registered against social activist and the Delhi University professor Nandini Sundar and others in three weeks.

ANOTHER CHARGESHEET FILED IN 1993 BLAST



New Delhi: The CBI has filed a supplementary chargesheet in the 1993 Bombay blasts case against key accused Ahmed Kamal Shaikh, who was part of a conspiracy meeting attended by Dawood Ibrahim in Dubai to execute the deadliest terror attack in India. Shaikh alias Ahmed Lambu, alias, Khalid Kamal Shaikh, absconding since 1993 and nabbed on June 1, is in judicial custody.

‘OUSTED’ KERALA MLA CAN ATTEND HOUSE: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed KM Shaji, Kerala MLA of Indian Union Muslim League who was disqualified by the High Court for making communal remarks during 2016 Assembly polls, to take part in the house proceedings without voting rights and salary.

Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) under the aegis of the Health Ministry.

His ministerial colleague Anupriya Patel said that it is important to understand that in India it is mainly the living donors who are donating organs and only about 23 per cent of the organ transplant is being done with organs obtained from the cadavers.

“There is a need to promote cadaver or deceased organ donation rather than relying on living donors in order to avoid the risk of commercial trading of organs and also to avoid the inherent risk to the health of the living donor,” she added.

side happened. This went on for three years. But that had a limited scope, only few benefited in Sultanpur and surrounding districts,” he explained.

Varun said he, thereafter, worked with district administration, identified all farmers in debt who could potentially commit suicide and worked out a plan for 26 districts. “For example, we asked farmers to grow pulses instead of paddy which needed water and crowd-funded ₹30 crore in 2015-16 for them”.

On farmers burning stubble contributing to pollution and air quality in Delhi, he argued cost of stubble processing is ₹6,000 whereas penalty of burning is about ₹2,500 per acre making “economic sense”.

NITISH'S 'NEECH' COMMENT

Bihar CM says remark not against Kushwaha

FAIZAN AHMAD ■ PATNA

Last Chief Minister Nitish Kumar clarified on his neech (below standard) remarks he allegedly hurled at Union Minister and RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha which created a brouhaha in political circles and gave opportunity to his bete noire and his supporters to mount attack on him.

At the JD(U) legislature party meeting on Monday late evening, Nitish said he never used this word against anybody. He said a TV news channel distorted and gave wrong colour to what he had said about the level of debate.

He said, "A TV channel invited me at its programme and wanted to discuss development issues. I had said that no political questions should be asked. But the anchor started asking political questions. I raised question on the standard of the channel and said that the media house should not stoop so low (*Utna neech star par nahi utarna chahiye*). My comment was not aimed at any individual."

The comment had come when the anchor asked him about the charges of Kushwaha against him. The RLSP chief who is struggling to negotiate with BJP leadership on seat sharing and found himself cornered, tried to take advantage of the situation by accusing Nitish that he called him "neech".

While he demanded a clarification from Nitish, his sup-



porters protested and leaders of some other parties like Jitan Ram Manjhi, Shivanand Tewari and Arun Kumar supported Kushwaha and attacked the CM. Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi went on record saying that the remark was not against Kushwaha or anybody else and that he was present at that programme. He also accused RLSP leader of raking up a non-issue for political gain.

The clarification of Nitish is unlikely to satisfy Kushwaha because he too knows that the CM had not called him name and that he used this opportunity only to malign the JD(U) president and make an issue in bargaining seat sharing.

But despite all his efforts and antics, Kushwaha has emerged to be a loser. His both MLAs Lalan Paswan and Sudhanshu Shekhar have turned against him and were seen at the meeting of the BJP legislature party on Monday.

They said that they are in RLSP and NDA and Kushwaha is free to go anywhere. They also claimed that party's sym-



bol ceiling fan is theirs. Paswan refused to accept Kushwaha as president of RLSP and said he ceased to hold the post. Both of them also have called on Nitish.

"RLSP is already divided but Kushwah should say who is insulting him," said Paswan and added that when Kushwaha failed to have control over his three MPs and two MLAs how he could rule Bihar.

After failing to get an appointment with BJP chief Amit Shah, the RLSP leader said he is seeking time from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the poll issues and seat sharing. Kushwaha who had earlier given a deadline of November 30 to the BJP to take a decision, urged the PM to give him appointment between November 27-30.

The political circles here said that an appointment or no appointment with the PM would clear how much weight the BJP leadership was giving to him. In the first week of December the RLSP has called a meeting at Motihari to chart out future course of action.

Pandemonium in Bihar Houses over law & order

PNS ■ PATNA

Business came to a standstill in both Houses of Bihar legislature on Tuesday, the first working day of the week-long short winter session, as the Opposition forced their adjournment motions and debate on law and order situation. But their moves were turned down in the Assembly as well as in the Council leading to turmoil and slogan shouting.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav said the criminals were ruling the roost and administration was sleeping. "Deputy CM Sushil Modi is appealing the criminals with folded hands not to commit crime. The law and order situation is at its nadir. Police is mute spectator and criminals of RSS and BJP are creating social tension and lynched an old person in Sitamarhi recently and burned him alive and against the wishes of his kin buried him in Muzaffarpur," said Yadav and sought reply from the CM who was not present in the House.

He said questions related to the departments held by the CM were not being answered. Nitish also hold home department. Amid the slogan shout-out and waving of placards by RJD legislators, he said there was total breakdown of law and order and even Supreme Court was reprimanding Bihar Government.

Leader of opposition in the Upper House Rabri Devi said Nitish should feel ashamed as his Government was being run by criminals and such elements were being protected

His mother and leader of opposition in the Upper House Rabri Devi said Nitish should feel ashamed as his Government was being run by criminals and such elements were being protected.

In the council adjournment notice was pushed by RJD chief whip Subodh Kumar who said gang rape of minor girls, kidnapping, murder and communal violence were order of the day.

Despite the request by the chair in both houses the opposition members continued standing in the Well of the houses and raising slogans forcing the adjournment in both sessions.

Parliamentary affairs Minister Shrawan Kumar said, "Our Government is ready to accept their demand, hold debate on whatever issues they want and reply but they should raise any issue as per parliamentary norms and rules. But they have no faith in parliamentary democracy and its institutions."

Mizoram polls litmus test for Lal Thanhawla

BJP looks to uproot Cong from last bastion in NE

PTI ■ AIZAWL



Polling in Mizoram will be held on Wednesday with over 7.7 lakh voters expected to exercise their franchise in the State where Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla is seeking a third consecutive term and the BJP looking to uproot the Congress in its last bastion in the North-east.

The Congress and the Mizoram National Party (MNF) have ruled Mizoram since 1987 when it became a full-fledged state. Interestingly, no party has been able to form Government thrice since that year.

Elections to the 40-member assembly in Mizoram, which has a population of about 10 lakh, is significant for the BJP that considers it to be the 'final frontier' in the region.

In the 2013 elections, the Congress had won 34 seats, while its main opposition, the Mizo National Front (MNF), got five and the Mizoram People's Conference bagged one seat.

The Congress and the MNF have fielded 40 candidates each, while the BJP is contesting in 39 seats. The Zoram Peoples Movement (ZPM), an alliance formed by two political parties and four groups, is contesting in 35 seats.

A total of 209 candidates are in fray for the November 28 polls and the fate of the candidates would be decided by 7,70,395 voters, which include 3,94,897 women.

Electronic voting machines (EVMs) will be used in the polling that would begin at 7 am and end at 4 pm.

Ahead of elections, the state witnessed intense protests by civil society groups over the place of voting for 12,026 Bru voters. The issue led to replacement of Chief Electoral Officer SB Shashank in less than two weeks before the polls.

Ashish Kundra, who replaced Shashank, said on Monday that the Election Commission has made extensive preparations for the Brus lodged in six relief camps of Tripura to cast their votes at Kanhmun village in Mamit district where 15 temporary polling stations have been set up. The village is located on the state's border with Tripura. "The people of Kanhmun

village have even erected a welcome gate at the border expressing heartiest welcome to Bru voters," Kundra said.

Campaigning in the state saw paradigm shift this election season with political parties making extensive use of social media platforms like Facebook and Whatsapp to woo young voters.

The ruling Congress banked heavily for the elections on its flagship New Land Use Policy (NLUP), which brought the party to power for two consecutive terms.

The campaign had reached its peak in the final week with the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Amit Shah and Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

Other prominent leaders who campaigned in the state included Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh, National People's Party (NPP) leader and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma.

SABARIMALA ROW

Rehana Fathima held for 'hurting religious sentiments'

Kochi: Activist Rehana Fathima, who had attempted to enter the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala when it opened for monthly puja last month, was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through her Facebook posts, police said. Fathima (32) was arrested from her office in Palarivattom in Kochi, they said.

The activist, a BSNL employee, was booked by police in Pathanamthitta on a complaint by Radhakrishna Menon, alleging that some of her Facebook posts hurt religious sentiments.

She was booked under IPC Section 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs). She was later taken to Pathanamthitta after her arrest, police said.



Meanwhile, a BSNL spokesperson said Fathima was suspended from service in view of the police investigation against her. Considering the protest against her by devotees of Lord Ayyappa and BJP activists, the BSNL had earlier transferred her to the Palarivattom telephone exchange in the city where public contact is not required.

A controversy had erupted in Kerala after Fathima made an

attempt to enter the Sabarimala temple when it was opened for monthly puja in October following the Supreme Court order allowing entry of women in the age group of 10-50.

Anticipating arrest, she had moved the high court seeking anticipatory bail, but it was rejected.

Dismissing the plea, the court had directed that police could take appropriate steps in

the case. Fathima, who was also part of the 'Kiss of Love' movement in Kochi in 2014 against alleged moral policing, was among the two women who had reached the hilltop on October 19 but had to return before reaching the sanctum sanctorum due to massive protests by Ayyappa devotees. Fathima and Hyderabad-based journalist Kavitha were taken to the hills under heavy police protection. Some young women who tried to enter the temple were targeted by devotees when the temple was opened for six days on October 17 for the first time after the apex court order.

On September 28, the Supreme court had lifted the centuries-old ban on the entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine, but a section of devotees is protesting the decision. **PTI**

Protests to continue until Section 144 is lifted, says UDF

Thiruvananthapuram: The Congress-led UDF on Tuesday announced that it will continue the protests till the Kerala police withdrew the prohibitory orders enforced in Sabarimala.

The decision was conveyed by the United Democratic Front (UDF) convenor Benny Behanan to the media here, soon after the liaison committee of the leadership met here.

"We have decided that our protests will continue till the prohibitory orders in the temple town in Sabarimala are lifted. Our protests will be seen both inside and outside the Assembly," said Behanan.

The business session of the state assembly begins on Wednesday.

The Kerala Police on Monday extended Section 144 of the CrPC that prohibits assembly of more than four persons in one place, till November 30.

Sabarimala town has been witnessing repeated protests ever since the September 28 verdict of the Supreme Court that allowed women of all ages to enter the temple that hitherto banned girls and women aged 10-50.

The apex court had on November 13 refused to stay its earlier order, three days before the temple opened for a two-month long season.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government-led by the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) has been trying to implement the top court's order even as the Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party and several Hindu groups have been up in arms against it.

Behanan added that there was "an unholy alliance

between the Pinarayi Vijayan government and the BJP/RSS forces".

"Vijayan and the Sangh Parivar forces are hand-in-glove and the former has

given the chance to the latter to get glorified through their protests and arrests of their leaders.

"This is a ploy by the two forces. We have had a consis-

tent stand on the Sabarimala issue.

"We will not withdraw our protest till the prohibitory order is withdrawn," Behanan added. **IANS**

Kerala Assembly Speaker rejects Congress legislator's private Bill on temple entry

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Assembly Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan has disallowed the introduction of a private Bill by a Congress legislator in the Assembly on the issue of entry of women of all age into the Sabarimala temple.

The Bill, urging the LDF Government to consider devotees of Lord Ayyappa as a separate religious group and a new legislation to protect their traditional rituals and customs, was proposed by Kovalam MLA M Vincent.

The Speaker's office told PTI that the private bill was

rejected based on the advice of the Law Department that a legislation in this regard would be "unconstitutional" and against the September 28 apex court verdict, permitting women of all age groups into the hill shrine.

"The Speaker used to refer the private bills to the Law Department to know whether such bills had constitutional backing. We had sent this proposed bill on Sabarimala also to the state Law secretary for legal scrutiny," an official said.

"According to the Law Secretary, such a bill is uncon-

stitutional and not qualified to be presented in the House as it will be against the Supreme Court verdict," the official said. The Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa Temple has been witnessing intense protests by devotees and right-wing activists against the CPI(M)-led LDF Government's decision to implement the apex court verdict.

The 13th session of the Kerala Assembly, which got underway here Tuesday, was adjourned for the day as a mark of respect to MLA P B Abdul Razak, who passed away recently. The session is expected to be

stormy as the Opposition Congress-led UDF and the BJP have announced that they would rake up the Sabarimala issue in the House.

Meanwhile, a crucial UDF meeting here decided to stall proceedings of the 13 day-long assembly session till the Pinarayi Vijayan government withdraws the prohibitory orders invoked by police in Sabarimala and surrounding areas. A BJP statement said here that the saffron party would cooperate with the P C George-led Kerala Jana Paksham in the ongoing assembly session on the Sabarimala issue. **PTI**

Three terrorists, soldier killed in J&K encounter

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Three terrorists and a soldier died on Tuesday in two encounters in south Kashmir where security forces had launched a massive counter-insurgency campaign and neutralised 16 terrorists in less than a week's time.

Police said that a joint search operation was launched by a joint team of Rashtriya Rifles, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and counter-insurgency police in Redwani village of Kulgam district in the wee hours on Tuesday following input on the presence of terrorists.

While the security personnel zeroed in on a suspected house, the hiding terrorists



Villagers attend the funeral of one of the terrorists who belonged to the Ansar Ghazwatul Hind, an ISIS offshoot at Reshi Pora village, Tral of Pulwama district, on Tuesday. Three terrorists, including one from an ISIS offshoot, and a soldier were killed in two encounters in J&K

tified as Ajaz Ahmad Makroo and Waris Ahmad Malik, both local residents.

Police said Makroo as had a long history of crime records since 2017. "He (Makroo) was a close associate of terrorist commanders including Naveed Jatt and Azad Dada. Several cases were registered against him," police said.

Police said that an Army soldier, identified as Prakash Yadav and two CRPF personnel identified—sub-inspector Amit Kumar and Constable Avnish—sustained injuries. Yadav succumbed to his injuries in hospital later. This is second fatal casualty on army's side since last three days.

On Monday, Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani, a former

counterinsurgent turned army soldier, who was twice awarded Sena Medal for his role in fighting terrorism in Kashmir, was killed in an encounter in Batagund village of Shopian district.

In another encounter in Hafoo Reshipora area of Tral sub-district in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, a terrorist identified as Shakir Hassan Dar was killed. He was close aide of Zakir Musa, the self-proclaimed leader of Ansar Ghazwatul Hind, an al-Qaeda affiliate.

Police said a search operation was launched jointly by police and security forces in the wee hours following the inputs about the presence of terrorists in the village.

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Branch office: DHFL, Dreams Mall, first Floor, L.B.S Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai – 400078			
DEMAND NOTICE			
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.			
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	
(LC No. 00003089 of Haldwani Branch) Ramesh Kumar (Borrower) Anita Devi (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1751202/- (Seventeen lakh Fifty One Thousand Two Hundred Two) NPA (01-05-2018)	Part Of Khasra No 295 & 303 Kanjadaspur, Bareilly, Bareilly- 243001	
(LC No. 00003235 of Haldwani Branch) Mahendra Pal Verma (Borrower) Kusum Verma (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1827895/- (Eighteen lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (01-08-2018)	Part Of Khasra No 898/2, Nai Basti Pakadiya Naugawa Chak Mustakil Andar Chungi, Pillibhit, Pillibhit- 262001	
(LC No. 00001471 of Delhi Branch) Anil Kumar (Borrower) Savita (Co Borrower 1) Rahul Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 2540034 /-(Twenty Five lakh Forty Thousand Thirty Four) NPA (01-09-2018)	house No- D- 580, ground Floor Block- D, Indraprastha Vojna ,Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad- 201010	
(LC No. 00042105 of Lucknow Branch) Geeta Bharti (Borrower) Dinesh Chandra (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1244564 /-(Twelve lakh Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Four) NPA (01-09-2018)	Plot No. 11 On Part Of Khasra No 216 Vill- bijwar Khurd, Pargana Khairabad Tehsil & Distt Sitapur, Sitapur, Sitapur- 261001	
(LC No. 00042471 of Lucknow Branch) Sunil (Borrower) Sri Krishna Giri (Gaurantor 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1515052/- (Fifteen lakh Fifteen Thousand Fifty Two) NPA (01-08-2018)	Plot No 17 Part Of Khasra No. 1013 Village Sarsawa Pargna Tehsil & Distt Lucknow- 226002	
(LC No. 00043127 of Lucknow Branch) Madhawan Agarwal (Borrower) Devi Dayal Agarwal (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 3604758 /-(Thirty Six lakh Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA (01-04-2018)	Plot No 109, Part Of Khasra No 284, Singhia Residency, Vill- Bhuhara, Dewa Teh- Nawabganj, Barabanki, Barabanki- 225001	
(LC No. 00043237 of Lucknow Branch) Mahendra Pratap Singh (Borrower) Vandna Singh (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 2692140 /-(Twenty Six lakh Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred Forty) NPA (01-09-2018)	Plot No 96, 97 & 98 On Kh. No 643 Minj Vill- Juggaur, Lucknow, Lucknow- 226020	
(LC No. LUK30187 of Lucknow Branch) ANOOP SRIVASTAV (Borrower)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 8254685/- (Eighty Two lakh Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Five) NPA (01-06-2009)	H.NO. 7 A DALIBAGH, LUCKNOW- 226001	
(LC No. 00002818 of Agra Branch) Deepanshu Vashisht (Borrower) Ritu Pallwal (Co Borrower 1) Virendra Sharma (Gaurantor 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 2187188/- (Twenty One lakh Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Eight) NPA (01-09-2018)	House On Plot No. 92 On Khet Khasra No. 39 Situated At- Radhika Enclave Colony Mohalla Kazampur Dewali, barren, Bulandshahr, Bulandshahr- 203001	
(LC No. 00002224 of Kanpur Branch) Narendra Kumar Shukla (Borrower) Shalu Shukla (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 2698427/- (Twenty Six lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Seven) NPA (01-06-2016)	Plot No.36, Part Of Arazi No.428 Mauja Satbari, Kanpur, Kanpur, Kanpur Rural- 208011	
(LC No. 00001390 of Kanpur Branch) Rajendra Kumar (Borrower) Sunita (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1154736/- (Eleven lakh Fifty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Six) NPA (01-02-2018)	Plot No. 72 & 73 Araji No. 377 Gram Tikra Pargana, Kanpur, Kanpur Rural- 208020	
(LC No. 00001399 of Kanpur Branch) Alok Kumar (Borrower) Sadhna Varna (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1346491/- (Thirteen lakh Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety One) NPA (01-06-2018)	Southern Part Of Plot No. 27, Part Of Arazi No. 1255, Radha Puram, Naubasta, Kanpur, Kanpur Rural- 208021	
(LC No. 00001440 of Kanpur Branch) Rakesh Kumar Pandey (Borrower) Pawan Kumar Pandey (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1881988 /-(Eighteen lakh Eighty One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Eight) NPA (01-08-2018)	Plot No. 1/56 Block E W S Sheme Swarn Jayanti Vihar (satwari), Kanpur, Kanpur Urban- 208001	
(LC No. 00001768 of Kanpur Branch) Braj Kishor Singh (Borrower) Radha Singh (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 2256586 /-(Twenty Two lakh Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Six) NPA (01-08-2018)	3rd Floor Of House No 128/268 K Block Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur, Kanpur Rural- 208011	
(LC No. 00001779 of Kanpur Branch) Atul Kumar Gupta (Borrower) Jyoti Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1467480/- (Fourteen lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eighty) NPA (01-10-2017)	Part Of Plot No. 295 C At Arazi No. 87 Mauja Delhi Sujapur, Kanpur, Kanpur Rural- 208013	
If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.			
Date : 28-Nov- 2018 Place: Uttar Pradesh		Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited	

1993 MUMBAI SERIAL BLASTS CASE

CBI files charge-sheet against another accused

Shaikh and another arrested Dawood aide, Farooq Takla, to be prosecuted in the third phase of trial

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday filed a supplementary charge-sheet against a recently arrested accused, Ahmed Kamal Shaikh alias Ahmed Lambum alias Khalid Kamal Shaikh, for his alleged role in the conspiracy behind the March 12, 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case.

In the supplementary charge-sheet filed before the designated TADA court here, the CBI stated that Shaikh had been absconding since the 1993 blasts but was arrested on June 1 this year.

Shaikh had been declared a proclaimed offender by designated TADA court here and a non-bailable arrest warrant had also been issued against him on September 17, 1997. Subsequently a Red Corner Notice was also issued against him by the Interpol.

The CBI's investigations revealed that Shaikh was part of the criminal conspiracy hatched to engineer blasts in Mumbai.

Shaikh had gone to Dubai and worked in close association with several other prime absconders like Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar, Tiger Memon and others.

Incidentally, Shaikh is the second absconding accused arrested by the CBI this year. Earlier in March this year, the CBI had arrested Dawood Ibrahim's close aide

SHAIKH HAD GONE TO DUBAI AND WORKED IN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SEVERAL OTHER PRIME ABSCONDERS LIKE DAWOOD IBRAHIM KASKAR, TIGER MEMON AND OTHERS

Mohammed Farooq Yasin Mansoor alias Farooq Takla for his alleged role as a key conspirator in the March 12, 1993 serial bombings. The CBI filed a supplementary charge-sheet against Farooq Takla in the TADA court here the second week of August this year.

