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Govt hiding Rafale truth: Antony

Ex-Defence Minister seeks JPC probe into 'grave compromise' on national security, rues HAL image assassination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Defence Minister AK Antony on Tuesday accused incumbent Nirmala Sitharaman of "suppressing facts" regarding the Rafale deal and asked why the Government is not setting up a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe it. Antony also held the Government "guilty" of "gravely compromising" national security in the Rafale deal.

The Congress leader demanded that the Modi Government should publish the price of the UPA Government's deal for 126 aircraft and the current price of the NDA Government's 36 Rafale deal, including per aircraft price, to clear the doubts and let the nation decide who is correct.

"Since, there is a growing perception that the Modi Government's Rafale purchase deal has more skeletons in its closet, let there be a joint parliamentary probe to bring out the truth," Antony said at a Press conference.

He also accused the PM of violating the Defence procurement procedure (DPP), as according to it only the Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by the Defence Minister and comprising the three service chiefs, can decide the number of aircraft and weapons to be purchased. "Prime Minister Modi's decision is a clear violation of the DPP," he said.

"In the JPC, the present Government has got the majority. Why are they afraid? Let the JPC go through all the files. The JPC can call files. A JPC consisting of a majority of persons from the Government can look through all the files and come

out with the truth," the Congress leader said.

Rejecting the charges levelled by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that an unprecedented intervention by him in 2013 had put the "final nail in the coffin" of the aircraft deal when the cost negotiation committee was giving final touches to the deal, Antony said, "Her allegations are completely false and she is deliberately suppressing the facts."

The former Minister went on to allege that contract negotiations were almost over and when the proposal was sent to the Finance Ministry, it felt that the life cycle cost concept was a new concept and they cannot support it.

Antony also claimed that the then Congress-led UPA Government had received objections and reservations in written from several leaders, including a senior BJP MP, about the life cycle cost calculation and the Indian Air Force (IAF) was insisting to finalise the deal. "Then I directed that the negotiations should continue, but take it to the Cabinet Committee on Security only after disputes are settled," Antony said.

The former Defence Minister accused Sitharaman of trying to tarnish the image of public-sector Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) both nationally and globally. He also asked if the price of the Rafale fighter jets were cheaper than that negotiated by the UPA Government, and why the Government bought 36 aircraft instead of 126 from the French company.

"While Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had claimed that in the new agreement, the price is nine per cent cheaper



Former Defence Minister AK Antony addresses a Press conference on the Rafale deal in New Delhi. Senior Congress leader Randeep Surjewala is also seen. Alwin Singh | Pioneer

than it was in the UPA deal, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said it is 20 per cent cheaper and an IAF officer said it is 40 per cent cheaper, then why they didn't buy more than 126 if it was cheaper?" Antony asked.

He claimed that before the UPA demitted office, the negotiations were almost over, and

after the NDA came to power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a unilateral decision on April 10, 2015 to purchase 36 aircraft. "When the IAF demanded 126 aircraft, who authorised the PM to reduce the number to 36?" he asked.

The requirement for 126 aircraft was made by the IAF in 2000. In 2018, the threat perception from our border nations has increased than what it was in 2000, Antony claimed. The Congress leader claimed that if the UPA deal was not cancelled, the HAL would have acquired state-of-the-art technology through transfer-of-technology and would have gained experience to manufacture fighter aircraft. India lost this opportunity, he said.

Continued on Page 7

'Cong Govt ignored HAL, IAF interests'

Sitharaman claims Rafale deal 9% cheaper, UPA Govt framed rules for pvt players' role

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has blamed the previous UPA Government for ignoring the interests of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Indian Air Force (IAF) and claimed that the NDA Government is



Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a Press conference on the issue of the Rafale deal in New Delhi. Alwin Singh | Pioneer

getting 36 Rafale fighter jets at a rate nine per cent cheaper than what was agreed upon by the then UPA Government.