As many as 257 persons were killed and 713 others injured in the serial explosions that rocked the country's commercial capital on March 12, 1993. Property worth Rs 27 crore was destroyed in the blasts.

The serial blasts were the outcome of a larger conspiracy hatched in Dubai, Mumbai and other places in India. Initially, the investigation was conducted by Mumbai Police. In all 27 crimes were registered at various police stations. On November 4, 1993, the Mumbai Crime Branch had filed a consolidated charge sheet before a special court.

The trial involving the first set of 123 accused had begun in 1995 and concluded in 2002. Having begun to pronounce the judgements in the first phase of the trial on September 12, 2006, then designated Judge P D Kode completed the first phase of verdicts on December 6, 2006.

Of the 123 who faced the trial, 100 were convicted and 23 acquitted. Of the 100 convicted, Judge Kode awarded capital punishment to 12 and life imprisonment to 20. Rest of the convicts were handed sentenced to periods ranging from two years to 14 years. Only one

of the 100 convicts – that is Russi Mulla – was set free by the court by giving him relief under the Probation of Offenders Act (POA).

Of the 12 convicts who were handed capital punishment in the first phase of the 1993 serial blasts trial, Yakub Abdul Razzak Memon was hanged to death at the Nagpur Central Prison on July 30, 2015.

In the second phase of 1993 serial blasts trial, there were in all seven accused Mustafa Ahmed Dossa (deported from Dubai), Abu Salem (extradited from Portugal), Riyaz Ahmed Siddhiqui, Abdul Kayyum; Karrimullah Osan Khan, Firoz Abdul Rashid Khan and Taher Merchant @ Taher Taklya (all extradited from Dubai).

On September 7 last year, a designated TADA Court here handed out death sentence to two convicts Taher Merchant and Firoz Abdul Rashid Khan and life imprisonment to extradited underworld don Abu Salem and another convict Karrimullah Osan Khan. The TADA court sentenced the fifth convict in the case Riyaz Ahmed Siddhiqui to ten years' rigorous imprisonment.

Of the six accused who had earlier been convicted by the TADA court on June 16 last year, notorious smuggler and key convict Mustafa Dossa alias Mustafa Majnu died of a massive heart attack at the State-run JJ Hospital here on June 28. The court had earlier on June 16 acquitted seventh accused in the case, Abdul Kayyum for lack of evidence.

With both of them having been charge-sheeted, Shaikh and Farooq Takla will undergo trial in what can be called as the third phase of the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts trial.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee continued her relentless attack on the BJP Government for failing on all fronts and burdening India with a "botched business, bleak industry, social conflict and dismal employment scenario."

Picking up from where she left at Jhargram on Monday, the Chief Minister told an audience in Purulia how the saffron outfit's tall claims of *acchhe din* (good days) had ended up in a "big cipher."

Mamata who on Monday attacked the BJP for selling Rama for electoral gains, on Tuesday said how "they (BJP) have failed to tackle Maoist problem in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand whereas we have been able to eradicate the problem com-

pletely from Jangalmahal areas of Bengal which was once a hot bed of Maoists."

Wondering what brought the saffron workers to Purulia and other Jangalmahal areas in the time of peace Mamata said "there was a time when the



whole area was scared of Maoists as there was bloodshed everywhere. At that time none had the courage to come to this

area. Only I came to these areas repeatedly. But now they (BJP) are trying to create disturbance by bringing in people from Jharkhand."

Attacking the Centre for ruining Indian economy by imposing demonetisation and GST Mamata said "Notebandi has literally ruined the Indian businessmen. The whole industry has fallen flat on its face" adding GST only added salt to injury by "sucking out whatever was left within the moribund economy." This Government does no work save intimidating the people Mamata said. "This is a Government which has no work except intimidating the businessmen who do not fall in line with them. Today you raise a question and tomorrow they will send Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation

4th phase of J&K panchayat poll records 71.3% turnout

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

An overall 71.3 per cent turnout was recorded in the fourth phase of panchayat elections in Jammu & Kashmir. The elections are being conducted in nine phases since November 17. According to the Chief Electoral Officer, an impressive 82.4 per cent polling was witnessed in Jammu division and 32.3% in Kashmir division including Kargil and Leh districts.

The Kupwara witnessed 56.1%, Bandipora 24.4%, Baramulla 62.4%, Budgam 46.3%, Pulwama 0.6 %, Kulgam 14.5 %, Anantnag 6.2 %, Kishtwar 82.3%, Doda 84.6%, Ramban 81.1%, Udhampur 78.9%, Kathua 80.7%, Jammu 85.2 %, Rajouri 81.8% and Poonch 82.5%.

Pertinently, in Phase-I of Panchayat Polls held on 17 November 74.1% polling was recorded across J&K including 64.5% in Kashmir division and 79.4% in Jammu division.

In the Phase-II of Panchayat Polls held on 20 November overall 71.1% polling was witnessed across the State with an overwhelming 80.4% polling in Jammu

division and 52.2% in Kashmir division. Similarly, in Phase-III, the State witnessed a polling percentage of 75.2% which includes 55.7% in Kashmir division and 83.0% in Jammu division.

The voting for Phase-five of the panchayat polls will take place on November 29.

Adequate security arrangements had been made including deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in the poll-bound areas.

The overall poll percentage of 71.3% was witnessed in the Phase 4 of the nine- phased panchayat elections in the State.

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November 74.1% polling was recorded across J&K including 64.5% in Kashmir division and 79.4% in Jammu division.

Office of the Superintendent Engineer, Prayagraj Circle, PWD, Prayagraj

Notice Inviting E-Tenders

No. : 5080 Date : 16-11-2018
1- The Superintendent Engineer, Prayagraj Circle, PWD, Prayagraj on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, class A. The bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.

List of Tender invited										
Sl. No.	District	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. Lac)	Cost of Bid Documents (Rs.)	Time of Completion (Month)	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of D.M.	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	इलाहाबाद	सिस्सा शुक्लपुर मार्ग से छोड़कर (छत्तु को पुरी) समकर्म मार्ग।	42.70	4.14	2000+300 +GST	3 Month				
2	इलाहाबाद	चौकी विरिया से उपरीहान समकर्म मार्ग।	58.00	4.90	2000+300 +GST	3 Month				
3	इलाहाबाद	रामनगर विस्मियान मार्ग से केवटारी मुसहल बस्ती समकर्म मार्ग।	44.00	4.20	2000+300 +GST	3 Month				

- Time allowed for completion of each work is as mentioned in column no.7, including rainy season.
- Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB).
- Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB)
- Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 30-11-2018 to 06-12-2018 upto 12:00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 12:00 Hours on 06-12-2018. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 07-12-2018 at 12:30 Hours.
- The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.

UP 134656 Date 23.11.2018
बिज्ञापन केसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(S.K.Srivastava)
Superintendent Engineer
Prayagraj Circle, PWD, Prayagraj

Vote out family parties Cong...

From Page 1

"The Chief Minister of Telangana and his family think they can get away with doing no work like the Congress.... They have adopted the style of the Congress which ruled for 50-52 years without doing anything. But that cannot happen now," Modi told an election rally in Nizamabad, as he took the poll battle to Rao's turf.

Rao's daughter K Kavitha represents Nizamabad in the Lok Sabha.

"Congress and TRS are two faces of the same coin. Both parties are competing against each other on who tells more lies. TRS and Congress are family-ruled parties playing a friendly match in Telangana polls," he said, adding it was a "big joke" that UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Congress president Rahul Gandhi assailed the TRS for being a "family party" at an election rally last week.

Modi sought to appeal to "Telangana pride" when he referred to AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi's recent remark that whoever became the Chief Minister of Telangana or undivided Andhra Pradesh had to bow before his party.

"A leader recently said whoever became the CM of Andhra Pradesh-Telangana had to be at his feet (kadmon ke neeche). You fought for Telangana for your self-respect. Will you want a CM who bows at the feet of some leader instead of the people of Telangana?" the Prime Minister told another rally at Mahbubnagar.

K Chandrasekhar Rao's TRS has friendly ties with AIMIM of Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

While accusing Rao of "destroying" Telangana through his Government's policies and not fulfilling his promises to people, Modi targeted the Congress for silencing the aspirations of the State for two decades with "bullets". Ridiculing Chief Minister

K Chandrasekhar Rao's promise of developing Nizamabad into London, the Prime Minister said, "Let him first ensure drinking water supply to the people. Even basic facilities are not available here," he said. He also targeted the Chief Minister for his belief in "mantr and tantr" (religious rituals).

It was Modi's first election tour since the campaign for the December 7 State Assembly elections began in the State. In his typical acerbic style Modi targeted both the Congress and the TRS and charged them with having a secret understanding. While his entire fire-power was concentrated on the Congress and the TRS, surprisingly he did not made any reference to his friend-turned-foe Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party president N Chandrababu Naidu.

"Did KCR (Chief Minister) not destroy the State after the formation of Telangana?" he asked the gathering. "The reason was that his apprenticeship and training was in the Congress. If he has destroyed the State so much, if those who have done PhD in the destruction come to power they will cause hundred times more destruction," he said urging the people to give an opportunity to the BJP in the State. "Don't allow even one Congress candidate to win. Otherwise they will never learn."

"State after the State has wiped out the Congress as it had destroyed the country," he said. Trying to raise the regional sentiments of the people he reminded them that the Congress Government is responsible for killing hundreds of youth in firing who had raised the demand for separate State in the past. "Will you allow such Congress to come back to power in the State," he said. Modi praised Telangana as a land where the people bravely stood up against the "repression of Razakars", referring to the

militia active during Nizam's rule.

He also lashed out at the Congress for making personal attacks on him in the campaign. "Instead of talking of the issues of development they are asking what is the caste of Modi, what is the age of Modi's mother and what is the name of Modi's father. Is it the way of running a campaign?" he asked.

Modi contrasted the performance of his own Government at the Centre saying he was able to change the lives of the poorest of the poor through various welfare and development schemes.

Out of the six crore free gas connections given to the poor families in the country, six lakh connections were given in Telangana alone, he said. Under the Saubhagya Yojna four lakh households were given electricity connections in the State.

Holding the Congress responsible for the rich and powerful businessmen looting the nationalised banks during the UPA rule, he promised that the wealth of the businessmen who had fled the country will be seized and the looted wealth of the people will be recovered. "After I came to power the gates of looting of the banks were closed," the PM said.

State BJP leaders said the successful rallies of Modi had given a shot in the arm to the their campaign across the State. The BJP, which had only 5 assembly seats in 2014, all in Hyderabad, had largely concentrated its campaign to the State capital till now. Nizamabad and Mahbubnagar were among the districts where the BJP is now hoping to break fresh ground and win a couple of Assembly seats. With less than 10 days left before the campaign comes to an end, Modi was expected to undertake another round of campaign in the State and addressing a meeting in Hyderabad.

J&K Congress president Ghulam Ahmad Mir said the Governor had exposed how the BJP made efforts to form a Government and install a person with two legislators as Chief Minister. He said, "Governor Malik has exposed the plot of the BJP"

address has revealed how things are forced upon Kashmir. "If they (Delhi) would have installed Sajjad Lone as Chief Minister, it would have been a political disaster. Delhi should seriously rethink and stop doing experiments in the State," Mir told reporters.

Dissolved House as Centre wanted Lone as CM...

From Page 1

Peoples Democratic Party chief spokesperson Rafi Ahmad Mir in Srinagar said the video of the Governor's



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110608 EXAMINATION SECTION

IMPORTANT NOTICE NO.91/2018

PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS ADVANCED REGISTRATION (PAAR) FACILITY

B.Sc.(H) Nursing/ B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic) B.Sc.(Paramedical Courses) Entrance Examination-2019 onwards

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has proposed to initiate Online Registration of applicants well in advance, Registration will comprise of three stages/stages/steps: Basic Registration, Generation of Code for Final Registration and Final Registration (Payment of fee and City Choice).

Form past experience it has been found that a majority of rejections are due to improper tilling of details other than educational qualifications and improper images. In the first stage applicants desirous of appearing in the AIIMS-B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses)-2019 Entrance Examination in future will be able to initially register by filling basic details and uploading images almost six month in advance (Basic Registration). These particulars and images will be screened and there would be adequate time to correct errors and deficiencies. Candidates will be informed whether their registration is accepted, and their details will be stored with a unique identification number thus, candidates will not be subjected to pressures of last minute rush and fear of rejection of application without any time left to make amends Basic Registration process if free of any charges and thus no payment shall be collected at this stage. Since applicants may not have completed their eligibility of examinations etc, certain details may not be collected at the time of Basic Registration.

Currently only one time Basic Registration is required for all Undergraduate Courses (MBBS, B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses etc.) Therefore, following accepted Basic Registration for UG Courses. One can complete Generation of Code, Final Registration for any of the Undergraduate Courses subsequently.

At a specified time prior to the entrance examination [B.Sc.(H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic) B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses)] for the year 2019, the Basic Registration will be uploaded before start of Generation of Code for Final Registration. Applicants who have completed Basic Registration that been accepted can thus decide to either appear for the examination of this year or subsequently. In case any applicant does not wish to appear this year, he/she need not proceed to Generation of Code for Final Registration and Final Registration (Payment of fee and City Choice) His/her Basic Registration details will be stored and will be valid for the subsequent years. In case the application desires to take the examination as announced. He/she can proceed for Generation for Code for Final Registration and Final Registration (Payment of fee and city Choice) . Please note that applicants whose Basic Registrations are rejected are not eligible to proceed for Generation of Code and final Registration. In final Registration applicants can fill remaining details such as qualification details, choose the available city for examination and make the necessary payments. These applicants will be eligible to be issued Admit Cards for that examination subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria as mentioned in the respective Prospectus.

After completion of Final Registration and uploading of Admit Cards. the Basic Registration process will then resume and continue for subsequent year. Those who have already completed Basic Registration once need not fill these details again whether or not they appear for AIIMS-B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses)-2019 Entrance Examination. However, every time the dates for Final Registration for subsequent Entrance Examinations are made, the steps of Generation of Code & Final Registration will have to be completed. While Basic Registration is enduring. Generation of Code for Final Registration and Final Registration (Payment of fee and City Choice) is examination specific.

All prospective candidates will have the facility of ensuring their Basic Registration details are completed and accepted in all respects, well in advance. It would also ensure that only those applications that are complete in all respects and accepted at the Basic Registration stage are permitted to Generate Code for Final Registration and complete Final Registration (Payment of fee and city Choice). Thus Basic Registration details need not be filled, and images need not be uploaded repeatedly.

This Prospective Applicants Advanced Registration (PAAR) facility is being initiated for AIIMS-B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) 2019 Entrance Examination onwards and will be continued in future also. For details please visit www.aiimsexams.org from time to time.

The expected date for starting of Basic Registration is last week of November -2018 and Final Registration is 2nd week of March-2019, Again, it reiterated that only those candidates who fill the Basic Registration form and correct errors and deficiencies within stipulated time and whose Basic Registration are accepted, will be eligible to complete Final Registration for AIIMS-B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses)2019 Entrance Examination.



ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)

dvap 17112/11/0064/1819

Easing the burden

Early years are crucial for shoring up self-sufficiency in young ones; there can be no agenda-driven policies



The HRD Ministry's decision to lighten schoolbags and grade weights for students depending on their age comes after sporadic efforts made by different States and countless discussions on students becoming beasts of burden. Education is a wholesome process which students should participate freely in and engage happily with. It should not end up looking like an exploitative practice or inducing performance pressure. Unfortunately, in our country, our kids are caught in an androidish drill of bookish knowledge and

making the cut in competitive exams rather than savouring knowledge discoveries in the absence of application-based teaching modules. And perhaps this norm on heavy-lifting will encourage alternative thinking in existing educational policies and prioritise student welfare. To begin with all schools — and some private schools have done it — should immediately formalise a book locker system as it is done in many countries abroad to ease the to-and-fro logic.

The effects of schoolbag load on the physical and mental well-being of students have been well documented. An ASSOCHAM survey conducted in 2016 found that because of a load of books in the bags of children, 68 per cent children in the age group of 7 to 13 years face the risk of backaches, hunchbacks, spinal and postural problems, some of which were irreversible and impede mobility patterns in their adult life. The survey had also noted that over 88 per cent of students in the same age group carry more than 45 per cent of their own weight on their backs. The heavy bags, according to the survey, included textbooks, activity books, swim kit, lunch box and other things. To this extent, the directive is welcome. However, the regimentation of books, content and subjects that can be taught at primary levels, as recommended by the Ministry, defeats the very purpose of education being a free space and only perpetuates the "brick in the wall" approach. While banning tests are welcome for classes I and II, limiting the number of subjects to only languages and mathematics — clearly sharpening skills of communication and logical reasoning, maybe even scientific temper — severely hampers the child's overall development. True you free them up for exploratory outdoors and sports but why deny them the narrative of our history and culture, something that our kids are increasingly veering away from? Besides, a curtain-down approach does not work in digitally informed times and in the absence of a regime, could expose them to more sources of misinformation than information. Even in higher classes up to class V, concession has been made for environmental science with total disregard for an approach that balances both left and right brain development. This becomes even more punishing with the clause that only NCERT books can be accessed with no provision for other sources of study material. The early years are crucial for shoring up self-sufficiency in our younger generation, so there cannot be an agenda-driven outlook for education policies that impact the wonder years between five and 12. Reducing load is one thing — there can be several alternatives explored with school lockers and cheap e-books in a graded manner — but restricting subjects and codifying approaches, especially as part of public policy, will only make a generation literate but not knowledgeable enough. Agreed, we don't need to push kids over the edge but the government should not have the sole agency to decide what they need and do not.

Ayodhya again

The Ram Temple mobilisation this time around, however, reeks of desperation rather than resolve



In an interview in the late 1990s to a weekly magazine, the progenitor of the Ram Temple as a socio-political movement symbolising cultural nationalism, LK Advani, was honest enough to share his concern that the lumpen element which had attached itself to the movement was a cause of serious worry for him as the head of the BJP. The burden of his song, as it were, was that while he was proud of having played a role in bringing the Ram Temple and allied issues to the forefront of national

discourse to expose the 'pseudo-secularism' of the Congress and Leftist parties, which had reached its apogee with the overturning of the Shah Bano verdict by a Congress-majority Parliament in the previous decade, the virulence and violence which accompanied the agitation were unacceptable. The current BJP leadership, however, in perpetual election mode, seems to have no such qualms. That is a tragedy not just for the country but also for the big tent contours of the Ram Temple movement its original vocaliser sought to bestow upon it. For the party itself, it is a moment of truth.

Yes, the Supreme Court could have expedited the hearing of the appeal preferred by the Muslim parties against the Allahabad High Court judgement but, in its wisdom, it did not. The BJP may not like it, but it has to either lump it or bring in a law/ordinance to build a Ram Temple at the Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya and seeing where that takes it. As far as political strategy goes, that is the bottomline and everything else is just smoke and mirrors. There is no place for a discourse of hate-mongering and the — till now — verbal violence which is increasingly prevalent on the ground and threatens to spill into the kind of confrontation and conflagration India can ill afford. Of course, the BJP, RSS, VHP, Shiv Sena and many others, whether individuals or organisations, have an unalienable right to agitate for a Ram Temple in Ayodhya. They also have a right — and given their passionate support for the demand over the decades — and duty to try and fashion a mass movement on the issue. Responsibility for ensuring the movement is non-violent and intimidation has no place in it also rests on the BJP leadership just like it did with Advani two decades ago.

On the evidence of the results of the mobilisation over the past few months, though, the traction of the 1980s and 1990s is missing. In fact, even the last time the Sangh and its affiliates attempted to up the ante on the Ram Temple in 2002, they were not very successful. This time around, too, the response has been far from electrifying. Which leaves us with the only conclusion it is possible to draw — the BJP is focussing on Ayodhya, especially in Uttar Pradesh, to try and counter the effect of a putative Opposition grand alliance in that State and is not averse to seeing if Lord Ram helps it consolidate its support base and deflect public attention from its performance in the ongoing Assembly polls in five States.



AJOY KUMAR

In April of 2019, the European Union (EU) proposes to bring into force a regulation that requires companies operating in the EU to adopt slogans that are accurate, failing which, such companies will face fines up to two per cent of their global revenue. The BJP must be counting its lucky stars then because this past week, it was reported by the Broadcast Audience Research Council that the party was the most advertised brand on television in the run-up to the Assembly elections, beating many corporate heavyweights in the advertising space, such as Netflix.

Funnily, in late August this year, we also saw the BJP to be the only party at the all-party meet organised by the Election Commission to reject the idea of a cap on election-related expenses by political parties. This article will examine how these statistics only show that this is a smoke and mirrors a Government that spends more time in ensuring that its marketing campaign stays on point; rather than delving into complicated questions concerning the country.

Ever since the BJP won the 2014 election, its go-to strategy has been to use marketing and advertising to paper over the cracks that have emerged during its governance. With the state of the economy, the state of jobs and the fact that India's premier security agency is currently engulfed in a full-blown crisis that is unfolding each day in the Supreme Court, the BJP has its hands full. So one can't blame them for trying — it is harder to keep everyone's attention away from the facts on the ground and use its money power to do so.

On the influence of money in an election, ever since it came to power, the BJP has displayed a singular focus not on limiting the influence of money in elections but letting it run amok. It has set the example itself by not only beating huge corporates in branding but also by failing to change the system in place or to check such influence. Take, for example, the introduction of electoral bonds. As I have examined previously in these columns in The Pioneer, the electoral bonds scheme recently introduced by this Government permits any person who is a citizen of India or is an entity incorporated/established in India to purchase an electoral bond in favour of certain political party. Compared to other forms of funding, disclosure requirements for these bonds were made minimal by this Government.

For example, under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, (RP Act) political parties are required to prepare a report of all contributions received in excess of ₹20,000 from a person or a company in a financial year. They are required to submit this report to the Election Commission. After the introduction of the electoral bonds scheme as also, amendments introduced under the Finance Act, 2017, the RP Act now creates an exemption to this reporting requirement for contributions made in the form of electoral bonds to political parties. These amendments

Authenticity paradox

Flames of hate speech on social media and the failure to limit the influence of money in political campaigns are symptomatic of the fact that the system is losing it



follow the same ethos as the BJP's political strategy in dealing with specific criticisms that are thrown at it, ie obfuscation over transparency.

Another change that was introduced by the BJP was a cap on spending for companies under the Companies Act, 2013. Prior to this, Indian companies were restricted from spending more than 7.5 per cent of their average profits towards funding political parties. Now such a cap has been done away with. These changes inarguably allow for greater influence by corporates in our political discourse. During its tenure, the BJP has had to also defend itself against a number of allegations of promoting crony capitalism. Whether it's the 'Rafale' controversy or the BJP's ineptness in failing to check economic offenders like Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi from fleeing the country with public money etc, the BJP can't seem to shake this image.

The major problem I foresee with this unabated rise of corporate influence on the political process is that there is no such thing as free lunch and the influence of such funding, whether through electoral bonds or otherwise, is inevitably at the cost of other stakeholders, whether it is an NGO advocating for environmentally friendly policies or tribals fighting for their land. We must be wary and guard against such fate.

Another reason why genuineness and transparency in our political discourse have taken a back-seat is the problem of 'fake news'. The buck here, too, must stop with Prime Minister Modi. 'Fake news' has skewed our political discourse by mak-

ing it almost impossible to determine what the true picture is. While a responsible Government should take steps to check the influence of fake news, this Government has singularly failed to tackle an issue that has risen unabatedly since 2014.

Last year, for example, at least 30 Indians lost their lives due to rumours that were circulated on WhatsApp. However, rather than taking ownership of the matter, the Government entrusted the responsibility of tackling this problem to the intermediary.

The problem has been exacerbated by the Government not only because of its lack of seriousness in approaching the matter but also because of the signalling that the Prime Minister and the BJP engage in. A recent BBC study bolstered the stand of the Opposition and victims of vicious trolls, that there is a systematic effort in subverting democracy that is in operation by trolls online who spread fake news and aim to discredit actual facts. The BJP, however, has turned a blind eye to it.

As per the report, "Many more of the Twitter handles that have published fake news sit in the pro-BJP cluster than in the anti-BJP cluster". This is not news to me. Within minutes of a post on Twitter criticising the Government, Prime Minister Modi or the BJP, there is almost an immediate outflow of abuse and vitriol that one is subjected to. Such systematic targeting suggests that there is a committed mass that has been hired to do just this.

The fact that the Government has taken no action against this form of

online attack is at the very least shameful but borders on complicity. It is especially disheartening that a number of these trolls and vitriol-spewing people are followed by the Prime Minister wear this as a badge of honour. The Prime Minister would do well to disassociate from such entities and their hateful abuses. Perhaps, though, this may be too much to expect from a politician who has himself rarely shown restraint and insulted family members of Opposition leaders and then turned around and played victim when he is criticised for doing so.

To end this piece, one might ask what the Government must do to answer these uncomfortable questions on limiting the influence of money and fake news. The answer is not complicated. For one, the Government and especially the Prime Minister should come out specifically against hate and abuse that trolls spread and clamp down on any such action within its camps. For another, it can just agree on a cap to election spending. I wouldn't hold my breath on either though.

Lucky for the BJP then, who competes with big corporate entities on advertising but is outside the ambit of the laws of the EU, that I mentioned at the beginning of this piece. If the BJP did have to similarly comply to such regulations, a change in branding would be deemed necessary: "Suit-Boot Ki Sarkaar", for example, has a nice ring to it and may be more authentic than "Na khaonga, Na khaane doonga". (The writer is Jharkhand PCC president, former MP and IPS officer. Views are personal)

“ANOTHER REASON WHY GENUINENESS AND TRANSPARENCY HAVE TAKEN A BACKSEAT IS THE PROBLEM OF 'FAKE NEWS'. THE BUCK, HERE TOO, MUST STOP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER”

SOUNDBITE

India is swinging between euphoria and moments of great aggression with Pakistan. It must exercise great caution.

Congress leader
—Manish Tewari



We will never let terrorists win, or even come close to winning. The United States stands with India in its quest for justice for 26/11.

US President
—Donald Trump



I feel a writer should have a revered position and the monetary compensation for a writer should definitely be higher in the industry.

Actor
—Aamir Khan



The Congress should have given Atal Bihari Vajpayee the Bharat Ratna award when he was alive and in good health.

NC president
—Farooq Abdullah



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

World champion

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Hail Mary" (November 27). Mary Kom's feat, wherein she outclassed Ukraine's Hanna Okhota during the final round of women's 48 kg bout at the 2018 women's world boxing championship, is but a replica of the semi-finals of the Silesian Open in Poland last September where she won with a 5-0 scoreline.

Mary Kom won a silver on her debut in 2001 and between 2002 and 2010, she won five straight gold medals. After six years (2011-2016) of hibernation from the boxing ring, Mary Kom returned to competitive boxing ring under the 48 kg category in 2017.

Her uniqueness lies in the fact that she is the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the seven world championships. Kudos to the woman boxer, who showed to the world that hard works pay back. Mary Kom is an inspiration to lakhs of sport enthusiasts, especially women.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Mary Kom has made the country proud

This refers to the editorial, "Hail Mary" (November 27). Mary Kom has lifted her sixth world amateur boxing gold. The Manipurian comprehensively decimated her Ukrainian opponent to send the country's sports fans into raptures. Taking a *hiatus* from boxing for marriage, having children, and then returning to the ring, and lifting medals with gusto speaks volumes about the perseverance and determination of Mary. Humble background did not deter the 35-year-old champion boxer in her tracks. Her father being a boxing connoisseur and a wrestler in his own right, helped her daughter become 'magnificent Mary' of today. Despite the 2012 London Olympics barring the 48 kg category, Mary not only qualified for the 51-kg category but won a bronze to stun the world.

She failed to qualify for the Rio Olympics but seemed to put her disappointment behind her to not only qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and give her



best shot to wrest that elusive and prestigious gold. Mary may be short; but her tall ambitions and tenacity may see her through at Tokyo to help her stand on the winning podium — at least a silver; but fans want gold. Mary's humility, calmness and ability to stay grounded has won her plaudits. All eyes, however, will be on her when she enters the ring in the Tokyo Olympics.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Not mending ways

Sir — This refers to the article, "When terrorism rules the roost" (November 27) by Ishaan Saxena. Whether Pakistan is ruled by the military or a democratically-elected Government makes no difference. Any talks with Islamabad will be an exercise in futile. The only way is to

teach them a lesson.

Ashok Mehta
Via web

Costly decision

Sir — The Brexit imbroglio is a lesson in the pitfalls of too liberal a democracy. It started when elected representatives in the UK abdicated the onus of policy deci-

sions to the citizen under the guise of a referendum. The result: A stoic, imperial and trading nation such as Britain voted needlessly for Brexit, inviting isolation overnight and a substantial cost of separation besides extending the period of uncertainty. The ensuing cost of its complex repair will be largely borne by Britain.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Don't politicise faith

Sir — While Ayodhya is gripped by a show of strength by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh has cleared a 221-metre tall statue of Lord Ram to come up on the banks of the Saryu in the temple town. It is a tragedy that the Government at the helm is itself not sincere towards the development of the country and its progression. Rather it is blindly spending the public's hard-earned money in such unproductive projects.

It should not be the business of the Government to construct a statue of a particular religion's God. It is now crystal clear that the BJP Government is leading the country in an autocratic way which is totally disruptive for the country's peaceful environment and communal harmony. It is essential that the Government pays heed to the core issues which are crying for close attention.

FR Murad
Kolkata

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Exclusivity: Smart business move

If financial institutions worldwide rethink the way they reach out to women when launching new products, growth opportunities will be boundless



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The biggest consumer market in the world is neither China nor India, but women. While there are products developed for them in other areas, designing and delivery of financial products specifically for women still needs a lot of consideration. Creating financial products with women in mind is not “pink-washing” products to make them superficially inviting to women, nor is it targeting products exclusively for women. Financial inclusion is growing, yet the global gender gap has not budged. This because many financial products simply don’t work for women. So, how can institutions tap into this rich, overlooked market?

There are three elements of gender-inclusive design. First, it is important to go beyond “gender-neutral” and create designs and products focused on women. Financial institutions often don’t realise that ‘neutral’ products are often designed keeping in mind with men’s needs while they unintentionally put women off. However, the reverse is not true. When products are created with women’s specific needs in mind, data proves that men are just as or even more interested. Market research shows that women have different needs when deciding about a new product or service. They need more information than men. Women don’t assume that a new or innovative financial product will work for them, so they place a high value on the opinions of peers. If a product is able to meet women’s needs, it is most likely to exceed men’s expectations.

Second, it is important to segment by gender during the product design phase. Listening to women is key to taking their needs into account during this phase. Segmenting by gender in research makes this possible as women are less likely to voice different opinion during research sessions where men are also present. They often have different concerns than men. For example, they are cost-conscious and may face issues of affordability and access that men don’t.

Third, developing gender-inclusive products should be viewed as business and not a corporate social responsibility. Forward-thinking financial institutions are beginning to recognise the potential of the women’s market as a business growth strategy. To reap rewards, they will need to believe in gender-inclusive products as a smart business move. Institutions can continue to build this business case by monitoring the uptake of new gender-inclusive products and understand the impact of women clients. This will help them learn from missteps and develop even stronger products that can reach scale and better capitalise on this market opportunity.

There are three factors which are absolutely necessary for the development of gender-inclusive products.

Design: In the initial design phase, new products that address issues such as access and affordability, will have a greater chance at success with women. For instance, does the product involve monthly fees or a minimum account balance and can low-income women afford it? Does the bank have extensive KYC requirements that may keep away women who have low literacy or lack all the necessary documentation due to local social norms?

Marketing: In the marketing stage, financial institutions must prove to women how the product will improve their lives. Communication and education initiatives must be able to reach women effectively and must also close the emotional gap by communicating that product/service is for her. Since trusted opinions are important in women’s decision-making process, tools such as referrals, testimonials or ratings, can be a powerful lever for institutions to use in sales and marketing.

Delivery: In the delivery phase, the product must be able to fit seamlessly into women’s lives. For example, if it’s a savings account aimed at women, are there convenient places near home where clients can deposit, withdraw and transact? Financial institutions must train customer service staff in how to effectively interact with women clients and respectfully address all their questions. Since women depend on reliable support, especially when taking up a new product, a poor customer service experience is more likely to negatively impact them.

Let’s take an example of the Pafupi savings account designed in Malawi, East Africa. In rural areas, women considered bank accounts aspirational, which were only available to the rich people. Pafupi allows small deposits, charges no monthly fees, and it operates through agents in conveniently located rural shops. If financial institutions worldwide rethink the way they reach out to women when launching new products, growth opportunities will be boundless. Financial products that deliberately take women’s needs into account, at every step of the process, are a win-win: For women, men, for every institution that makes a strong, unwavering commitment to gender inclusion.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

WITH ELECTIONS APPROACHING, RAJE IS BOWING TO SHAH JUST TO PLEASE HIM. SHE WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED TO BOW BEFORE PEOPLE OF RAJASTHAN.

—CONGRESS LEADER
ASHOK GEHLOT



THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE CONGRESS LEADER (ASHOK GEHLOT) ARE MORTIFYING FOR ALL THE WOMEN OF THE COUNTRY.

—BJP PRESIDENT
AMIT SHAH

The tiger’s tragedy

Royalty in earlier years and the Government machinery now have continued to hunt the tiger which seems to stand no chance in a world dominated by humans



VARDA MEHROTRA

Wildlife in India has been in a state of historic crisis since Mughal times. The tigers were then considered as “merciless blood sucking beasts” and the sport of killing them came to be known as trophy hunting. Mughal Emperor Jalal-ud-Din Muhammad Akbar enjoyed this big-game. His reign gave rise to the tradition of trophy hunting or *shikar* in India. It passed on from him to his successors until his dynasty fell in 1857. The hunters would often keep a part of the hunted animals as a souvenir.

Paintings from the Mughal period depict Mongol, Rajput, Turk and Afghan nobilities hunting on elephants or horsebacks. These outings were considered exotic and heroic — the tigers being the ultimate trophies.

The British were no different. They would stage elaborate hunts to showcase their pride, wealth, machismo and honour. After ascending the throne in 1911, King George V and his aides travelled north to Nepal, slaying 39 tigers in just 10 days. Colonel Geoffrey Nightingale shot more than 300 tigers in India. In less than 50 years of our existence, from 1875 to 1925, we managed to kill more than 80,000 tigers in the country.

While most killings were trophy hunts, some considered tigers as vermin, and were systematically erased and ‘exterminated’ with incentives from the Government. In other words, the authorities legitimised their act by vilifying the big cats, casting them as terrible, bloodthirsty beasts with an insatiable hunger for human flesh.

After India’s independence, killing tigers for sport escalated. Hunters from around the world came to this country for a guaranteed trophy advertised by the Indian travel industry. Because the biggest animals made the best trophies, the largest, strongest cats disappeared from the gene pool.

By 1971, when hunting was outlawed by the Indian Government with the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, coming into play, we had already killed thousands of tigers.

Illegal land encroachments due to overpopulation, demand of tiger skin and bones for beauty and medicine, and illegal hunting practices for entertainment reduced the tiger population in the country to 1,800 by 1971. Condition was such that there were assumptions of tigers getting extinct by the end of the year 2000.

In the year 1973, “Project Tiger”



was launched. With the aim to save the steadily declining population of tigers in the country, “Project Tiger” still stands out as one of the most comprehensive project to protect the big cats.

Today, we have less than 2,500 tigers left in the wild, which is more than 50 per cent of the total tiger population across the world.

In recent years, special focus has been given to tiger conservation with several organisations, like the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), among others, working towards protecting the endangered species.

Here, a question arises: Have these efforts been stopped by the bureaucrats and the politicians to impose their will? Royalty in earlier years and the Government machinery now have continued to hunt the tiger which seems to stand no chance in a world dominated by humans.

Recently, Avni (T1), a six-year-old tigress in the forests of Yavatmal in Maharashtra was hunted and shot dead due to claims of her being a man-eater. According to locals and forest officials in Maharashtra, she was accused of killing and devouring 13 people in the past year-and-a-half.

Many assert that there was no proof of Avni killing those 13 people in the village, and the shoot-to-

“
WHAT WE NEED FROM THE GOVERNMENT IS THE EXPANSION OF RESERVED LAND FOR ANIMALS AND AN INCREASED AWARENESS ON THE ISSUES WHICH PERTAIN TO THE EXTINCTION OF TIGERS ACROSS THE WORLD
”

kill order was given to free up the land from tigers so as to aid industrialists to start work in the area.

A hunter, Nawab Shafath Ali Khan, was given the task to tranquilise or kill Avni, a mother of two 10-month-old cubs. Post-mortem reports have revealed that no attempts were made to capture the animal and she was directly shot after several months of search.

In order to protect the tigress from a torturous death, there was a loud uproar on social media. On-ground campaign with hashtag #LetAvniLive and several marches in major cities across the country were also held.

An appeal was made to the President and the Prime Minister of our country to save Avni. But the Government as well as the forest officials in Maharashtra failed to capture the tigress alive.

Avni’s death is a big question mark on the conservation efforts taken up by the Government in protecting these endangered species. The highest court in the country upheld the order to shoot the tigress, in spite of several attempts by celebrities, media and animal activists to stop Avni’s death.

It was not just the death of a tigress, but of democracy, and our efforts of conservation of the last bit of wildlife left in the country.

Next in line was a leopard who was labeled as a man-eater in

Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand. Private shooters were called for the killing of the cat. These cases also raise a question as to why private hunters and shooters are appointed when India’s forest departments have nearly 90,000 workers on their roll, who are trained with tranquilising guns to prevent such inhumane killing of an animal.

These are just a few examples of the many, where human greed has been the cause of wildlife destruction. We continue to grow and encroach their land, leaving them to live in only about 10 per cent of the country’s total potential tiger habitat of 300,000 sq km (115,830 sq miles).

Animal density in many of these forest areas is high and surplus tigers sometimes venture outside for food. Poachers have gained from the man-animal conflict by killing the tigers and bribing the villagers to set up traps.

What we need from the Government is the expansion of reserved land for animals and an increased awareness on the issues which pertain to the extinction of tigers across the world.

Stricter forest administration is required to prevent poaching of not just tigers, but all other animals for their skin, tusks, horns and bones.

(The writer is an Executive Director of Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations)

Pedagogy of happiness and well-being

If schools are to be true centres of learning, they must move away from the present assessment-obsessed structure to a system that rewards kindness and consideration for social good



ANANTHA DURAIPAPPAH



NANDINI CHATTERJEE SINGH

The ‘Mental Health Status of Adolescents in South-East Asia: Evidence for Action’ report published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2012 stated that 86 million people in South-East Asia suffered from depression and that 25 per cent of all children between 13-15 years of age suffered from this disease in India. The report further said that India has the highest suicide rate among 10 South-East Asian nations. The most common reported reason for teen depression was anxiety and stress due to academic performance, peer pressure and poor self-esteem.

Given that depression can lead to suicide, which is the second highest cause of death among people in

15-29 age group in the region, it is essential that the school curricula be revised so as to ensure proper mental health and well-being of people.

Recent brain research has exposed the vulnerability of the adolescent brain. During adolescence, the brain undergoes tremendous neural growth and pruning, leading to massive re-organisation of connections between different brain areas.

During teenage brain development, prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for executive decisions, begins to connect with other parts of the brain, primarily those connected with emotion. This connection between the prefrontal cortex and the emotion areas (the limbic cortex) regulate reward, risk, problem solving, planning and regulation. Short-cutting of neural networks from external receptors to the limbic cortex in some way explains irrational decision-making among teenagers.

But we must return to brain science for answers. Drawing from research on doctors, nurses and Army veterans, who have long been

vulnerable to stress, fatigue and depression, neuroscientists recently showed that focused and explicit training in mindfulness, empathy and compassion can provide solutions for better mental health. Research from the laboratories of Richard Davidson at the university of Wisconsin, Madison and Tania Singer at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig showed that each of these competencies employ a distinct neural circuit and build new connections between the prefrontal cortex and limbic cortex.

Mindfulness is the conscious paying of attention to experience and life that is unfolding right now and to cultivate conscious regulation of attention, emotion, thought and belief. This allows responses to be made as opposed to just reacting to them. Empathy and compassion need to work in synchrony and are particularly helpful in handling anxiety and peer pressure. While empathy is our general capacity to share emotional states of others, compassion ensures that we are not swayed by them and, instead, handle them with kind-

ness and positive action.

Importantly, the practice of self-compassion has emerged as a powerful antidote to handle anxiety. When faced with life challenges or while confronting failure, if adolescents respond with compassion and kindness to self, rather than inflicting harsh punishment, they accept and recognise that limitation and weakness is a part of the human experience. This process not only allows students to handle academic pressure but also builds a healthier and realistic representation of self — a process now acknowledged to be critical for good mental health.

The process of building these networks has been coined as Firing Gandhi Neurons, which is inspired by the seminal work of Neuroscientist VS Ramachandran’s work on mirror and empathy neurons. The difference between this approach and conventional approaches is that rather than focusing purely on building intellectual knowledge, of why reducing stress is good and its benefits, focus is on building emotional resilience to stress.

The key here is to create a neural

network across the intellectual and emotional such that these neural networks can in actuality produce the virtues and values that drove Gandhi to practice empathy, kindness and compassion to all beings, irrespective of religion, gender, ideology, and caste.

The good news: Recent studies involving adolescents in schools show similar promise. Initial results point towards more pro-social behaviour on the part of the students who were exposed to mindfulness and empathy cum compassion training. The research and experiences are still at an infancy stage but the science suggests promise.

Therefore, if schools are to be ‘true’ centres of learning, they need to be able to empower our youngsters to not only acquire intellectual and technical skills, as required by the job markets, but also provide them a better understanding of themselves, their identities and relationship with other beings. But there is a dichotomy here that we must address and alert all stakeholders in the education chain; this includes not only the

teachers, school administrators, and education policy-makers but also parents.

We all must move away from the present assessment-obsessed system to a structure that rewards kindness and consideration for social good. If not then we can expect learners to be in a state of perpetual cognitive dissonance, which might even cause further discomfort, stress and anxiety, wondering which path they should take.

With that sobering warning, we see optimism for the future as the younger generation do begin to question values and beliefs of the past and explore new multivariate identities that emerge from a system that encourages understanding the self, understanding and helping others but with a critical eye to facts and evidence. Once they do, then what they think, what they say and what they do is in harmony. And that according to the Mahatma is the secret to creating happy schools.

(Anantha Duraipappah is Director, UNESCO MGIEP. Nandini Chatterjee Singh is Cognitive Neuroscientist at UNESCO MGIEP)



MONITORING IS ESSENTIAL

Around 160,000 hip and knee replacements are carried out in England and Wales each year. Most are successful, and the role played by companies that manufacture items such as artificial joints is key. But they must also be regulated. The current regime gives manufacturers too much control over information — the number of devices in use. That should be in the public domain.