Speaking at the Indian Women's Press Corps, Sitharaman reacted to former Defence Minister AK Antony's allegations, saying, "The deal didn't happen during the UPA. What also didn't happen during the UPA was that the HAL and the Dassault couldn't agree on production terms. So the HAL and Rafale couldn't go together. Doesn't that very clearly say who didn't go with the HAL? Under which Government did that happen? So saying that the NDA Government did not take care of HAL is absolutely misplaced. Neither the HAL nor Air Force's interests were taken care of by the UPA."

Refuting the Congress' charge that the Government preferred Reliance Defence to collaborate with Dassault overlooking the HAL, Sitharaman said the rules framed by the previous Congress-led coalition Government had allowed the foreign companies to enter into deal with private compa-

nies. Sitharaman also accused the UPA Government of not finalising the Rafale deal for years. "Why didn't the agreement happen," she asked.

The Defence Minister said, "The UPA Government could have strengthened the HAL. Every question should actually go to them. They didn't take care of the HAL."

She said Antony is a very senior leader, and having been in the Ministry before her, he understands the negotiations. Sitharaman added the Rafale negotiations were not "over the counter" purchases.

This assertion came after Antony questioned why the Centre did not buy 126 aircraft. Sitharaman said 126 jets will also have to be bought on order and, therefore, will have a timeline and follow all related conditions like escalation costs.

Responding to questions on the Congress's allegations against the Government over the Rafale deal, the Minister said, "We have responded saying your basic price and the basic price that I am getting at, when compared with all the escalation and other things, is 9 per cent cheaper."

Pigeonholed HAL scientists riled

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

The atmosphere at Bengaluru-based defence public sector undertaking Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is sombre. The statement of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman questioning the capability of the ace PSU in the context of Rafale deal controversy has dampened the spirit of the staff, scientists and officials of the PSU.

In her defence of the Rafale's ₹37,000-crore offset contract not going to the PSU, the Minister had said the HAL didn't have the capability to produce 4.5 generation French-made Rafale fighter jets.

Speaking to a news channel, Sitharaman had said, "There are questions which... why didn't you prefer the HAL... I will answer that too... In fact, if anything, I would question the Congress party... Your love for the



HAL...The noise that is being made now, the HAL is being ignored... If they were more interested in the HAL, why didn't they sit with the French (company) and talk it out to see what is deficient about the HAL's offer and what can be done to improve it and how the HAL indeed gets it.

If they really had a love for the HAL, at least LCA productions should have been increased. If you genuinely had a love for the HAL, you

could have increased that capacity, which is what we have done. We are quite actively engaged with the HAL. For the love of the HAL... UPA, Shri Rahul Gandhi doesn't just help talking."

The officials and staff at the HAL, the country's only defence aerospace company established over seven decades ago, feel insulted by Minister's remarks and point out that the HAL has been the backbone of the Indian Air Force and has

the capabilities to produce any fighter with technology transfer. They also feel the HAL has become a pawn in the political slugfest.

Another retired executive pointed out that this has killed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of "Make in India". He also pointed out that the Government started, what is called buyback of shares, and took about ₹5,000-6,000 crore each year for last three years from the HAL. He said with this the order book position of the HAL came down drastically.

Regarding design and development of new aircraft/helicopter/aircraft engines, an official said as of now Indian private sector companies do not have expertise, patience and perseverance to pursue a design which may take anywhere between 6 years and 20 years.

Continued on Page 7

PM: Varanasi emerging as gateway of development

Modi launches development projects of ₹557 cr

PNS ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Varanasi is fast emerging as a gateway of development for eastern India as the city is developing a hub of medical, educational and integrated transport systems with world-class facilities.

Modi was addressing an impressive gathering at the amphitheatre ground in the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Tuesday. He also launched nearly a dozen projects worth over ₹557 crore.

"Today, the roads of the city are glittering with LED lights, adding not only beauty to the city but also helping Nagar Nigam (municipal corporation) save crores being



spent by it on the street lighting system," he said. Adding that apart from development of integrated transport system, a multi-nodal terminal is being constructed here linking rail, road and water transport systems and construction of the ring roads.