(The Guardian editorial)

The need for tower technicians is growing by leaps and bounds with new openings and requirement of NOS compliant manpower, says DR SP KOCHHAR

A TOWERING CAREER



Our National Skill Mission under the leadership of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) empowers the youth of the country to become more employable so that they can significantly contribute towards the formation of new India. Different sector skill councils are highly committed towards developing world-class skilled manpower for their sectors.

Each council has a comprehensive list of job roles that create a unique employment opportunity for a candidate in the organisation. One such job role is tower technician, one of the 39 jobs in the Telecom industry, which has a huge demand. As per the study of skilling requirement in this sector, there is approximately 3,56,332 job demand for the next five years.

The training partners like Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC), play a vital role in the enrollment of candidates to respective job roles and enable them to make the decision.

ROLE OF TOWER TECHNICIAN

Tower technicians are also known as site engineers, tower engineers and or site technicians in the telecom industry. Their job involves maintaining and repairing level-1 faults at telecom tower site, preventive and corrective maintenance and report faults to the supervisor in time.

The technician is responsible for all that and also need to travel interstate and work during odd hours, when required.

SKILLS

The individual should be technically qualified, self-disciplined, confident, team player, action-oriented and must possess analytical skills and problem-solving ability. He must also have good communication skills and the ability to work under pressure.

ELIGIBILITY

The minimum educational qualification required for this job role is 10+2 and/or Industrial Training Institute (ITI) diploma in electrical / mechanical and maximum qualification is graduate. Moreover, the minimum age required for tower technician is 18 years and 0-three years of experience is desired for it.

If candidates want to make a career as a tower technician, they can enroll themselves for training at BSNL Centres through Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) who have many training partners across India. The duration of this course is 300 hours and it is available free of charge through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY).

NOS COMPLIANCE

The National Occupational Standards (NOS) are applicable both in the Indian as well as global contexts. It states the standards of performance a candidate must attain when performing any role in the organisation. An individual must have knowledge and understanding of the job role which is required to meet that standard consistently.

Following are some of the standards of this job role that must be maintained at the tower site. They are:

■ **Site hygiene:** This occupational standard unit is about maintaining the site hygiene of AC, DG, Power Interface Unit (PIU), Switched Mode Power Supplies (SMPS) and battery bank, as per the organisation's norms. The candidate must know the basic use of mechanical equipment, the layout of the tower site, general aspects of electrical wiring and safety requirements at the site.

■ **Preventive maintenance:** The individual conducts regular preventive maintenance activities at the tower site under this operating sys-

■ What prompted you to start the 17,000 Feet Foundation?

I had quit my IT job spanning 12 years to work in the education sector. While working as a middle school teacher at Shri Ram School, Gurugram, I build many outdoor education programmes. But I constantly questioned the meaningfulness of my role and the impact that I was making in the world. My answers came during a solo trek to Ladakh in 2010 where I spent time in remote villages and taught foreign language to a handful of children in schools which was having staff crunch. The aspiration of the parents to educate their children and dream of a better future for them was the inspiration that led me to start the foundation. It is a non-profit organisation founded with my husband Sandeep Sahu and our Ladakh partner Dawa Jora.

■ Tell us about the initiatives

Our programmes focus on improving Government schools in remote areas,

Education with an impact

Also known as the Iron lady of Ladakh, Gurugram-based SUJATA SAHU, talks to SANGEETA YADAV about how she is providing quality education to the children in Ladakh through 17000 Ft Foundation

and delivery of quality education. Some of the initiatives are:

● **School infrastructure improvement programme:** We've set up 134 playgrounds in some of the remotest villages. Around 24 schools already have classroom furniture, with this number increasing to 140 in the coming months. Around 120 schools have been electrified and powered through solar energy.

● **Teacher training programme:** We annually train hundreds of teachers in multiple methodologies to improve the teaching-learning process in the classroom. Our



Sujata Sahu
Founder, 17000 Ft Foundation

training programmes are held in the harshest of winters in Ladakh, with temperatures dipping down to minus 25 degree celsius and teachers walking for hours to reach the training centres. We have so far trained over 1,500 teachers in the last seven years.

● **Library programme:** We've set up libraries in 250 schools and are working with the local administration to replicate the library programme across all 900 schools. We've translated 40 titles into Bhoti and distributed over 21,000 storybooks to school children across Ladakh.

● **Map my school:** We've built a technology platform that has every school geo mapped and placed on a map of Ladakh giving travellers an opportunity to find about these schools on their travel route.

● **DigiLab project:** This is our most ambitious programme that brings offline hybrid digital learning solutions to the remote village through the provision of solar electricity, tablets, customised and personalised digital curriculum in a well-furnished lab that is supported by multiple workshops by the foundation's team through the year.

The content will enable each child to learn independently while being guided by his teacher and also allow for tracking of student performance centrally. The solution has been designed to work anywhere, in any remote village, and works even in areas with no electricity, mobile connectivity or network.

We've set up DigiLabs in 103 schools

with that number being increased to 150 in the coming months.

■ How did the crowdfunding platform ImpactGuru.com help in this mission?

We recently ran a campaign on ImpactGuru to fund one of our Book Translation projects and we successfully reached our campaign goal.

Our recent campaign helped us fundraise to set up a complete playground set in a very remote school in Kargil district, Ladakh. We have been very happy with the visibility that these campaigns have given us, not to mention the fact that we have been able to reach our fundraising goals each time.

■ What are the upcoming projects?

We are keen on expanding DigiLab Project to other parts of the country. We are especially interested in going to the other mountainous regions like the North-east and are gathering funds and supporters for the initiative.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

All progress takes place outside the comfort zone
— Michael John Bobak

CULINARY ARTS

The Indian School of Hospitality, Gurugram, invites application for its Intensive Culinary Arts Programme. This nine-month course is accompanied by a total of three months of industry exposure to all students who wish to participate.

■ **Eligibility:** Applicants, who have completed Class XII or equivalent, graduates, professionals or PG students, who are planning to pursue a career in culinary art, are eligible to apply for this course.

■ **How to apply:** Log on to <http://ish.edu.in/how-to-apply.html>.

■ **Deadline:** December 25, 2018.

MSC CANCER THERAPIES

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, is inviting applications for MSc in Cancer Therapies starting in September 2019. It is a multi-faceted course that combines cancer biology, drug discovery, formulation and delivery with radiation biology. Students will also get an understanding of the practical, ethical and economic implications of personalised cancer therapy.

The degree is for graduates seeking experience in the range of topics essential to the understanding and development of cancer therapies. Students will be taught in the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, recognised as one of the leading departments of its kind in the UK. The institute has major facilities for radiobiology and radiopharmaceutical research. It also hosts the Cancer Research UK Drug Formulation Unit.

The course is set up to help produce world-class graduates with the skills to contribute to the global drive in advancing cancer treatment through research, teaching, industry and public sector employment.

Students on the MSc in Cancer Therapies degree will undertake a major project tailored to their interest and future career aspirations in an active research lab with enthusiastic and dedicate researchers and students.



■ **Eligibility:** Minimum second division in honours degree or international equivalent in a science or health related subject

■ **Fee:** The fee for international students for 2019/20 is £19,500. For further information, log on email at science-masters@strath.ac.uk or log on to <http://www.strath.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/taught/cancertherapies/>

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

The University of Sheffield, UK, is inviting applications for BSc and MBiolSci Biomedical Science courses starting in September 2019. Students will study everything from the gene to whole body systems, and gain a thorough understanding of the genetic and molecular processes that underpin the development, structure and function of the human body in health and disease.

Students will have the opportunity to spend a year of their studies at another top university around the world, putting their knowledge into practice with a year in industry or undertaking an extra year of research training with MBiolSci. As a biomedical science graduate, you'll be equipped to work at the forefront of advances in medical research.

■ **Fee:** £22600 for overseas students per year

■ **Eligibility:** 80 per cent in Class XII including two science subjects and an overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or an equivalent English language qualification.

■ **Last date to apply:** June 30, 2019. For further information email bmsadmissions@sheffield.ac.uk; or log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/prospectus/courseDetails.do?id=B902019#contactDetails>

To conduct a campus-wide survey about how students prefer watching movies, and also establish a collaboration with DPG Institute of Technology & Management, Gurugram to set up an incubation programme, a mobile file transfer and sharing app Xender paid a surprise visit at the campus.

The team was welcomed by the Dean and college's head professor (Engineering) Randhir Kumar. One of the leading companies in the mobile industry, Xender is on a hunt to hire local talents from India. Through this collaboration, both the college and the organisation will get to exchange ideas on the development of mobile Internet and also inculcate the trend of entrepreneurship.

A Computer Science student, Ravi Khan,



said: "It was a wonderful experience for me to interact with the team. The interaction was very enriching for B-School students like us. If given a chance, I would love to work for this company."

The company aims to collaborate with more such colleges in India to create more job avenues for the local talents. Especially after the movie platform has been launched, it will evolve into a brand new product and hire more talented youth.

— PNS

Online coaching for IELTS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Abhinav Outsourcings has started an online International English Language Testing System (IELTS) coaching course for the immigration aspirants. The IELTS is a standardised English language test designed for foreign speakers who wish to study, work or live in an English speaking environment. The certificate can open doors to international academic and professional opportunities and in many institutions and destinations across the globe.

This 30-hour online programme with a personal trainer that includes tips and tricks of cracking IELTS, speaking skills, listening skills, reading skills, writing skills and doubt clearing sessions.

Under the coaching service, Abhinav Outsourcings shall make the

delivery arrangements, for providing online IELTS coaching as per following details.

■ One can take the coaching as per ones' convenience — early morning till late evening; from home or from office.

■ One gets 30 hours of coaching.

■ **Delivery Model:**

■ Live online classes with a faculty

■ Individual one-on-one classes from home or office comfort

■ Class duration 30 hours that will cover reading, listening, writing, speaking

■ Flexible timings (Operational hours 6 am to 11 pm)

Basic Infrastructure required for the classes are laptops with internet connection, headphones and webcam

For more details candidates can visit: www.abhinav.com.

Health training programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IIHMR University has signed an MoU with the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), Delhi for conducting training programmes of senior hospital administrators under "Capacity Building in Public Health Emergency and Hospital Preparedness for Health Emergencies". The focus of the training programme will be to enhance the ability of hospitals and healthcare systems to prepare for and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

These training programmes will be conducted for

States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The participants would be senior hospital administrators (medical superintendents and deputy medical superintendents).

Annually, three training programmes will be conducted by IIHMR University under this agreement that will help to prevent immediate risk to health and life and also train and educate the senior hospital administrators about how to be ready to respond to public health emergencies. The programme is targeted to develop a proactive and dynamic approach to meet the rising demands for quality healthcare in India.

Connect L&D

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the IT upskilling revolution gathers steam, the chief architects of training programmes and organisational development at multinational organisations — the Learning & Development (L&D) professionals, are flocking to Connect L&D. A dedicated research platform established by SpringPeople, the aim to bring together L&D leaders from the industry on a common platform and provide them with an opportunity to network, share knowledge, opinions, educate themselves and get a holistic view of challenges and opportunities. This would enable them to drive their organisation's upskilling in a more effective way.

India's 20,000 strong L&D community form the backbone of employee learning and development at companies, directly responsible for upskilling the IT workforce of about 4 million with estimated spends of \$5 billion.

With the demand for skills training programmes in machine learning, artificial intelligence, blockchain, IoT and other emerging technologies at an all-time high, there is an urgent need for a common pan-India platform for such professionals to collaborate and design more effective training programs.

Launched in December last year, Connect L&D has seen participation from over 5,200+ L&D professionals responsible for employee training at big brands including Flipkart, Walmart, IBM, Wipro, Infosys, Samsung, to name a few. Users can attend free conclaves, seminars, and webinars, get access to knowledge bank and a platform to interact, network and share thoughts.

GEO-MENTOR PROGRAMME

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim of empowering schools with next generation technologies, Esri India, has launched Geo-Mentor Programme.

This programme is focused on encouraging the GIS enthusiasts and practitioners in India to come forward and skill school students in India in GIS technology. GeoMentors would be empowered with course material, training, and support infrastructure to equip them, become a mentor for school within their region and community. The organisation has already trained more than 1000 school students and teachers through a pilot programme in Delhi-NCR region from June to October 2018.

New emerging technologies are opening up new ways of learning and understanding our world. In a recently conducted study — Wikibrands' Digital Periscope study and surveys, Geospatial Technologies and GIS have been included in the top 20 emerging technologies in the next 10 years (2018-2028). GIS will help students view, understand and analyse data in different subjects, not just

geography, but chemistry, physics, history, arts, environmental studies, civics, and many more.

GIS is used as an inquiry-driven and problem-solving platform and provides career options that are increasingly in demand. It helps students think critically, use real data, and connects them to their own community.

The programme is an extension to the K-12 programme launched by the company, which aims at educating students about GIS technology. Some of the leading schools in Delhi-NCR are Tagore International, Deep Public School, Scottish High School, Maharaja Agrasen School, Basant Valley Global School, Sai Memorial Girls school have already collaborated with the company for this initiative.

The organisation also launched the EIGAP programme for teaching, learning, and research purposes. ArcGIS, the flagship platform, is available to universities nationally at a special price. The company has been promoting GIS know-how through other programmes like GIS Academia Council and mApp Your Way.

ANALYSING CAT 2018

Experts from Career Launcher give a paper-wise evaluation of the exam

PAPER: SLOT 1 BREAKDOWN



The CAT 2018 came out of the bag with two thuds and one loud bang. The paper started with an even easier than 2017 Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) section. Then the level of difficulty of the Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR) section provided a major reprieve to the nervous aspirants as it broke with the trend of the last three years. It was a moderately difficult as compared to an out and out difficult section that has been observed over the last two-three years. However, this relief was short-lived as Quantitative Aptitude (QA) came out all guns blazing. IIM-C kept its reputation intact, with its emphasis on the QA section.

The break-up of the paper (Slot 1): The VARC greeted students with an easier than expected paper. However, the pattern of the paper didn't strictly match that of the sample paper provided by the CAT team. The topics of the remaining RC passages were also from familiar areas. They were easy to read. There were quite a few inference-based questions, but these were easy to attempt.

The options were not really very close. Only four-five questions from RC were tricky. However, a student should have followed the process of elimination to be able to achieve a decent accuracy rate as the options were not straight-forward. The VA section had one major change. There were four Subjective Para Jumble (PJ) questions, and all of these had four sentences each. There were three odd sentence para-jumble questions. These questions were easier than

expected. A student could have easily managed to get 4 questions correct out of the seven PJs. These were Type In The Answer (TITA) questions. The three summary questions were difficult. The paragraphs focused entirely on research methodology and academic concepts. So, they were difficult to read and comprehend. However, the options were not really difficult. For many CAT aspirants this year (especially those who relied heavily on QA), VA may just turn out to be the saviour.

Major surprise: The PJs were easy and the sentences were short.

The next section was Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DILR). After three consecutive tragedies, DILR-2018 must have been a pleasant surprise. There were 32 questions in all with eight non-MCQs. Unlike last year's paper, the theme of the sets was more conventional. With the smart selection, around four sets in the section could have been attempted easily with accuracy. A couple of sets had one difficult to crack question each. A student should have been wise enough to leave these aside. Calculation wasn't required at all in the DI sets. On the other hand, the LR sets were easy-moderate in terms of level of difficulty.

For students who were already scared of QA section, it could have felt like a nuclear disaster. But for the engineering group, this was not impossible to attempt. The questions were calculation and logic intensive, not theory intensive.

The writer is Gautam Bawa, Group Product Head

PAPER: SLOT 2 BREAKDOWN

Students who went into the second slot expecting a similar paper as that of the first slot (or for that matter the CAT 2017 paper) were on the right track. It too started with an 'easy' VARC section. The passages were on similar lines as those of the first slot. The DILR section continued to give a sigh of relief to the students. However, some are of the opinion that it was slightly tougher than the first slot's DILR section. Overall, it was of a moderate level of difficulty. And the reign of QA continued. It remained the toughest section in the second slot too.

The break-up of the paper (Slot 2):

■ Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension: Total questions 34 — Non-MCQ: 7 — Easy: 28+

■ Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning: Total questions: 32; Non-MCQ: 8; Moderate: 16+

■ Quantitative Ability: Total questions: 34; Non-MCQ: 12; Difficult: 15+

The VARC section continued to be the feel good section. The pattern remained the same as that of the first slot. There were no instructions provided for the number of questions in each passage. However, there remained five passages. One passage had four questions while the rest had five questions each. The topics of the remaining Reading Comprehension (RC) passages were also from familiar areas. They were easy to read. There were quite a few inference-based questions, but these were easy to attempt, thanks to the option choices.

The options were not really very close. Only four-five questions from RC were tricky. However, a student should have followed the process of elimination to be able to achieve a decent accuracy rate as the options were not straight forward. The Verbal Ability (VA) section had one major change.



There were four subjective para-jumble questions, and all of these had four sentences each. There were three odd sentence para-jumble (OSPJ) questions. These questions were easier than expected. A student could have easily managed to get four questions correct out of the seven PJs. These were TITA questions.

The three para-summary questions were of moderate level of difficulty. The paragraphs continued to be short in the range of 450 to 500 words each. However, as compared to the first slot, the summary questions were slightly easier. Only one summary question appeared to be tough. So, VARC continued to be the easiest of the lot.

The second section of the paper — DILR — continued to be a pleasant surprise. There were 32 questions in total with eight non-MCQs. Unlike last year's paper, the theme of the sets was more conventional. There was one very direct DI set with basic calculations. The focus and strategy should have

been the quality of the selected sets rather than the quantity of the numbers of questions attempted. A couple of sets did have a question each which should have been 'left alone'. Two sets included calculation but none was on the tougher side. On the other hand, the LR sets were easy-moderate in terms of level of difficulty.

Overall, 15-17 attempts, with an accuracy of 90 per cent would be considered good.

Once the QA section was over, students would have come out with much less satisfaction as they would have had they come out at the end of DILR. If you expected a happy ending in QA, you were definitely not paying attention to all the discussions following the first slot. An overall attempt of 18-20 with 85 per cent accuracy will be good.

Overall, a 99 percentile score could reduce by about 15-18 marks as compared to last year. Thus, a score of 150-155 should fetch a 99 percentile.

The writer is Arks Srinivas, National Head, MBA Prep

‘Medicine is both art and science’

Want to study medicine in the US?

DR CALUM MACPHERSON shares tips

Technology in medical education has changed drastically. To begin with, the only option of imaging was X-Ray which was used only in developed countries. Gradually came in ultrasound which was considered harmful and later accepted. It will undoubtedly continue to play a critical role in the delivery of healthcare services making experience with tech-based clinical learning imperative to the success of the next generation of doctors. Enhanced imaging, for instance, will revolutionise and improve the accuracy of diagnoses. The use of such technology at the most basic level of clinical practice will become the norm. Indeed, the portable ultrasound may soon replace the stethoscope.

Technology is bridging huge gaps among the people who are physically located in different places. When we make use of technology, St George's University (SGU) makes sure that medicine which is both science and art does not lose its essence.

In medicine, it helps to teach and impart medical knowledge to students 50 per cent better which almost covers half of what we actually teach. People are not just suffering from infectious diseases, but also from different mental problems. The matters of the mind highly impact the fatal disease like Diabetes, hypertension, obesity and even heart attack for that matter. Making use of technology for increasing the availability of medicine to the patient will only take the patient closer to being better and cured for a longer time.

Technology will help us keep a record of all the details related to medical science happening in the patient's body. So, when the person goes in for a check-up, the doctor will be able to diagnose and understand of what went wrong, when and due to what — considering the clinical history.

Technology is now developing to stage where robots for general examination, AI learning and much more would be applied for curing the human mind and body, along with keeping updated records of growth."

Tips for medical aspirants

The SGU is a premier medical institution which aims at bringing medical developments on an even level to all the people worldwide. Medical knowledge is global and is spreading and connecting the population through the ever emerging and dynamic technology, used both



Dr Calum Macpherson
Vice-Provost, St George's University, US

as science and art.

It aims at enrolling students not just regionally but internationally to create an environment where the future aspiring medical students can learn about the different health conditions which are not just prevalent in one particular country, but also in different regions all over the world, stating the obvious that patients never just belong to one place.

It allows the students to pursue their first year in MS Ramaiah College, Bengaluru and they complete the rest internationally, either in Grenade or in UK, as per the students' requirements. By bringing students from all over the world, the university wins in creating a creative learning atmosphere about different cultural differences, religious differences and how different religions could impact health.

For a successful five-year programme, its curriculum has been mapped with the partnered medical institutions — MS Ramaiah College, India and Maldoh College, Thailand for providing perfect ambience both academically and in residency, which makes it a truly International education.

The advent of Internet and its gradual penetration into the corners of the world has led to a shrinking world. For the businesses, recognising the customer's choice and requirement are of utmost importance, but the marketers find themselves submerged in the overwhelming amount of marketing data available. It is bewildering to understand how marketing analytics relate to Return on Investment (ROI) with such varied and diversified visitors.

The ROI is an evaluation to measure the performance of the efficiency of an investment. It directly measures the return in relation to the investment cost.

Marketing Analytics is

the process of controlling and analysing the metrics data in order to ascertain the ROI of marketing efforts that a business has put in.

TIPS TO INCREASE ROI

The ROI is the key factor to assess how successful the marketing efforts have been. Marketing Analytics, in addition, is an essential tool based on which businesses can initiate, plan and execute their marketing campaigns and enhance their Y-O-Y returns.

■ **Target optimum result by leveraging the right analytical platform:** The most crucial word would be to select the apt data analytics platform that would help give a complete insight into the sales teams' efforts. It should

MINDIT

give clarity on their performance, profitability and revenue contribution which will assist in informed decision-making and aid in targeting more lucrative opportunities.

On one hand, the sales leaders will benefit by getting complete an insight into the project goals and can work strategically towards it. On the other, it comes handy in identifying and redressing the issues on a priority basis. The right choice of data analytics platform enhances the operational efficiency as it enables the strategic use of the available data for business development and ensures

improved marketing ROI.

■ **Focus on improved well-planned and strategic ROI:** A perfect planning will certainly guarantee better results. It is mandatory to underline what to measure, when to measure and how to measure. First an outline should be proposed, gradually a detailed plan should be worked out. Side by side, it should be figured out as to how analytics can be installed to achieve the anticipated ROI.

■ **Investigating what works is fine but knowing what works better will do the trick.** Shun vanity metrics: The overwhelming data

can distract us by misleading. Social media likes of Facebook, Twitter, and others may give an impression of popularity but they hardly help in generating real revenue. It is better to keep such data out of measurement.

A lot of time, money and effort goes into it, so the focus should be on targeting the right segment. The narrowing of the segment will ensure better ROI gains.

■ **Increase sales:** In this digital era, there is an abundance of information floating and is easily accessible to all. On one hand, the customers are empowered by this to make well-informed purchases, while on the other, the business houses can also strategise and exploit this to their great benefit. The only need is that the marketing team knows and learns

how to translate this data into revenue.

■ **Experiment and explore as much as you can:** There should be no limitations while testing or measuring. Experimentation and exploration of new avenues are certain ways to accelerate your business as it will lead to fresh possibilities. There is an adage: No pain; no gain. Nothing can be achieved by hanging on to traditional, tried and tested methods. The changing times ushers in the need to be innovative and think out-of-the-box to be the leaders. Continuous improvement and strategic planning are the need of the hour to improve ROI.

The writer is Kounal Gupta, CEO, Henry Harvin Education



The University of Pittsburgh is offering Full-Time Scholarship Competition

for students who are admitted as a full-time freshman student for fall 2019. Students from the USA are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Eligibility: Students must meet the following criteria: Admitted as a full-time freshman student to Pitt-Greensburg by January 15, 2019 (Direct applicants only; option students are not eligible to apply). Achieved a cumulative high school GPA of 3.8 or higher (at time of application). Scored a minimum of 1250 on SAT – or – 26 on ACT. Student must be a United States citizen.

English language requirements: Scored a minimum of 1250 on SAT; 26 on the ACT.

How to apply: Students must mail an envelope containing a printed application, two (2) letters of recommendation, and official high school transcript including SAT/ACT scores by post.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is January 22, 2019.

The Technical University of Munich invites applications for Postdoctoral Fellowship or PhD student position in Machine

Learning for Patient Data Analysis at the Helmholtz Center Munich. International students can apply.

Eligibility: MSc or PhD degree in Computer Science, Statistics, Maths, Data Science or equivalent; Strong background in machine learning (graphical models, Bayesian and neural networks), Statistics, and preferably causal inference methods; Knowledge of and or experience with time-series data, preferably clinical data; Programming expertise in Python, R, and SQL; Interest and or experience in working with healthcare problems (surgical procedures); Demonstrated skill in scientific writing; Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to work independently and in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary team of surgeons and engineers. Experience with healthcare data and building real-world systems is a plus. **English language requirements:** Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University.

How to apply: Interested individuals should send a cover letter, a CV and contact information for two references to Dr. Narges Ahmidi (narges.ahmidi-at-helmholtz-muenchen.de).

Application deadline: Open for applications.

STUDY CENTRES

Ayurveda believes in the adage: Prevention is better than cure. Of late, there has been a lot of talk on the importance of Ayurveda is treating a number of ailments. Patients too are looking for good Ayurveda doctors because it combines the best knowledge and developments taking place globally. As patients from all over the world are coming to India for Ayurveda treatment, the demand for Ayurvedic doctors is on the rise. To be a successful Ayurveda practitioner, one must have strong concentration, self-confidence, responsibility, caring nature and good communication skills. A few colleges to study are:

■ **Chandra Shekhar Singh Ayurved Sansthan**, Allahabad. **Course:** Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS)

■ **Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University:** School of Medicine and Para Medical Health Sciences, New Delhi. **Course:** BAMS

■ **Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Smarak Government Ayurvedic College and Hospital**, Allahabad. **Course:** BAMS

■ **Rajiv Gandhi Ayurveda Medical College**, Puducherry. **Course:** BAMS

■ **Government Ayurveda College**, Bilaspur. **Course:** BAMS

■ **Om Ayurvedic Medical college Hospital and Research Center**, Haridwar. **Course:** BAMS

■ **Ramakrishna Ayurvedic Medical College Hospital and Research Center**, Bangalore. **Course:** BAMS



MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR) AT PERCEPT

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹2,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16282
Application deadline: December 5, 2018

EVENT MANAGEMENT AT FEVER ENTERTAINMENT

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16283
Application deadline: December 5, 2018

JOURNALISM (SUB EDITOR) AT INMOBI

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16284
Application deadline: December 18, 2018

VIDEO CONTENT RESEARCH AT DEN NETWORKS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16285
Application deadline: December 21, 2018

PROGRAMMING (JAVA) AT CREDOCHAIN

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16286
Application deadline: December 5, 2018

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT SUPERFLY PRODUCTIONS

Location: Delhi, Gurugram, Noida
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16287
Application deadline: December 5, 2018

DIGITAL MARKETING AT MOTIVATIONAL DIARIES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16288
Application deadline: December 5, 2018

IN BRIEF

FIITJEE TALENT REWARD EXAM

FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam (FTRE) is a wonderful platform for all students to know their current position/rank at national level along with Rank Potential Index/Success Potential for JEE Advanced, JEE Main, KVPY, NTSE, NSEJS and Olympiads. It is an opportunity for students of all levels to tread the road of preparation and achieve their aspired goal. The exam will

be held on December 23, 2018 in more than 200 cities in India. This exam is open for students of Classes V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI.

The last date to register for the exam is December 22, 2018 and the registration fee for the exam varies from ₹200 to ₹2,000 depending on when you are applying. Students can register for through online and offline modes.

Results will be declared from January 5, 2019 onwards and will be available at www.fiitjee-ftre.com.

COMMON DELIVERY PROGRAMME

Association of Skill Training Providers (ASTP) has announced the launch of Common Delivery Platform for its member skill providers in India. This is a significant initiative for the skill sector that will enable members to use

approximately 7,000 member delivery centres to deliver unique courses developed by them.

The platform will allow members to leverage the extensive network and infrastructure to drive scale vs restricting to

individual reach and make their flagship training courses and employability available to the youth seeking employment-driven skills.

On completion of the programmes the candidates will be presented with certificates.

IMS LAUNCHES RTI CLUB

IMS law College, Noida, organised a seminar on RTI Act 2005 at its campus. During the seminar the college also launched RTI club for creating awareness. Archana Sinha Additional District and Sessions Judge, Delhi, former Additional District and Sessions Judge Ghaziabad Arun Kumar and Dean of IMS Law College were present at the seminar.

Addressing to the students, Dr Sinha said: "We are happy that the college has the courage to start an RTI Club. Working in the form of an

RTI worker is a daunting task. This work is like a double striped sword, which can be threatened if you are not used before carefully."

She also said that the RTI refers to the right of every citizen of the State to access information under the control of public authorities consistent with the public interest. The objective is not only to promote openness, transparency and accountability in administration but also to ensure participation of people in all the matters related to governance.

UPSKILL WORKFORCE

Coursera has announced a partnership with Mindtree, a global technology services and digital transformation company which will leverage Coursera's enterprise platform — Coursera for Business — to upskill its workforce in relevant and high-end technology skills like machine learning, python and data science. This is a continuation of a partnership which started as a pilot programme earlier this year and has grown under Mindtree.

This partnership will enable all Mindtree Minds working in the technology domain to stay on the cutting-edge of proficiency in digital technologies including machine learning, agile, DevOps — through its cloud-based, online learning platform, Yorbit.

This joint endeavour is aimed at building new capabilities and equipping the talent pool with the requisite technical skills needed to meet emerging challenges.

SOFTWARE SUMMIT

Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) will co-host the Software Product Management Summit, along with the International Software Product Management Association to be held in 2019. This is the first time that this summit is being held in India.

Professor Rahul De, Chair, Centre for Software and IT Management at IIM Bangalore, said: "Of late, Indian IT firms and start-ups are focusing strongly on developing software products, both for Indian as well as international markets. Having a leading industry association hold a summit in Bangalore will go a long way in enhancing these efforts."

Sensex, Nifty clock 2nd straight gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE benchmark Sensex rose for the second day, gaining over 150 points on hectic buying in banking and IT stocks as easing concerns on the macro-economic front bolstered investors' risk appetite. The broader NSE Nifty too witnessed a rise of 57 points. Market sentiments were boosted by a host of positive factors including stable rupee, falling crude oil prices, subdued retail inflation and steps to improve liquidity situations.

Both equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty smartly recovered from day's low towards the fag-end of the session, but global trade tensions ahead of G20 meet this week and mixed Asian peers kept participants cautious, restricting the gains on domestic bourses. Analysts said that "risk element on inflation is subsiding with rise in oil production, strong rupee and drop in yield; CPI inflation is expected to be under the control range".

The 30-share Sensex settled 159.06 points, or 0.45 per cent, higher at 35,513.14, while the broader NSE Nifty jumped 57 points, or 0.54 per cent, to finish at 10,685.60. The rally was led by mainly IT and banking stocks. The government's announcement of Rs 42,000 crore fund infusion in the state-

owned banks by March-end kept the participants interested in buying banking stocks. T Meanwhile, the rupee weakened slightly against the US dollar after US President Donald Trump suggested a further tariff hike on Chinese goods.

Infosys, Reliance Industries, TCS, HDFC, HDFC Bank, Maruti, SBI, IndusInd Bank and Kotak Bank led the gains on the Sensex, rising up to 2.53 per cent. While, Sun Pharma, Hero MotoCorp, Yes Bank, Wipro, Bajaj Auto, Bharti Airtel and Tata Steel fell up to 3.34 per cent. On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought shares worth ₹62.74 crore Monday and DII were net buyers to the tune of ₹351.78 crore, provisional data available with the BSE suggested. The broader markets too advanced with BSE Smallcap rising 0.43 per cent and BSE Midcap ending 0.32 per cent higher.

Elsewhere in Asia, Korea's Kospi was up 0.79 per cent and Japan's Nikkei rose 0.64 per cent. While, Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.17 per cent and Shanghai Composite Index was down 0.04 per cent.

In Europe, Frankfurt's DAX was down 0.09 per cent, while Paris CAC 40 fell 0.05 per cent. London's FTSE climbed 0.21 per cent.

Rift with Centre doesn't challenge RBI's autonomy: Damodaran

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Sebi chairman N Damodaran on Tuesday said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) continues to be a strong institution and its recent differences with the government does not challenge its autonomy.

He said RBI has been enjoying functional autonomy and nothing has happened in the recent past that has taken this away. "There have been differences between the government and RBI many times. But the institution (RBI) has never suffered. I think now also to say that RBI's autonomy is being curtailed is wrong," Damodaran told reporters here on the sidelines of a financial distribution summit organised by CII.

He said in the past, differences between the central bank and the government were sorted through private conversations between the governor and the finance minister, and people outside would not hear of it.

Now, it has become a matter of public discourse and all sorts of people, outside of the government and RBI, have jumped into the fray. "I think this stand-off is not insurmountable. Everybody thinks it is a major loss, but nothing of that kind has happened," Damodaran stressed. He said a mature conversation between both the sides, carried out in private, will help iron out the differences.

"The government's agenda will always be pro-growth and RBI has the responsibility to see that the price line

is maintained and inflation doesn't get out of control. How to harmoniously construct both, will have to be through conversation," he said.

It doesn't help if people go to the press and make statements, he added. Earlier in his speech, he said when it comes to financial literacy, there is a huge knowledge asymmetry between those selling and consuming financial products.

Speaking of the interdependence of trust and technology in the financial sector, he said if trust disappears, technology will be irrelevant. "You need technology and transparency, but you need trust," he said.

Talking about risk management, he said it has been and always be important but is not been given adequate attention.

Amway forays into herbal skincare segment

New Delhi: Direct selling major Amway Tuesday announced its foray into herbal skincare segment in India to tap the growing demand of such products among youths in its pursuit of USD 1 billion total sales by 2025.

In the next six years, the company expects its Attitude range of skincare products to become a ₹500-crore brand accounting for 10 per cent of its total sales. The figures are based on foreign exchange rate during the time when the announcement was made earlier this year.

Commenting on the foray into herbal skincare range, Amway India

CEO Anshu Budhbraja said the marketplace is becoming more attuned to the herbal category.

"There is a lot of traction for herbal products beyond nutrition, leading to beauty, in the market...Our research shows that the youth of India, consumer of this new segment, is growing exponentially and the products with traditional wisdom are appealing to them," he told PTI.

Amway is kicking off its herbal skincare range with three products - a day cream, a night cream and a face wash - with all the locally-sourced ingredients, Budhbraja added.

On the expectations from the new range, he said, "currently Attitude is about 6 per cent of the total business. We believe that this would become a ₹500-crore brand, within that USD 1 billion (target), that is almost 10 per cent of the total sales".

Earlier this year, Amway had said it was looking to touch USD 1 billion sales in India by 2025, driven by new product launches and expansion of sales network, including e-commerce. In 2017-18, the direct selling firm had sales of ₹1,800 crore and expects to touch Rs ₹2000 crore in 2018-19.

PTI

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	10621.45	10695.15	10596.35	10685.60	57.00	
INFY	625.50	641.00	625.30	641.00	19.55	
BAJAJFINSV	5740.00	5910.00	5730.00	5910.00	172.10	
GAIL	340.00	350.05	339.80	349.00	9.20	
TCS	1854.00	1897.90	1835.35	1895.00	48.90	
BPCL	325.55	336.50	322.15	335.30	7.95	
HCLTECH	998.70	1029.00	993.00	1021.70	21.20	
BAFINANCE	2395.00	2439.90	2375.00	2437.00	42.40	
INDUSINDBK	1553.70	1593.85	1548.80	1590.00	27.25	
RELIANCE	1107.90	1130.00	1105.45	1128.60	18.85	
GRASIM	844.00	862.50	839.65	858.50	13.15	
DREDDY	275.00	280.28	254.00	259.10	32.40	
MARUTI	7570.00	7657.80	7520.75	7650.00	95.30	
ULTRACEMCO	3982.00	4029.00	3950.25	3999.00	39.15	
HDFC	1884.65	1908.80	1870.00	1903.00	18.35	
SBIN	284.60	290.50	284.05	289.00	2.60	
IOC	136.45	139.65	135.25	137.95	1.00	
HDFCBANK	2041.05	2067.90	2040.75	2064.00	14.20	
HINDALCO	217.00	223.00	213.25	220.30	1.50	
COALINDIA	252.50	254.20	250.15	252.40	1.65	
LT	1419.45	1434.00	1415.35	1431.00	9.00	
M&M	747.00	753.90	738.10	752.50	4.60	
NTPC	144.50	146.80	143.25	145.60	0.90	
INFRAEEL	262.00	268.25	259.15	264.05	1.30	
KOTAKBANK	1163.10	1178.95	1163.10	1175.10	4.55	
TECHM	695.70	708.30	685.05	696.50	2.00	
ADANIPORTS	368.45	373.00	363.20	370.10	1.05	
TITAN	914.00	918.00	906.00	916.00	-0.40	
HINDPETRO	244.50	248.80	241.00	246.25	-0.10	
ONGC	147.40	147.85	145.25	146.30	-0.30	
POWERGRID	181.95	184.95	180.30	181.75	-0.70	
ECHERMOT	24017.95	24039.75	23580.00	23754.00	-94.30	
ITC	286.10	286.45	282.80	284.40	-1.25	
VEDL	193.85	199.70	192.00	194.75	-1.05	
ZEE	458.00	463.00	452.85	458.55	-3.05	
HINDUNILVR	1738.90	1741.50	1709.25	1730.80	-13.20	
ASIANPAINT	1346.80	1346.80	1326.05	1338.80	-10.70	
CIPLA	526.00	526.95	513.05	517.80	-4.30	
ICICIBANK	355.75	356.10	351.60	353.35	-3.00	
TATAMOTORS	181.70	184.55	178.55	180.05	-1.70	
UPL	766.00	773.90	754.00	765.05	-8.05	
AXISBANK	629.90	638.70	623.00	624.00	-7.05	
IBULHSGFIN	704.00	715.00	690.15	691.50	-11.15	
JSWSTEEL	313.15	316.80	299.50	312.40	-5.20	
TATASTEEL	529.70	529.90	512.50	521.60	-9.10	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2642.00	2643.95	2571.90	2601.00	-48.50	
WIPRO	316.85	322.30	311.00	312.30	-6.15	
BHARTIARTL	333.90	335.90	324.10	326.55	-8.00	
YESBANK	193.00	193.80	185.00	182.20	-5.70	
SUNPHARMA	518.90	519.35	474.50	491.30	-19.45	
HEROMOTOCO	3068.35	3075.00	2950.00	2958.00	-118.00	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27250.90	27377.15	27193.30	27259.95	27.30	
COALPI	1198.00	1242.00	1187.10	1239.80	40.35	
MOTHERSUNI	156.25	162.00	155.80	161.35	4.55	
BANDHANBNK	451.95	473.50	444.00	465.00	11.45	
MCDOWELLN	637.00	650.00	634.00	646.30	9.15	
SUNTV	603.50	613.40	598.10	610.90	8.50	
MARICO	362.80	367.50	359.90	364.95	4.75	
ASHOKLEY	108.50	110.70	108.35	110.25	1.35	
PIDILITIND	1157.00	1180.50	1146.05	1169.50	12.45	
ABB	1349.00	1363.40	1340.00	1362.00	13.40	
HINDZINC	263.30	265.50	259.40	264.55	1.90	
MRPL	6786.20	6880.00	6740.05	6867.80	479.25	
DMART	1397.00	1409.75	1391.10	1403.00	9.30	
DLF	178.50	183.35	176.00	178.60	1.10	
LUPIN	849.00	857.70	842.00	849.75	4.85	
BRITANNIA	6019.90	6080.00	5966.00	6040.25	32.20	
ACC	1433.25	1454.30	1430.65	1446.25	7.15	
ICICIPRULI	325.00	330.80	324.65	326.60	1.50	
DABUR	420.00	422.25	413.35	420.80	1.75	
OIL	200.45	203.40	198.80	200.50	0.70	
SHREECEM	15734.00	16100.00	15734.00	16050.00	54.15	
BHEL	66.40	68.10	66.30	67.15	0.15	
LICHSGFIN	456.70	462.85	449.65	461.00	0.80	
SBILIFE	567.00	574.00	563.25	568.50	0.30	
CONCOR	667.15	674.05	654.00	674.05	0.25	
NHPC	26.10	26.25	25.95	26.00	0.00	
BANKBARODA	108.90	110.50	108.25	108.85	-0.05	
L&T&H	131.35	132.75	130.60	131.35	-0.15	
GICRE	303.95	304.80	301.70	302.20	-0.35	
AMBUJACEM	215.95	218.15	214.30	216.60	-0.45	
HAVELLS	659.30	667.80	652.40	658.30	-2.20	
GODREJCP	740.00	753.00	737.25	744.15	-2.55	
OFSS	3418.00	3464.00	3387.20	3395.10	-13.55	
HDCLIFE	395.95	396.80	390.00	393.50	-2.65	
SIEMENS	914.00	922.50	903.50	906.00	-7.25	
ABCPATL	109.00	109.90	107.05	107.70	-1.00	
PETRONET	219.40	219.40	216.15	218.00	-2.05	
SINTRANSFIN	1099.00	1116.05	1080.30	1097.00	-12.45	
BIOCON	617.00	621.80	607.00	607.50	-7.25	
PGHH	9415.00	9453.15	9275.00	9290.00	-125.20	
NIAL	201.40	202.00	198.00	200.00	-2.70	
AUROPHARMA	798.50	807.75	778.20	784.20	-12.15	
ICICI	801.00	808.45	785.00	795.00	-12.85	
INDIGO	1041.00	1045.00	1025.65	1031.00	-17.65	
CADILAH	356.00	356.90	342.50	346.50	-7.10	
NMDC	96.75	96.75	94.10	94.70	-2.05	
BOSCHLTD	18750.00	19057.00	18280.00	18290.00	-398.85	
SAIL	57.90	57.90	55.90	56.80	-1.25	
IBEL	95.00	95.50	92.60	93.25	-2.65	
IDEA	39.80	40.60	38.20	38.65	-1.20	
PEL	217.85	221.45	203.10	204.00	-138.85	

BSE 500

Traded	Last	Price
3MINDIA	20733.90	-72.70
8KMILES	157.10	7.45
AARTIIND	1491.40	23.80
ABB	1353.75	0.40
ABBOTINDIA	7205.75	-79.35
ABCAPITAL	107.75	-1.25
ABFRL	187.60	-1.50
ACC	1443.85	3.10
ADANIPOINTS	36.60	0.60
ADANIPOWER	50.40	0.30
ADANITRANS	250.25	23.80
ADVENZYMES	186.85	1.85
AGEISLOG	226.80	2.80
AIANG	1555.65	1.55
AJANTHAPHARM	1119.20	22.65
AKZOINDIA	1585.35	1.35
ALBK	47.45	0.45
ALCO	1916.65	11.65
ALLCARMO	73.75	0.05
AMARAJABAT	175.00	7.00
AMBUJACEM	215.35	0.35
ANDHRACARB	28.40	0.40
APARINDS	621.50	1.50
APOLLOAIP	1320.05	12.05
APLITD	562.15	1.15
APOLLOHOSP	1232.85	22.85
APOLLOTYRE	229.65	1.65
ARVIND	311.45	1.45
ASAHINDIA	266.15	1.15
ASHOKA	125.70	1.70
ASHOKLEY	109.90	0.90
ASIANPAINT	1339.20	20.20
ASTRAL	1085.05	1.05
ATUL	3594.95	1.95
AUBANK	607.05	0.05
AUROPHARMA	787.85	8.85
AVANTI	361.40	0.40
AXISBANK	625.20	0.20
BAJAJ-AUTO	2598.60	21.60
BAJAJCORP	349.65	0.65
BAJAJELEC	455.60	0.60
BAJAJFINSV	5857.80	8.80
BAJAJHLONG	341.25	0.25
BAJFINANCE	2003.75	1.75
BALKRISIND	988.25	1.25
BALMALWARE	189.40	0.40
BALRAMCHIN	101.35	0.35
BANDHANBNK	462.75	0.75
BANKBARODA	109.75	0.75
BANKINDIA	85.75	0.75
BASF	1528.70	1.70
BATAINDIA	1000.35	0.35
BAYERCROP	4016.70	16.70
BHCT	1341.45	1.45
BEL	93.35	0.35
BEML	759.30	0.30
BERGEPAINT	316.30	0.30
BHARATFERT	983.10	0.10
BHARATPOPT	575.55	0.55
BHARTIARTL	328.50	0.50
BHIEL	66.85	0.85
BIOCON	609.20	0.20
BIRLACORP	164.00	0.00
BLISSVGS	164.00	0.00
BLUEDART	3077.65	7.65
BLUESTAR	633.85	0.85
BOMDYEING	101.45	0.45
BOSCHLTD	18458.20	158.20
BPCIL	334.30	0.30
BRITANNIA	6014.60	64.60
CADILAC	345.05	0.05
CANBK	267.50	0.50
CANFINHOME	257.45	0.45
CAPF	241.95	0.95
CAPPL	405.00	0.00
CARBORUNIV	360.80	0.80
CARERATING	986.95	0.95
CASTROLIND	154.60	0.60
CCL	269.35	0.35
CEATLTD	1242.95	0.95
CENTRALBK	30.30	0.30
CENTRUM	39.95	0.95
CENTURYPL	169.55	0.55
CENTURYTEX	907.10	0.10
CERA	2419.75	19.75
CGPOWER	39.35	0.35
CHAMBLFERT	149.80	0.80
CHENNPETRO	267.50	0.50
CHOLAFIN	1309.30	0.30

‘US stands with India in its quest for justice for 26/11 victims’

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Expressing solidarity with the innocent victims of the 2008 Mumbai attack, President Donald Trump has said the US stands with the people of India in their quest for justice and will never let the terrorists win. A total of 166 people, including six Americans, were killed in the terror attack on November 26, 2008 carried out by 10 Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists over a period of three days. Nine of the attackers were killed by the police while lone survivor Ajmal Kasab was captured and hanged after he was handed down the death sentence by an Indian court.