"Since long, the files of the ring road project were gathering dust in the Government offices but when I was voted to Parliament by the city about four years ago and the country had given me responsibility as PM, the work on this long-pending project was re-started," he said, while making an indi-

rect attack on Akhilesh Government, adding, "but the work could not get speed as the previous State Government had created a lot of hurdles so that the BJP would not take credit for it."

During his comparatively long address, the PM concentrated in highlighting the projects launched in the city since 2014; however, Modi indirectly replied to many issues raised by the Opposition.

Praying to Baba Vishwanath (Lord Shiva) and Maa Ganga (Goddess Ganga) to continue their blessings on him to serve the people of the city, he indicated that he would contest parliamentary election from Varanasi again in 2019 as against doubts of many that he may change his parliamentary seat.

The PM also made an indirect attack on those who are raising their voice against the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor project, stating that

Continued on Page 7

US slaps duties on \$200 billion goods, Beijing gives tit for tat

Beijing: China on Tuesday hit back at the US with tariffs on ₹60 billion worth of American goods, in a tit-for-tat move that came hours after President Donald Trump slapped duties on ₹200 billion worth of Chinese imports.

President Trump on Tuesday slapped 10 per cent tariffs on ₹200 billion worth of Chinese imports and the duties will rise to whopping 25 per cent at the end of the year, escalating the trade war with the world's second largest economy.

Trump alleged China had been unwilling to change its unfair trade practices and the new additional tariff structure would give fair and reciprocal treatment to American firms.

China's Finance Ministry retorted, "If the United States insists on raising tariffs even more, China will respond accordingly." Agencies Detailed report on P13

BSF jawan martyred in Pak firing

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A BSF jawan was killed by the Pakistan Rangers on Tuesday in sniper firing from across the International Border in Ramgarh sector of Samba. The jawan was part of the BSF area domination patrol.

The attack took place less than 24 hours after Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated SMART fence pilot project across two locations of Jammu frontier to check rising incidents of infiltration through the traditional routes.

Throughout the day, speculation was rife about the fate of injured jawan as he or his body could not be traced by the patrolling parties in the forward area.

Situation also remained tense following "unconfirmed" reports that the Pakistan Rangers had abducted the injured jawan on Tuesday morning.

"In response to firing from across the International Border, BSF troops took positions and retaliated. One of the BSF jawans was hit by enemy bullets," said the BSF spokesman.



The BSF spokesman also clarified that locating the body of the injured BSF jawan proved difficult due to undulating marshy terrain on the Indian side.

He said the jawans on "ground zero" were still engaged in the task of clearing

the area of any likely IEDs and booby-traps to ensure safety of patrolling parties.

According to ground reports, at least four BSF jawans were present in the forward area of Ramgarh sector in Samba around 11.30 am on Tuesday when one of them, sit-

ting atop a tractor was hit by a "sniper" fire from across the International Border.

The injured jawan was engaged in the task of clearing wild growth of grass across the barbed wire fencing to ensure clear vision in the forward area.

CAPSULE

₹ DIPS 47P TO CLOSE AT RECORD LOW OF 72.98/₹

Mumbai: The rupee on Tuesday slid 47 paise to settle at a record 72.98 against the US dollar due to surging crude oil prices and trade war worries.

BARAPULLAH DRAIN TO GENERATE BIOFUEL

New Delhi: A first-of-its-kind technology will be used to treat sewage from Delhi's Barapullah drain to generate biofuel.

KARTI'S ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ABROAD

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed P Chidambaram's son Karti to travel to the UK from Sept 20.

Cong launches Mission 500 to fund '19 campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The cash-starved Congress is looking for a unique method to generate funds to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Setting a target of ₹500 crore, the party has decided to collect money for the campaigning through crowdsourcing from its 10 lakh booths across the country.

The mass campaign for fund-collection will start on October 2 and will end on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on November 19.

Congress general secretary Ashok Gehlot said, "The Congress will start a campaign from October 2 to reach out to people, discuss State and national issues and collect funds. Our workers will visit every booth, talk about State issues and connect with people."