“On the ten-year anniversary of the Mumbai terror attack, the US stands with the people of India in their quest for justice,” Trump tweeted. “The attack killed 166 innocents, including six Americans. We will never let terrorists win, or even come close to winning!” he said. The president’s comments came days after he defended his administration’s decision to stop hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid to Pakistan for not doing enough to curb terrorism and criticised Islamabad for offering a hideout to slain al-Qaeda chief bin Laden in the garrison city of Abbottabad.

“We give Pakistan USD 1.3 billion a year... (bin Laden) lived in Pakistan, we’re supporting Pakistan, we’re giving them USD 1.3 billion a year — which we don’t give them anymore, by the way, I ended it because they don’t do anything for us, they don’t do a damn thing for us,” Trump said. Kia Scherr, whose husband and a 13-year-old daughter were killed in the Mumbai terror attack, thanked President Trump for his tweet.



“May this day serve to remind us that love overpowers hate. This is the strength no bullet can kill. This is our true power. Thank you,” she said. At a solemn event ‘in memory of the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks’ at the Indian Embassy here, a top American counterterrorism official called on Pakistan to bring LeT operatives and other terrorists to justice. “We call upon all countries, particularly Pakistan, to do their parts in bringing the perpetrators to justice. All countries must uphold their international obligations to take action against this UN sanctioned terrorist group and its leaders,” said Nathan Sales, State Department’s coordinator for counterterrorism in his brief remarks.

Noting that a day earlier, the State Department announced a new reward of USD 5 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction in any country of those involved in the carnage, Sales said, “With this, we remind the world that we have not forgotten those who perished 10 years ago and we will not rest until the perpetrators are brought to justice.” It is an

absolute affront to the victims and their families that after 10 years those who planned these despicable acts have still not been convicted for their crimes, Sales said, echoing the statement of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a day earlier. “Our citizens died together. So we must all work together to end the scourge of terrorism. We must prevent the terrorists who committed this act of barbarism, LeT from ever threatening our people again,” Sales said.

In his remarks, Indian Ambassador to the US, Navtej Singh Sarna, paid tributes to the innocent lives lost during the attack. He condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and urged the international community to call upon Pakistan to bring the perpetrators of this heinous terrorist attack to justice.

Sarna thanked the State Department for instituting a “Rewards for Justice” programme announcing a bounty for any information leading to arrest or conviction of any individual involved in planning or facilitating the attack. To honour the memory of the victims, a moment of silence was observed by the attendees fol-

lowed by lighting of candles. Extracts from an article written on this occasion by Scherr, the co-founder of a charity ‘One Life Alliance’, was also read out.

The event concluded with the screening of the HBO documentary on 26/11 Mumbai attacks, titled ‘Terror in Mumbai’. The event among others was attended by Basant Sanghera and Jennifer Whethey, Director in the US National Security Council at the White House. Rabbi Levi Shemstov, Executive Vice President, American Friends of Lubavitch (Chabad) recounted his personal experience when he desperately tried to save his friends and colleagues in Mumbai and talked with one of the terrorists over phone.

Congressman Eliot L. Engel, Ranking Member of the powerful House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said 10 years ago, the world watched in real time as a horrific terrorist attack unfolded over the course of 60 hours in Mumbai. “I join the friends and families in remembering the 166 victims, including the six American citizens killed during the attack, and I stand in solidarity with the people of India who have demonstrated their resilience in the face of such violence,” he said.

“It remains imperative, as it was 10 years ago, to bring the perpetrators of such heinous and senseless violence to account,” said Engel, who is expected to be the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee next year. “Ten years ago the people of India fell victim to a heinous terrorist attack in Mumbai. Today we remember the victims and stand with India in the fight to end violent Islamist extremism,” Congressman Ted Yoho said in a tweet.

UN: Perpetrators of terrorist acts should be brought to justice

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Any person who takes part in terrorist attacks or any acts of violence should be brought to justice, the UN has said as India marked the 10th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks carried out by terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. About 166 people, including six Americans, were killed in the terror attack carried out by 10 LeT terrorists over a period of three days.

Nine of the attackers were killed by the police while lone survivor Ajmal Kasab was captured and hanged after he was handed down death sentence by an Indian court.

“As a matter of principle, we always believe that those who are responsible for violence..random violence for acts of terrorism should be brought to justice,” Spokesperson for Secretary



General Antonio Guterres, Stephane Dujarric said at his daily press briefing Monday.

Dujarric was responding to a question by PTI on the 10th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks and the US State Department announcement to offer a five million dollar reward for information leading to the arrest or conviction of any individual who was involved in planning or faci-

tating the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Spokesperson for President of the General Assembly Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Monica Grayley also said that any person or persons who take part in terrorist attacks or any acts of violence “should be held accountable and they should be brought to justice.” US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement that the “barbarity” of the Mumbai ter-

ror attacks had “shocked” the entire world, adding that it is an “affront” to the families of the victims that, after ten years, those who planned the Mumbai attack have still not been convicted for their involvement.

“We call upon all countries, particularly Pakistan, to uphold their UN Security Council obligations to implement sanctions against the terrorists responsible for this atrocity, including Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and its affiliates,” Pompeo said in his message.

He added that the US is committed to seeing that those responsible for this attack face justice.

The Department of State Rewards for Justice (RFJ) Program is offering a new reward for up to \$5 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of any individual who was involved in planning or facilitating the 2008 Mumbai attack, he added.

NASA's Insight spacecraft successfully lands on Mars

Washington (PTI): NASA's robotic InSight lander — designed to dig deep into the rocky surface of Mars to reveal its secrets — has successfully touched down on the Red Planet after a supersonic plunge through its rose-hued atmosphere, the US space agency said Tuesday. The lander sent signals indicating that its solar panels are open and collecting sunlight on the Martian surface, InSight mission team said in a statement.

“Aaah...soaking up the Sun with my solar panels. After a long flight, and thrilling #MarsLanding, it feels great to get a good stretch and recharge my batteries,” the InSight Twitter handle posted. NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter relayed the signals of the landing, which were received on Earth at about 5:30 pm PST (7 am IST, Tuesday). Solar array deployment ensures the spacecraft can recharge its batteries each day. Odyssey also relayed a pair of images showing InSight's landing site.

The InSight lander touched down near Mars' equator on the western side of a flat, smooth expanse of lava called Elysium Planitia, with a signal affirming a completed landing sequence at approximately 3 pm EST (1:30 am IST, Tuesday). The probe was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, US on May 5. “Today, we successfully landed on Mars for the eighth time in human history,” said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine. “InSight will study the interior of Mars, and will teach us valuable science as we prepare to send astronauts to the Moon and later to Mars,” said Bridenstine. The landing signal was relayed to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California, via one of NASA's two small experimental Mars Cube One (MarCO) CubeSats, which launched on the same rocket as InSight and followed the lander to Mars. They are the first CubeSats sent into deep space.

After successfully carrying out a number of communications and in-flight navigation experiments, the twin MarCOs were set in position to receive transmissions during InSight's entry, descent and landing. “We hit the Martian atmosphere at 19,800 kilometers per hour, and the whole sequence to touching down on the surface took only six-and-a-half minutes,” said InSight project manager Tom Hoffman at JPL.

Japan mulling purchase of 100 US stealth fighters: Report

Tokyo (AFP): Japan is considering buying up to 100 F-35 stealth fighters from the US for more than USD 8.8 billion as it seeks to counter China's growing military presence in the region, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The reported purchase comes as President Donald Trump pushes Japan to buy more military equipment and other US products, pointing to Washington's huge trade deficit with Tokyo.

Japan has already decided to buy 42 F-35 stealth fighter jets from the US and is now considering purchasing as many as 100 more, worth more than one trillion yen (USD 8.8 billion), according to the evening edition of the Nikkei daily. The cabinet is expected to approve the plan in mid-December when the nation's defence programme guidelines are released, the business daily said. A defence ministry spokesman declined to confirm the report, saying only: “Everything related to additional purchases is under consideration.”

In September, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reportedly told Trump: “Introducing high-spec military equipment, including US equipment, is important to strengthen Japan's defence.” Tokyo is also considering upgrading its helicopter carriers so that they can transport and launch fighter jets, Kyodo News reported, quoting a government source.

Top court bars Khaleda Zia from contesting next month's elections

Dhaka (PTI): In a major setback to jailed former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia, a top court Tuesday ruled that a person jailed for more than two years cannot contest polls, effectively ruining her chance to participate in the December 30 polls. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson, who is convicted in two graft cases, cannot contest the upcoming 11th general election next month.

“She is disqualified from taking part in the upcoming elections,” Alam told a press conference, hours after the High Court issued a rule saying persons jailed for more than two years even if their appeals are pending with the courts cannot contest the polls. The 73-year-old ex-premier is currently serving jail terms in two graft cases involving charities named after her slain husband Ziaur Rahman.

She has been in custody since February 8, when Dhaka Special Court convicted her in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case and sentenced her to five years of imprisonment for embezzling 21 million Bangladesh Taka (USD 252,504) in foreign donations meant for the Trust. On October 30, the High Court doubled her jail term to 10 years. On October 29, a trial court convicted her in the Zia



Charitable Trust graft case and sentenced her to seven years in prison and imposed a fine of Tk 1 million (USD 12,024). The High Court order came as the BNP, which boycotted the 2014 elections under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League (AL) government, was set to contest the polls in alliance with the newly formed National Unity Front (NUF) led by eminent jurist Kamal Hossain.

The chief state counsel said even if Zia was released from jail before November 28, the deadline of filing the nomination papers, the Constitution would not allow her to contest the polls and “she will have to wait for five more years after her acquittal to take part in the elections”. As per Bangladesh's Constitution, a person sentenced to imprisonment for two years or above for a criminal offence cannot take part in an election unless five years have elapsed since his/her release.

Putin warns against ‘reckless’ moves after Ukraine declares martial law

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday warned Ukraine against any “reckless acts” after Kiev declared martial law in response to Moscow's seizure of three of its navy vessels. The Ukrainian parliament late Monday voted in favour of President Petro Poroshenko's request for the introduction of martial law in border areas for 30 days.

The move came after Russian forces fired on, boarded and captured three of Kiev's ships on Sunday off the coast of Crimea, sparking the most dangerous crisis between the ex-Soviet neighbours in years. The incident was the first major confrontation at sea in the long-running conflict pitting Ukraine against Moscow and Russian-backed separatists in the country's east. It has raised fears of a wider escalation — in a conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people since 2014 — and prompted international calls for restraint. Martial law gives Ukrainian authorities the power to mobilise citizens with military experience, regulate the media and restrict public rallies in affected areas.

In a phone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Putin expressed “serious concern” over its introduction, the Kremlin said in a statement. He said he hoped Berlin could intervene with Ukrainian authorities “to dissuade them from further reckless acts”.

Moscow has accused Kiev of planning Sunday's confrontation as a provocation aimed at drum-



A Ukrainian sailor, right, is escorted by a Russian intelligence agency FSB officer to a court room in Simferopol, Crimea on Tuesday.

ming up support for Poroshenko ahead of elections next year and convincing Western governments to impose further sanctions on Russia. Putin said Kiev's actions were “clearly taken in view of the election campaign in Ukraine”.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday that Kiev's martial law threatened to cause an “escalation of tensions in the conflict region” in the east of the country. Moscow has so far resisted calls to release the three ships or the 24 sailors it has detained. Some of the sailors will face trial in Simferopol — the main city in Russian-annexed Crimea — on Tuesday, the peninsula's human rights ombudsman Lyudmila Lubina told AFP.

The rest are expected to face trial on Wednesday, she said, while three others were still in

hospital after being wounded in the weekend clash. Moscow accuses them of crossing illegally into Russian waters and of ignoring warnings from its border guards, with officials suggesting they could face criminal prosecution.

Sunday's incident has been playing out on Russian and Ukrainian television screens, with dramatic footage of Russian ships chasing down a Ukrainian tugboat that was trying to pass through the Kerch Strait from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov.

Russian state television late on Monday aired footage of some of the captured sailors being questioned by Moscow's security services. One of the sailors is heard saying “the actions of the Ukrainian armed vessels in the Kerch Strait had a provocative character” — par-

rotating the version of events put forward by Russian authorities.

Ukraine's naval commander, Igor Voronchenko, said the sailors were pressured into giving false evidence. “I know these sailors, they were always professional. What they are saying now is not true,” he told Ukrainian media. “They (the Russians) could even say that we came from the sky on a spaceship.” Ukraine has accused Russian border patrol vessels of ramming the tugboat, which was accompanied by two small warships, and of firing on the Ukrainian vessels.

Western governments have rallied behind Kiev in the dispute, accusing Russia of illegally blocking access to the Sea of Azov and of taking military action without justification. Britain, Canada, France, Germany and others expressed support for Kiev on Monday, with EU President Donald Tusk calling for Russia to return the Ukrainian sailors and ships and “refrain from further provocations”. The foreign minister of Austria, which holds the rotating EU presidency, said Tuesday that the EU will next month consider further sanctions against Moscow over the flare-up. Pro-Kremlin newspaper Izvestia on Tuesday denounced the reaction as “predictably anti-Russian”.

The UN Security Council met in an emergency session on the crisis on Monday, where US envoy Nikki Haley called the seizure of the ships an “outrageous violation of sovereign Ukrainian territory”.

Dowry deaths account for substantial homicides in India

United Nations (PTI) :Dowry deaths continue to account for a substantial share of all female homicides in India despite legislation prohibiting it, according to a UN study which says the home is the most dangerous place for women around the world.

Around 87,000 women were killed around the world last year and some 50,000 - or 58 per cent - were killed at the hands of intimate partners or family members. This amounts to some six women being killed every hour by people they know, according to new research published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In India the female homicide rate in 2016 was



2.8 per cent, higher than the rate in Kenya (2.6), Tanzania (2.5), Azerbaijan (1.8), Jordan (0.8) and Tajikistan (0.4). Further, in India 33.5 per cent of women and girls aged 15-49 who experienced physical violence (irrespective of

perpetrator) at least once in their lifetime and 18.9 per cent in the past 12 months, according to data from 1995-2013. Dowry-related deaths in India continue to be a matter of concern. The study noted that available data on

dowry-related killings from the National Crime Records Bureau indicate that female dowry deaths account for 40 to 50 per cent of all female homicides recorded annually in India, representing a stable trend over the period 1999 to 2016. “Despite legislation adopted by the Indian Government in 1961, prohibiting the payment of dowry, the practice continues throughout the country and dowry deaths continue to account for a substantial share of all female homicides,” it said.

Sorcery accusations also affect some women living in countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania and can be the driver behind gender-related killings. Data from Papua

New Guinea and India on homicide resulting from sorcery accusations show that, although in small proportions, this phenomenon still exists.

“While data are not sex disaggregated, it is likely that women account for a large share of the victims,” it said. The study, released for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, examines available homicide data to analyse the gender-related killing of women and girls, with a specific focus on intimate partner and family-related homicide and how this relates to the status and roles of women in society and the domestic sphere.

51 Star tortoises rescued in S'pore, sent to their natural habitat in India

Singapore (PTI): Singapore has sent back 51 Indian star tortoises on a Singapore Airlines flight as they were illegally trafficked here as prized exotic pets. This is the largest number of Indian star tortoises - coveted for their star-patterned shells - to be repatriated from Singapore, The Straits Times reported on Tuesday.

Their striking, intricate appearances make them an easy target for poachers, who are often part of organised crime rings that profit from animal trafficking. The lucky few saved by the Animal Concerns



Research and Education Society (Acres) are just a fraction of the estimated 10,000 to 20,000 taken from the wild to meet the international demand for exotic pets, according to the Singapore daily. Acres has cared for the tortois-

es for more than eight years at its premises at Jalan Lekar in western Singapore.

The organisation has spared no expense to provide varied and tailored diets for the tortoises, along with intensive veterinary care and healthy environmental conditions to keep them fit for travel. Partner organisation, Wildlife SOS India, was to meet the creatures after their four-and-half-hour flight to Bengaluru. The tortoises will then be quarantined, monitored, tagged with transmitters and released into a protected reserve in Karnataka.

‘Kartarpur corridor will erase enmity between India & Pak’

PTI ■ LAHORE

The Kartarpur Corridor would promote peace and erase “enmity” between India and Pakistan and create infinite possibilities between them, including the resumption of cricket ties, Punjab Cabinet minister Navjot Singh Sidhu said Tuesday. Sidhu, who arrived here along with a group of Indian journalists to take part in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Kartarpur Corridor in Narowal, some 120 kms from Lahore, was greeted at the Wagah Border by officials of Pakistan’s Punjab province.

The 4-km-long corridor will connect Dera Baba Nanak in India’s Gurdaspur district with Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib Narowal in Pakistan. The corridor will provide visa-free access to the Indian Sikh pilgrims to the gurdwara. Prime Minister Imran Khan will perform the ground-breaking of the corridor on Wednesday.

Sidhu thanked Khan for making this corridor possible which he said will help promote peace between the two countries. “This will erase enmity between the two



nations,” he said.“The seed Imran Khan had sown three months ago has become a plant. It is a happy moment for the Sikh community that the corridor to reach Kartarpur to get Baba Guru Nanak’s blessing without any hassle,” he told the media.

He said the wait of 73 years is over after the opening of the corridor. “The Kartarpur Corridor will prove to be a path of peace,” Sidhu added. He termed it as a “corridor of infinite possibilities” and said through such initiatives, peace would be promot-

ed (between the two countries). “There are numerous artistes and cricketers in both the countries whom everyone loves and there need to be cricket matches between India and Pakistan,” he said.

The former cricketer said the Kartarpur Corridor would create infinite possibilities between the two neighbours including the resumption of cricket ties. “I want to avoid conflicts – religion should not been seen through the lens of politics. There is no rule in the world that prevents religious devotees to visit places of wor-

ship,” the former Indian cricketer-turned-politician said. “I congratulate Pakistan and India for providing the facility to Sikhs after 73 years,” he said. Responding to a question regarding criticism of his decision to visit Pakistan in August to attend the oath-taking ceremony of Imran Khan, Sidhu said, “I forgive those who criticised me.”

“I have been a fan of Imran Khan since I was a child,” Sidhu said as he joked and recited verses in Punjabi. “There are many fans of Imran, Wasim Akram and Javed Miandad in India, similarly in Pakistan Shah Rukh and Salman Khan have a huge fan following,” Kartarpur is located in Shakargarh in Narowal district of Pakistan’s Punjab province. It is said that Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, had spent more than 18 years of his life there. The Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara is located on the banks of the Ravi River, about three-four kilometres from the border in Pakistan. On Monday, Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Indian Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh laid the foundation stone of the corridor in Gurdaspur.

‘PM Modi to be invited to Pak for SAARC summit’

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be invited to Pakistan for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, Foreign Office Spokesman Mohammad Faisal said on Tuesday. The 2016 SAARC Summit was to be held in Islamabad. But after a deadly terrorist attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir in September that year, India expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to “prevailing circumstances”.

The summit was called off after Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate in the Islamabad meet. Maldives and Sri Lanka are the seventh and eighth members of the initiative. Addressing a conference in Islamabad Tuesday, Faisal recalled that Prime Minister Imran Khan in his victory speech had said that if India took one step forward, Pakistan would take two.

Prime Minister Modi will be invited to Pakistan for the SAARC summit, Faisal was quoted as saying by Dawn newspaper.

He said that Prime Minister Khan, in a letter to his Indian counterpart, had



expressed Pakistan’s openness to resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue with India.

“We fought a war with India, relations cannot be fixed quickly,” Faisal said.

SAARC Summits are usually held biennially hosted by a member state in alphabetical order. The member state hosting the summit assumes the Chair of the Association. The last SAARC Summit in 2014 was held in Kathmandu, which was attended by Modi.

Faisal also said that the Kartarpur Corridor, which will facilitate the visa-free travel of Indian Sikh pilgrims to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan, is expected to be completed within six

months.

“In this century diplomacy has completely changed,” he said, adding policies are now made based on citizens’ emotions and wishes.

Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan is located across the river Ravi, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab’s Gurdaspur district. It was established by the Sikh Guru in 1522. The first Gurdwara, Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, was built here, where Guru Nanak Dev is said to have died.

Both India and Pakistan have decided to build a corridor, linking Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab’s Gurdaspur district with the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan.

Pak’s weapons ensure deterrent in face of hostile neighbours: Alvi

Karachi (PTI): Pakistan’s weapons are a deterrent to ensure that nobody looks at it with a “bad eye” as the country is facing a “belligerent neighbourhood”, President Arif Alvi said on Tuesday. Alvi was addressing the opening ceremony of the 10th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2018 here.

“We want peace, we have been striving for peace in a belligerent neighbourhood but we must stay strong... Our weapons are for peaceful intent,” he said, without naming any country. “We are there to defend our country and that is what IDEAS is all about,” he said. Pakistan’s weapons will be “for defence, never for offence”, he said without mentioning the country’s nuclear capabilities. “When the paradigm is not in our favour, we also have a deterrent to ensure the fact that nobody looks at Pakistan with a bad eye at all.” Alvi also appreciated the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army in the fight against terrorism and bringing peace in the country. Over 262 companies from China, Russia, USA, France, Germany, Turkey, Poland and South Korea have established their pavilions at the EXPO Center to display their products, according to Radio Pakistan.

‘Pak assured full security to our nationals, CPEC following terror attack on Consulate’

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday said Pakistan has assured that it will provide full security to its citizens and the CPEC projects following the recent terrorist attack on its Consulate in Karachi and that any attempt to sabotage their friendship would not succeed. Three heavily-armed suicide bombers stormed the Chinese consulate in the Pakistan’s largest city on November 23, killing four people including two policemen before being shot dead by security forces which foiled the daring attack in the high-security zone. The attack was soon claimed by the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) which said it would not tolerate “any Chinese military expansionist endeavours on Baloch soil”.

“Pakistan has made it clear that they will get to the bottom of this attack, crack-down on the terrorist organisation and enhance the secu-



File photo of Pak PM with Chinese Prez Xi Jinping

urity of Chinese citizens, institutions and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters here. Praising the swift action by the Pakistan’s security personnel in warding off the attack, Geng said, “this attack once again showcased the mutual trust,

mutual support and friendship between the two governments and two peoples.”

He said once again it proved that China-Pakistan relationship is higher than mountains and deeper than the sea.

“We stand by each other through everything and we are all-weather strategic partners

in every way,” he said.

“I want to reiterate that no attempt to sabotage our friendship will succeed.

We will maintain a close communication with Pakistani side. We believe in their ability to ensure domestic security, stability and in taking tough measures to ensure Chinese interests in Pakistan and ensuring the security of Chinese citizens and institutions there,” he said.

Also, some institutions and netizens in China are collecting donations to help the families of the policemen killed and injured in the attack. Resource-rich Balochistan is at the heart of the Beijing’s ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The BLA is opposed to the CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Balochistan with China’s Xinjiang province, alleging that the project was aimed at exploiting the resources of the province.



A migrant girl with a U.S. flag sits on the shoulders of a man marching with other migrants to the Chaparral border crossing in Tijuana, Mexico on Sunday as they try to reach the U.S. The mayor of Tijuana has declared a humanitarian crisis in his border city and says that he has asked the United Nations for aid to deal with the approximately 5,000 Central American migrants who have arrived in the city.

Macron acknowledges protests, but won’t change course’

Paris (AFP): French President Emmanuel Macron sought to take the heat out of mass anti-government protests over taxes on Tuesday, saying he had heard the anger but would not change course. The 40-year-old centrist acknowledged that many struggling households felt penalised by an increase in fuel taxes this year, the spark for road blockades and demonstrations over the past 10 days.

He offered minor concessions, saying he would propose a mechanism to adjust tax hikes when they occurred at the same time as an increase in oil prices internationally — as they have this year. And he called for a three-month national consultation to draw up a roadmap for accelerating the country’s transition away from fossil fuels — which he insisted remained his overall objective.

“What I’ve taken from these last few days is that we shouldn’t change course because it is the right one and necessary,” he told lawmakers at the Elysee palace in Paris. In an hour-long speech,

Macron repeated several times that he had understood the anger expressed by hundreds of thousands of people who have taken to the streets in high-visibility yellow jackets. He conceded that many French people felt that taxes were “imposed from above” and promised to accelerate the work of the government to lighten the load for working families and cut public spending.

One of the most frequent complaints from the so-called “yellow vests” is Macron’s perceived elitism, as well as his pro-business policies since taking office in May last year. “I have seen like many French people the difficulties for people who have to drive a lot and have problems making ends meet at the end of the month,” he said. “I believe very profoundly that we can transform this anger into the solution.” Macron also used the speech on France’s energy transition — an address scheduled before the protests began — to announce a programme for closing nuclear reactors. France will shut down 14 of the country’s 58 nuclear reac-

tors currently in operation by 2035, with between four and six closed by 2030, he announced.

The total includes the previously announced shutdown of France’s two oldest reactors in Fessenheim, eastern France, which Macron said was now set for summer 2020. He also announced that France would close its remaining four coal-fired power plants as part of France’s anti-pollution efforts by 2022.

France relies on nuclear power for nearly 72 percent of its electricity needs. The government wants to reduce this to 50 percent by 2030 or 2035 by developing more renewable energy sources. Macron said he would ask French electricity giant EDF to study the feasibility of more next-generation EPR reactors, but will wait until 2021 before deciding whether to proceed with construction. EDF has been building the first EPR reactor at Flamanville along the Atlantic coast of northwest France. It was originally set to go online in 2012 but the project has been plagued by technical problems and budget overruns.

Turkey searches villa of ‘close’ Saudi prince associate

AFP ■ ANKARA

One of the villas searched by Turkish police for the remains of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi belonged to a friend of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, reports said on Tuesday.

Crime scene investigators using sniffer dogs and drones searched the Saudi businessman’s residence and an adjacent villa during a 10-hour probe on Monday in the northwestern province of Yalova, Hurriyet daily reported. Officers inspected three wells in the villa’s gardens, Hurriyet said, while DHA news agency reported there were claims the buildings were illegal.

The villa belongs to Mohammed Ahmed al-Fawzan after he bought the land on which it is built on in



2014, the news agency reported. Hurriyet described Fawzan as a “close friend” of Prince Mohammed. In a video shared on the daily’s website, large portraits of the crown prince and King Salman could be seen hanging on a wall inside

the villa.

The second villa belonged to a business named Omary Tourism Gida, DHA agency reported. Khashoggi, a contributor to The Washington Post, was strangled and dismembered by a team of 15

Saudi officials after he went into Riyadh’s Istanbul consulate on October 2.

Khashoggi’s body has not been found although police have searched the consulate, the consul general’s residence and a forest in Istanbul. There have been reports that Khashoggi’s body was cut up and dissolved in acid .Pro-government media has said acid traces had been found in the consulate’s drains.

The Istanbul public prosecutor in charge of the investigation said on Monday that one of the Saudi suspects, Mansour Othman M. Abahussain, spoke to Fawzan on the phone a day before Khashoggi’s killing.

Fawzan was not in Turkey at the time but the prosecutor believed the phone call was intended to find a way to remove or hide Khashoggi’s

body after its dismemberment. Turkish officials have not said Fawzan is in any way linked to the murder and have not released any information about what, if anything, was found at the two villas.

After weeks of denial, Riyadh admitted Khashoggi, 59, was killed in what it described as a rogue operation, denying claims the crown prince ordered his death. A former insider turned dissident, Khashoggi had written critical editorials of the kingdom and once compared the crown prince to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said the murder was ordered by the highest levels of the Saudi government but insisted King Salman was not to blame.

New method uses sunlight to purify water

PTI ■ BERLIN

Scientists have developed a simple process that can remove persistent pollutants in water using mere sunlight under the most basic conditions. The researchers from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) in Germany rely on electrons moving freely in water, called hydrated electrons, to degrade dissolved pollutants.

“These electrons are extremely reactive and can be used for a plethora of reactions. They break down even the most recalcitrant pollutants,” said Martin Goetz, a professor at MLU. For this to work, however, the electrons have to be released from the molecular compounds in which they are usually tightly bound. Until now, generating those electrons has required complex and expensive high-power lasers.



Researchers introduced a new approach which only required a green light-emitting diode as the sole energy source. Vitamin C and traces of a metal complex as the catalyst were used to bring about the desired reaction.

However, the catalyst had to be enclosed in tiny containers known as micelles. This reduced the reaction’s

efficiency, and the micelle molecules themselves were only partially biodegradable.

The group therefore looked for a way to avoid these additives. Ultimately, they found the answer in a highly charged anionic catalyst based on a ruthenium-metal complex. By combining this with urate (a salt

of uric acid), the researchers were able to effect the desired reaction in water without the need of micelles by exploiting the Coulombic repulsions. Further investigations have revealed that the new process is not only a very efficient way to produce hydrated electrons but also has a wide range of applications. “Our new approach is so simple that it doesn’t even need to take place in a lab,” said Goetz.

The researchers conducted a field trial in a meadow and tested their new approach in water contaminated with chloroacetic acid.

The pollutants were eliminated in a small sample of water even when there was only a moderate amount of sunshine.

Follow-up studies will examine whether the method developed by the chemists in Halle can also be used for large-scale removal of pollutants.



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech on ‘The presentation of the strategy for ecology transition’, at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Tuesday.

AP

Coach Powar humiliated me during WC, says Mithali

Limited over skipper breaks silence over selection row and blames CoA member Edulji and Ramesh Powar for being biased

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Indian woman cricketer Mithali Raj on Tuesday slammed Committee of Administrators member Diana Edulji and coach Ramesh Powar, saying the two are biased against her and have tried to "destroy" her.

In a scathing e-mail to the BCCI, Mithali said her axing from the World T20 semifinal against England reduced her to tears and left her the most deflated in her over two-decade long career.

In the note to BCCI CEO Rahul Johri and GM (Cricket Operations) Saba Karim, one of India's finest batswomen alleged that she was disrespected by the duo of Edulji and Powar.

"...I felt deflated, depressed and let down. I am forced to think if my services to my country are of any value to a few people in power who are out to destroy me and break my confidence," Mithali, also the ODI captain, wrote in her mail.

While Powar refused to comment on Mithali's allegations, Edulji could not be reached for a response.

Mithali spoke about how Edulji's stance backing her axing, made her feel "vulnerable". Edulji, in an earlier interview, had stated that the team management's decision could not be questioned on selection matters.

"To put things in perspective, I have always reposed faith in Diana Edulji and have always respected her and her position as a member of the CoA.

"Never did I think she will use her position against me, more after hear-

ing what all I had to go through in the Caribbean as I had spoken to her about it," Mithali wrote.

A source alleged that Mithali was forced by Edulji to divulge the details of her meeting with Johri and Karim on Monday.

"Her brazen support in the press with regard to the decision of my benching in the semi final of the T20 World Cup has left me deeply distressed, more because she knows the real facts having spoken to me," the player wrote.

Mithali has played 85 T20Is for India and has scored 2288 runs. She averages more than 50 in both the Test and ODI formats.

"May I say that I am aware that by writing this email I am making myself even more vulnerable. She is a CoA member while I am just a player," she lamented.

"But the brazen support of a CoA member is a clear sign of bias and also that a stance has already been taken against me. By saying 'I don't support someone' and then going all out to support my benching in the press is prejudice of the clearest sort," said Mithali. She, however, made it clear that she has no hard feelings for T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who was a party to the decision of her being dropped for the semi-finals and stood by it even after the defeat.

However, her relationship with Powar hit nadir in the West Indies and Mithali said she still hasn't understood the breakdown.

"My issues with the coach started immediately as we landed in the West Indies. At first there were small signs



Mithali Raj bats during Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka

BCCI/ FilePicture

that his behaviour towards me was unfair and discriminatory," she alleged.

She said that Powar's behaviour caused her "stress".

"For instance, walking off if I am sitting anywhere around, watching in the nets when others bat but choosing to walk away when I am batting in nets, if I try to go up to him to talk to start looking into his phone and keep walking," she said.

"It was embarrassing and very evident to everyone that I was being humiliated. Yet I never lost my cool.

"Finding the situation completely out of control and realising that it is important to resolve issues as it affects the team I reached out to the team manager and conveyed my griev-

ances."

According to Mithali things went from bad to worse after that.

"After the meeting his behaviour turned worse. He would not even acknowledge me. To him I didn't exist in the team.

"If I was around he would immediately move away from the scene, if I looked to wish him he would deliberately start looking in other direction. He continued to behave badly as I have already informed you yesterday. It appeared to me that for him the meeting had hurt his ego."

Mithali said she was even asked not to show up at the ground by Powar during the game against Australia.

"In the evening after the team

meeting before the Australia game, Ramesh rings up in my room and instructs me not to come to the ground as the media will be there," she alleged.

"I was taken aback as to what media has to do with me being with the team. I was told I was not to be with my own team in one of our biggest games. I was shell shocked."

Mithali said Powar also deliberately ignored her at nets to make it clear she won't play the semi-finals after which she broke down.

"It was worrying and insulting because the coach was out to destroy and humiliate me," she wrote.

"I couldn't control my tears having given it my all for 20 years. It seemed my efforts had no value."

Harmanpreet enters top-5 in T20 rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur entered the top-five in the latest ICC women's T20 International player rankings with opener Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues also achieving their career-best rankings.

Harmanpreet, who was the second highest run-getter in the recently concluded Women's World T20, after Australia opener Alyssa Healy, has gained three slots to reach the third position.

The Indian captain aggregated 183 runs including a match-winning 103 in the opener against New Zealand.

Teenage sensation Jemimah moved up nine places to a career-best sixth and Smriti jumped seven places to claim the 10th spot.

Healy gained four slots to reach the eighth position for her Player of the Tournament effort, which saw her score 225 runs.

Other batters to gain in the latest rankings update include Javeria Khan of Pakistan, who has jumped seven places to reach a career-best 14th position, and Clare Shillington of Ireland, who has gained one slot to take the 19th slot.

In the bowlers' list led by Australia's Megan Schutt, New Zealand spinner Leigh Kasperek's seven wickets have lifted her seven places to third position while finalists England's Sophie Ecclestone has moved from 16th to fourth and fast bowler Anya Shrubsole from 12th to sixth place after a seven-wicket effort, which included a hat-trick against South Africa.

In the team rankings, England have overtaken New Zealand to second position in the list which continues to be topped by Meg Lanning-led Australia with 283 points.

Harman extends Sydney Thunder stay

NEW DELHI: India's T20I skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has extended her association with Sydney Thunder while Smriti Mandhana has been signed up by Hobart Hurricanes for the fourth season of Women's Big Bash League. Harmanpreet was the top scorer for Thunder in the second season when she amassed 296 runs in 12 innings with a strike rate of 117 and an average of 59.20. Not surprisingly then, she was adjudged Thunder's Player of the Tournament. Mandhana, the vice-captain of India's T20 side has been signed by Hurricanes. The attacking opening batter previously appeared for Brisbane Heat in the WBBL 02 season. Having posted her maiden international hundred in an ODI against Australia at Blundstone Arena in 2016 in Tasmania, Smriti said she is looking forward to showcasing her talent for the new team. "I've heard from many players that the Hurricanes group is a great squad to be around and I can't wait to get to Tasmania for the matches," she said. Harmanpreet, the first India player to be signed up by a BBL team, had proved a useful all-rounder for Sydney Thunder. **PTI**



SINGLES

REAL SOCIEDAD END WINLESS STREAK

MADRID: Real Sociedad's winless streak at home is finally over in the Spanish league. Real Sociedad defeated Celta Vigo 2-1 on Monday to win for the first time in six matches at its Anoeta Stadium. The club had lost twice and drawn three times this season at the newly renovated stadium in the city of San Sebastian. Mikel Oyarzabal scored in 37th minute and David Zurutuza in the 47th to give Real Sociedad its second straight win and extend its unbeaten streak to four matches in all competitions. The result moved Real Sociedad to eighth place in the league, seven points from leader Sevilla. Celta, which drew with Real Sociedad 1-1 at home in a Copa del Rey match this month, dropped to 15th place, three points from the relegation zone.

NEWCASTLE WIN AT BURNLEY 2-1

BURNLEY: Newcastle wasn't made to pay for an embarrassing miss from Matt Ritchie as Rafa Benitez's side held on to beat Burnley 2-1 for a third straight win in the English Premier League on Monday. With the goal completely open in the 50th minute, Ritchie sliced a sidefooted shot with his favored left foot into the side netting from inside the six-yard box. The score was already 2-1 at the time, with Ritchie having set up Ciaran Clark for Newcastle's second goal in the 23rd after an own-goal by Ben Mee put the visitors in front in the fourth minute. Sam Vokes reduced Burnley's deficit in the 40th with a looping header from just inside the penalty area from Mee's raking pass forward. Newcastle now move out of the relegation zone and four points clear of the bottom three. Burnley was in fourth-to-last place, one point from safety.

CAGLIARI HOLD TORINO IN SERIE A

CAGLIARI: Relegation-threatened Cagliari gained a precious point by holding Torino to 0-0 on Monday in Serie A. Goalkeeper Alessio Cragno had a solid performance to deny Torino forwards Andrea Belotti and Simone Zaza on numerous chances. Torino was without coach Walter Mazzarri, who has left the squad temporarily due to health issues. Torino won the previous four meetings, outscoring Cagliari 14-4. Cagliari moved up to 13th, four points above the drop zone. Torino is 11th.

SUAREZ SIDELINED FOR 2 WEEKS

BARCELONA: Barcelona says Luis Suarez will be sidelined for two weeks because of a right knee injury. The club said on Monday Suarez will undergo stem cell treatment on the injury. Reserve goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen and midfielder Arthur also are nursing injuries. Cillessen has a small muscle tear in his right leg and will be out from two to three weeks. Arthur has an abductor strain that will keep him from playing at PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League on Wednesday. Barcelona earlier said midfielder Rafinha will need surgery because of a torn ligament in his right knee and is expected to be out for the rest of the season.

HAFEEZ SURVIVES IN PAK TEST SQUAD

DUBAI: Misfiring opener Mohammad Hafeez survived the chop on Tuesday as the Pakistan selectors named an unchanged 15 man squad for the third and final Test against New Zealand starting in Abu Dhabi next week. Hafeez has been struggling with his form ever since scoring a hundred on his comeback Test against Australia in Dubai last month. Since then he has managed just 66 runs in six innings. Hafeez has scores of 20, 10 and nine in the two Tests against New Zealand. The Pakistan selectors resisted the temptation to include dashing opener Fakhar Zaman who is recuperating from a knee problem after impressing with 94 and 66 in his Test debut against the Australians.

Agencies

'We're motivated & focused on winning'

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Bracing up for the "biggest opportunity" to win a maiden Test series Down Under, India's Ishant Sharma on Tuesday also cautioned that Australia is good enough to cause problems, regardless of the turmoil in its cricket.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy begins in Adelaide on December 6, with the Indian team bedding in for preparations at the Sydney Cricket Ground and taking on Cricket Australia XI in a four-day tour game from Wednesday.

"We don't really think about all these things. It depends on a given day. In cricket whoever is playing for the country is good enough. Till the time we get the results, we don't take anything lightly.

"We are pretty motivated. The aim right now is to win the series and that is what everyone is focussing on. We don't even think of personal performances, just one aim, to win a series in Australia," said Sharma.

India were whitewashed 4-0 when they were here the last time, though current captain Virat Kohli made his presence felt with plenty of runs.

"The tour game is serious because it will set the tone for us. You get to know the con-

ditions because you are playing here after a long time. So you can get into the groove and get used to the conditions," he added.

A lot of onus will be on the Indian pace attack to deliver the goods once again after their terrific performances in South Africa and England earlier in the year.

Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri have praised them time and again as the 'best pace attack' in Indian Test history.

Sharma though said this tag doesn't heap more pressure, instead provides an opportunity for the pacers to perform even better. Coming on his fourth tour here, he added that he is eager to win the Test series this time, while not thinking about individual performances.

"Pressure is there but I think it is a great opportunity as well. We have a healthy competition in the pace attack. If you are not doing well, you can be left sitting out and watching the game.

"I think it's a great opportunity to do well in any conditions. We did well on the last two tours of South Africa and England. We are not even thinking like we have a pressure situation. Instead, we always think that we have an opportunity to do well," said Sharma.



14 wickets for Yasir as Pak level series

BEST BOWLING IN A TEST MATCH FOR PAK					
Figures	Bowler	Opp	Venue	Season	Result
14-116	Imran Khan	SL	Lahore	1981-82	Won
14-184	Yasir Shah	NZ	Dubai	2018-19	Won
13-101	Abdul Qadir	Eng	Lahore	1987-88	Won
13-114	Fazal Mahmood	Aus	Karachi	1956-57	Won
13-135	Waqar Younis	Zim	Karachi	1993-94	Won

Faisal Features

AFP ■ DUBAI

Leg-spinner Yasir Shah followed his extraordinary first innings performance with a six wicket haul as Pakistan beat New Zealand by an innings and 16 runs in the second Test in Dubai on Tuesday to level the series 1-1.

The 32-year-old, who took 8-41 on Monday, had figures of 6-143 in the second innings for a match haul of 14-184.

New Zealand — following-on after being dismissed for 90 in the first innings — were bowled out for 312 soon after tea on the fourth day.

Yasir's figures are the second best match return ever for Pakistan in Test cricket, bettered only by former captain and current Prime Minister Imran Khan who took 14-116 against Sri Lanka in Lahore in 1982.

Medium-pacer Hasan Ali was also at his best, taking 3-46 as Pakistan gained a measure of revenge for losing the first Test by four runs in Abu Dhabi last week.

Resuming on 131-2 and needing a further 197 to make Pakistan bat again, the New Zealand batsmen, led by Ross Taylor (82), Henry Nicholls (77) and Tom Latham (50), dug in to make things tough for the Pakistani bowlers.

Taylor smashed Hasan's first ball of the day to the cover boundary to reach his 29th half century in Tests, a welcome return to form having scored just 21 runs in the three innings of this series.

Latham completed his 15th Test fifty but was dismissed the following ball.

Harry Nicholls came to the crease and set about frustrating the Pakistan bowlers, adding 52 with



Yasir Shah bowls during third day of second Test against NZ in Dubai

ICC

Taylor for the fourth wicket and 57 with BJ Watling for the fifth.

Taylor tried to take the attack to the bowlers, hitting seven boundaries and a six in his 82 but grew impatient after being tied down. An attempted sweep off Bilal Asif ended in a top edge that looped to deep backward square leg where Yasir took a comfortable catch.

Yasir trapped Watling leg before for 27 to end another frustrating stand and get into the Kiwi tail. De Grandhomme made just 14 and Sodhi was bowled behind his legs for

four, unwisely trying to sweep Yasir from well outside off-stump.

Nicholls stood firm amid the wreckage, striking Bilal Asif for a straight six, before Yasir nipped one between bat and pad to bowl him for 77.

It was a brave stand from Nicholls but as skipper Kane Williamson later admitted, the damage had been done in the first innings when New Zealand lost all 10 wickets for just 40 runs in 14 overs. The third and final Test starts in Abu Dhabi from Monday.

Engineer dubs Aus as ordinary side



PTI ■ MUMBAI

In the absence of Steve Smith and David Warner, India must grab the opportunity to win their maiden Test series against an "ordinary" Australia, former stumper Farokh Engineer said on Tuesday.

After drawing the Twenty20 series 1-1, India and Australia will be locked in a four-Test series, beginning in Adelaide on December 6.

"Australia have got two big names missing (Steve) Smith and (David) Warner. When you take two big names out of an (playing) XI, the team is weakened considerably," Engineer.

"India will never have a better chance of beating Australia. Australia is a pretty ordinary team at the

moment, without these two people (Smith and Warner) and we should make the best of this opportunity," 80-year-old Engineer said.

Smith and Warner are facing a year-long ban after their involvement in the ball tampering scandal in South Africa.

Stressing that India have an all-round side, Engineer said the team is playing good cricket and they should defeat the hosts.

"India are playing very good cricket, we have a great captain in Virat Kohli, he is doing superbly well. We have got a good all-round side, good pace bowlers, good spinners, so let's take advantage of that and beat Australia in Australia, which we should be doing and we will be

doing, God willing," added Engineer, who played 46 Test matches for India.

India are touring Australia with experienced Parthiv Patel and rookie Rishabh Pant as their two-wicket keepers in the squad and Engineer backed the Gujarat player to play in Test matches.

Asked who is better among the two, Engineer said, "Well I would go for a youngster. Rishabh Pant has shown lot of promise in batting. Parthiv is still fit. I think the best keeper should play Test match, ODI cricket a better batsman (can play). Rishabh is certainly my choice for ODIs but for a Test someone like Parthiv will be better, although he is 35".

'PLAY TOUGH AUS CRICKET'

Former captain Michael Clarke has advised the current side to "play tough Australian cricket" in the home Test series, saying too much emphasis on being nice guys on the field will lead them nowhere.

The mellowed down approach has drawn criticism from World Cup winning skipper Clarke.

"Australian cricket, I think, needs to stop worry about being liked and start worrying about being respected. Play tough cricket. Whether we like it or not, that's in our blood," Clarke was quoted as saying by *Macquarie Sports Radio*.

YUVRAJ RETURNS FOR DELHI-PUNJAB MATCH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Group B match between Delhi and Punjab, beginning here on Wednesday, will see Yuvraj Singh playing his first match of the 2018-19 Ranji Trophy.

Yuvraj's return is a boost for Punjab, who conceded first innings lead in their first two matches against Andhra and Madhya Pradesh.

The 36-year-old southpaw, who last played for India in June 2017, will also be available for Punjab's next two matches against Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Rising star Shubman Gill will not be playing the game as he is with the India A team in New Zealand.

Like Punjab, Delhi too would be aiming for their first win of the season, having drawn their matches against Hyderabad and Himachal Pradesh. The Nitish Rana-led side will be disappointed after conceding the first innings lead in the away tie against Hyderabad.



Senior player Gautam Gambhir, who had missed the Hyderabad game due to injury, is set to return for the home game.

Lead Delhi pacer Navdeep Saini remains unavailable as he is in New Zealand on India A duty.

Gambhir's presence will lend much needed solidity to the batting line-up which faltered against Hyderabad.

Opener Hiten Dalal, Lalit Yadav and skipper Rana missed out on scoring big hundreds which could have helped the team overcome Hyderabad's first innings total of 460.

India look to end WC drought



Indian players and staff members along with head coach Harendra Singh discuss strategies during practice session

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Armed with a sense of togetherness, self-belief and a strong crowd backing them every moment, India will seek to end 43 years of hurt when they begin the Hockey World Cup campaign against South Africa here on Wednesday.

The hosts' Pool C encounter at the Kalinga Stadium will be the showpiece event's second game.

Eight-time Olympic champions India's only glory at the World Cup came way back in 1975 when Ajit Pal Singh and his men's created history for the past masters of the game.

Since then India has failed to match the standards of the Europeans — Netherlands, Germany — and Australia, who have been ruling the game for over four decades now.

In the last 10 editions since its maiden triumph in 1975, India's best performance was a fifth-place finish at the 1982 edition in Mumbai (then Bombay).

Now, the world ranked fifth Indians would be eager to recreate the magic by reaching the semifinals, and possibly a podium finish.

That is though easier said than done as besides tackling powerhouses like two-time defending champions Australia, Netherlands, Germany and Olympic champions Argentina, the Indians will be under pressure to live up to the expectations of millions of fans.

The last time India played a World Cup at home, in 2010 in New Delhi, it finished a lowly eighth and going by records, the host nation has never fared well in the tournament.

All the nine countries to host a World Cup till date have finished eighth or above but Harendra Singh's men would be hoping to rewrite that in front of home fans.

For chief coach Harendra Singh, who has come under the scanner after India's failure to defend its Asian Games title earlier this year, the tournament is a do-or-die one and a failure is sure to cost him his job.

Harendra would be hoping to recreate the magic of two years ago when he guided the junior Indian team to the World Cup title in Lucknow.

To achieve his goal, Harendra has drafted



INDIA AGAINST SA IN INT'L HOCKEY							
Type	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Success%
Overall	42	25	8	9	108	69	70.23
World Cup	4	1	-	3	7	6	62.50

INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA IN WC			
Year	Venue	Result	Score
1994	Sydney	Draw	2-2
2006	Monchengladbach	Draw	1-1 (league)
2006	Monchengladbach	Ind win	1-0 (11th place)
2010	New Zealand	Draw	3-3

THE INDIAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD CUP IS A MIXTURE OF YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE WITH SEVEN OF THE 18 FEATURING IN THE LAST WORLD CUP. THE SQUAD ALSO HAS YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE IN 19-YEAR-OLD STRIKER DILPREET SINGH AND DEBUTANT HARDIK SINGH

ed in seven of 18 junior World Cup winners in the senior team alongside senior pros like skipper Manpreet Singh, PR Sreejesh, Akashdeep Singh and the ever-reliable Birendra Lakra.

The Indian team for the World Cup is a mixture of youth and experience with seven of the 18 featuring in the last World Cup. The squad also has youthful exuberance in 19-year-old striker Dilpreet Singh and debutant Hardik Singh.

But two notable absentees from the squad are dragflicker Rupinder Pal Singh, who has been dropped and striker SV Sunil, who is unfit.

In the 16-nation tournament India are placed alongside South Africa, Belgium and Canada in their group.

Barring world No 3 Belgium, India is expected to win hands down against world

No15 South Africa and world No 11 Canada.

The match against Belgium is India's big test in the pool stages and a win against the Red Lions is a must for the hosts to avoid the cross-overs and qualify directly for the quarterfinals.

After South Africa, India's opponents are Belgium on December 2 and Canada on December 8.

It is only the second World Cup after 2002 to feature 16 teams. From four pools of four teams each, the toppers will directly qualify for the quarterfinals while the second and third placed sides will have to play four cross-over matches to earn their places in the last-eight round.

Just like all big-ticket hockey events, Australia, Netherlands and Germany will once again start favourites to lift the title.

The Kookaburras, in fact, will be vying to create history by becoming the first team to win the trophy for the third time in a row.

In the other match of the opening day, Belgium will take on Canada.



Indian coach Harendra Singh shares a warm gesture with Spain's goalkeeper after India's practice game ahead of Men's Hockey World Cup



Indian skipper Manpreet Singh and coach Harendra Singh speak during pre-match press conference

HARENDRA DEFENDS SELECTION OF JUNIOR PLAYERS

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

India's chief coach Harendra Singh on Tuesday defended presence of several junior players in the squad for the FIH World Cup, saying they are good enough to create history.

The current Indian team has seven out of 18 players from the junior World Cup squad, which under Harendra clinched the world title two years ago in Lucknow.

Junior players such as Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Sumit, Mandeep Singh and golakeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak were selected in India's squad.

"Constitution gives us the right to marry after 18. So this is not a young team. It's a team that can create history," Harendra said on the eve of India's opening match against South Africa on Wednesday.

"You have to have patience. Selectors have considered the young players to be good enough to wear India colours,

India captain Manpreet Singh too said that their main focus is on topping the pool and avoid cross-overs

so we need to be proud of them. Every player in the team understands it. My advice to the players would be to stick to the basics and strategy and consider crowd as 12th man and use their energy," he added.

Citing the example of Ireland, who went on to win the women's World Cup earlier this year despite being rated as underdogs, Harendra said India's first aim would be to top Pool C and qualify directly for the quarterfinals.

"Did anyone think Ireland will reach women's hockey World Cup final and Croatia will make it to FIFA WC final. Every team works on their strategy. It's about that particular day. We want to top the pool and avoid crossovers because then we will get an

extra day and know who we will play in the quarters," the chief coach said.

However, the inability to defend the Asian Games title earlier this year will remain Harendra's biggest failure but the coach said that episode is a thing of the past now.

"The hard fact is that all of us have forgotten the Asian Games defeat and you should also forget. We learn from history, gain experience but there is no point recalling it. We took collective responsibility. We don't talk about it now in our meetings," he said.

Ranked 10 places above world No 15 South Africa, India will go into their tournament-opener as overwhelming favourites.

"We understand that the first match is important in every tournament. It releases 40 to 50 per cent of pressure. We want full points from the first match. But for points, we can't forget and sacrifice the basics of hockey, the strategy," he said.

"We won't compromise on playing attacking hockey

against any team. We want to think ahead of the opponents."

With two matches scheduled for each day, there are significant gaps between matches in the 16-team World Cup and Harendra supported the format, saying it will help all the teams to come out with fresh legs in every game.

"I support this format as a coach. Hockey is a fast-paced, result oriented, highly demanding game. It (the gaps) will help us to come out with fresh mind and legs in every match," he said.

Conceding last minute goals has been India's perennial problem in the last few years but Harendra said it is with all hockey playing nations.

"We always discuss India concede last-minute goal to lose. It has happened in the last 4-5 years, including the Asian Games. But that doesn't only happen with the Indian team. I can give you history where other teams also have lost the same way," he said.

SA LOOK TO CREATE HISTORY

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

With world ranked fifth India at the other end in their first match, South Africa have a tough task at hand but their coach Mark Hopkins is looking at the positives.

"Every game at the World Cup is a big match. You try to start the tournament as well as you can. It's exciting that we are playing our first match against the host nation. We will go into the game fairly confident. We feel we have the squad, skill set and tactics to play really good hockey and get results from the match," he said.

"I think the pressure is on both



South African players chat during practice session ahead of opening game against India

into the tournament is to become the most successful South African hockey playing nation in the history of the World Cup.

"We are a proud sporting nation and as a group we are looking to create history. The goal for us is to finish the tournament as the most successful South African hockey team in the men's World Cup," he said.

"We probably are a team that opposition has seen less videos off. People know less about our players because we don't play much in the European leagues or Test matches than other nations. That is an advantage for us," Hopkins added.

PSG aim to avoid early exit

AP ■ MADRID

Paris Saint-Germain's hopes of breaking through in European football could end earlier than usual this season.

A loss against Liverpool on Wednesday in Paris, coupled with a home win by Napoli over Red Star, would keep PSG from making it out of the group stage in the Champions League. And that would be a significant setback for the big-spending French team desperately trying to assert itself as a world-class club.

It would be the first time PSG failed to reach the tournament's knockout round since 2011-12, after Qatar Sports Investments took over the club with the goal of turning it into a top contender. PSG was eliminated in the round of 16 last season, after reaching the quarterfinals four straight years before that.

Failure this time would hurt PSG in its second season since signing Brazil star Neymar for 222 million euros from Barcelona in an attempt to increase its chances of succeeding in Europe.

PSG enters the crucial match at Parc des Princes with five points in Group C, one behind leaders Liverpool and Napoli. A victory would put the French club back in position to advance depending on its own results.

"It's a decisive match in a very, very complicated group," PSG coach Thomas Tuchel told French broadcaster TF1.

The good news for Tuchel is that Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, who had been sidelined because of injuries, are expected to be available for the home match against Liverpool.

A look at the four Champions League groups on Wednesday.



Lionel Messi dribbles during La Liga game against Atletico; (right) Mo Salah celebrates after scoring



GROUP A

Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund lead the group and have a chance to secure places in the knockout round in advance.

Dortmund needs a draw at Club Brugge, while Atletico needs a home win against Monaco. Atletico can also advance if Club Brugge loses points against Dortmund, which is coming off a blistering start to the season under new coach Lucien Favre.

The only setback for Favre so far was the 2-0 loss at Atletico in the team's previous Champions League appearance.

Paco Alcacer, signed on a permanent basis from Barcelona on Friday, scored again on Saturday in a win over Mainz, taking his league tally to nine goals in seven appearances.

GROUP B

Harry Kane kept Tottenham's Champions League hopes alive with a late double to sink PSV Eindhoven in the last round of games.

Now the striker has some back-up as his team tries to complete an unlikely

PSG vs Liverpool
Live from 1:30am IST
SONY TEN 1 NETWORK

PSV vs Barcelona
Live from 1:30pm IST
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

recovery to qualify from Group B.

Tottenham has struggled for attacking fluency this season, mainly because of attacking midfielders Christian Eriksen and Dele Alli have been missing at times because

of injury.

They appear to be fully fit now and were superb in Tottenham's win over Chelsea in the Premier League on Saturday, a 3-1 win that might have been its best display of the season.

Spurs need to beat Inter Milan at Wembley Stadium on Wednesday to keep alive ambitions of a top-two finish. That would leave the teams tied on seven points. Tottenham would still likely require a win at already-qualified Barcelona to advance, given that Inter closes group play at home to last-place PSV.

Barcelona, without Rafinha, Luis Suarez and Arthur because of injuries, has a three-point advantage at the top and will clinch first place in the group with a win over PSV, or a draw if Inter does not beat Tottenham.

GROUP C

Victories by Liverpool and Napoli would lock up the group which has proven to be the tightest of the Champions League.

Napoli, the group's only unbeaten team with three draws and one win, host a Red Star team which still has chances of advancing in its return to the tournament's group stage after 26 years.

The Serbian club has four points, one fewer than Paris Saint-Germain and two fewer than Napoli and Liverpool.

Red Star held Napoli to a 0-0 draw at home in the first round, but then conceded 10 goals in losses against PSG (6-1) and Liverpool (4-0).

Liverpool, which beat PSG at home, lost 2-0 to Red Star in its previous Champions League match, but it is coming off two straight wins in the Premier League.

PSG, cruising in the French league, beat Liverpool 3-0 the only other time the teams met in Paris, nearly two decades ago.

GROUP D

Group leader Porto hosts second-place Schalke in a match in which a draw could be enough for both clubs to advance.

They would clinch a spot in the knockout stage with a draw if Galatasaray fails to win its match at already eliminated Lokomotiv Moscow.

A victory would secure first place for Porto, which has won eight straight entering the match at its Estadio do Dragao. Porto is trying to make it to the round of 16 for the third straight season. The Portuguese champion has 10 points, two more than Schalke and six more than Galatasaray. Porto and Schalke are the only unbeaten teams in the group.

Schalke hasn't made it to the knockout stage since 2014-15.



Edinson Cavani hugs teammate Neymar Jr after Brazilian playmaker scores against Lille in Ligue 1 clash

LOCAL EVENTS

TWO GOLDS FOR UP

Sanjay Rai and Vinay Kumar Dubey of Uttar Pradesh bagged the gold medals on the second day of the 32nd All-India Postal Wrestling Championship at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Tuesday. Sanjay won the gold in the 60-kg category while Vijay annexed the yellow metal in the 87-kg category.

RESULTS: (60kg) 1-Sanjay Rai, 2-SB Patil, 3-Ankit Dhaiya, (67kg) 1-Kuldeep, 2-Ram Niawas, 3-MB Magddom, (71kg) 1-Karpal, 2-Amlesh Yadav, 3-AS Kodhalkar and Vijay Khatri; (87kg): 1-Vinay Kumar Yadav, 2-Kalu Das, 3-Rohtas and PR Pawar (130kg): 1-Rakesh Kumar, 2-Jaimeen Chaudhary, 3-Pradeep Kumar and HS Patil.

LAKSHYA UPSET TOP SEED

Lakshya Tikoo upset top seed Sajal Kesarwani 4-2,4-0 in the under-14 category while third seed Om Yadav was eliminated by Naman Mehta in Eldeco Cup RS Sagar Memorial AITA Talent Series. In the boy's under-16 event, fourth seed Sajal Kesarwani and seventh seed Chinmay Kacker also fell in the opening round.

RESULTS: (Boy's U-16): Aaron Samuel bt Joy Das 4-1, 4-2, Arjun Sharma bt Mukul Lodhi 4-0, 5-4(4), Aryaman Mehta bt Lakshya Tikoo 4-1, 4-0, Abhijit Singh bt Piyush Kumar 4-1, 4-0, Shourya Singh bt Karman Kohli 4-1,4-1, Anshuman Singh bt Sajal Kesarwani (5-4)(4), 4-0, Vikesh Chaurasia bt Chinmay Kacker 4-2, 4-1, Daksh Singh bt Shaurya Jain 5-4(3), 4-0 (Girl's U-16) Yeti Bisen bt Shakti Mishra 4-2, 4-0, Diva Bhatia bt Shreya Gupta 4-0, 4-0, Sasa Katiyar bt Himmika Amarnani 4-0, 4-0, Alisha Vathani bt Kisha Yadav 4-0, 4-2, Archie Panwar bt Lavanya Khanna 4-1, 4-1, Arshia Ahmed bt Shagun Kumari 4-2, 4-2, Vaishnavi Lodhi bt Durga Jain 4-2, 5-4(4), Eram Zaidi bt Minal (Up) 4-1, 5-4(6) (Boy's U-14) Lakshya Tikoo bt Sajal Kersarwani 4-2, 4-0, Mukul Lodhi bt Chinmay Kacker 4-2, 5-3, Parth Ratra bt Shaurya Jain 4-1, 0-4, 10-6, Shaurya Singh bt Shikhar Shukla 4-1, 5-4(4), Arjun Sharma bt Garv Bansal 4-1, 5-4(3), Naman Mehta bt Om Yadav 4-2, 5-4(7), Anshuman Singh bt Karman Kohli 4-1, 4-0, Vikesh Chaurasia bt Arunjit Dangwal 4-0, 4-0 (Girl's U-14) Yeti Bisen bt Minal Singh 4-0, 4-1, Dhriti Dangwal bt Himmika Amarnani 5-3, 5-4(7), Alisha Vathani bt Archie Panwar 4-2, 5-4(3), Durba Jain bt Arshia Ahmed 4-2, 4-2, Kisha Yadav bt Shagun Kumari 4-1, 4-0, Diya Bhatia bt Shreya Gupta 4-2, 4-0, Shakti Mishra bt Sasa Katiyar 4-2, 4-2.