He said the party has set a target to collect ₹500 crore, which would translate into ₹5,000 from every booth committee.

The party has also instructed all its workers of booth committees to go door to door and collect small amounts, like ₹5

and ₹10, from every household. These workers are also expected to distribute campaign flyers and pamphlets. This method, the Congress believes, would strengthen their hold at the grassroots level workers and supporters, who will feel more connected to the party by making direct contributions.

After its complete rout in the 2014 general elections and thereafter losing several States to the BJP in the heat of the Modi wave, the grand old party has been trying to do innovative things to connect to the mass and the grassroots workers and also making efforts to

boost the morale of the party. Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has personally taken a keen interest in implementing ideas like "Shakti" which the party claimed to be inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's Abhiyan and Mera Booth Mera Gaurav.

The Congress general secretary said campaign at the booth level is aimed to be an innovative way to motivate the party workers and strengthen the party at its core and the result of which is being witnessed in Rajasthan, where the Assembly elections are due shortly.



Mass drive for crowdsourcing from its 10 lakh booths to raise ₹500 crore will start on October 2 and will end on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on November 19

Shivpal dubbed as BJP agent

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A fortnight after miffed Shivpal Yadav launched Samajwadi Secular Morcha and announced to contest all 80 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 poll, the Samajwadi Party on Tuesday retaliated terming him a 'BJP agent' out to destroy the unity of all secular parties. The SSM was launched in Lucknow on August 29 and poses the biggest threat to the SP as the core vote bank of both are the same.

Former SP MLA from Ayodhya Pawan Pandey accused Shivpal of working at the behest of the BJP to damage secular forces in Uttar Pradesh. "He is an agent of the BJP and his relevance in state politics is that how much damage he can inflict to secular forces in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections."

"It was because of Shivpal Yadav that the development of Ayodhya could never take off. As PWD and Irrigation minister, he never cleared projects for the development of the temple town even after they were sanctioned by then Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav," Pawan claimed in Faizabad on Tuesday.

The former minister alleged that Shivpal Yadav held important portfolios in the Akhilesh government but never cared for the execution of projects for Ayodhya as announced by Akhilesh Yadav.

UP govt declares new paddy purchase policy

Farmers to get payment online

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Setting up a target to purchase 50 lakh metric ton of paddy in this kharif season, the Uttar Pradesh government announced a new paddy purchase policy giving emphases on the RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement) mode of payment to farmers. The government also announced that Kumbh Mela area would be declared as ODF zone. The decisions were taken in the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday.

Government spokesman Srikant Sharma said that the Cabinet approved a new paddy policy under which a common variety of paddy would be purchased at ₹1,750 per quintal while grade A paddy would be purchased at ₹1,770 per quintal. Besides, ₹20 per quintal will be paid for winnowing and cleaning the paddy.

"The government has set a target to purchase 50 lakh metric tons of paddy this season while it was 45 lakh metric tons last year. The purchase centres will start working in Terai and parts of western UP from October 1 while in central and eastern UP it will open from November 1,"

Sharma, who is also Power Minister in the government, said.

He said all the transactions would be online and farmers would get payment through RTGS within 72 hours. "If the rice mills prepare rice within 30 days of purchase, they will get ₹20 per quintal as incentive but if it takes more than 45 days, Re 1 per quintal per day will be charged from the mill," he said.

In another decision, the government announced Kumbh Mela zone as ODF where 1.22 lakh toilets would be constructed. "The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) will construct 43,500 toilets while the rest will be constructed by the state government," the spokesman said adding that the total project will cost ₹252.85 crore. He added that 11,400 labourers would be employed to clean those toilets.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal of accelerated economic development project under which guidelines for expansion of infrastructure projects had been approved. The

The Cabinet also approved the proposal of accelerated economic development project under which guidelines for expansion of infrastructure projects had been approved

spokesman said that projects related to infrastructure like roads, electricity, bridges, drinking water schemes, construction of buildings for schools and colleges would be approved through consultation with the district administration and people's representatives. "The government has allocated a budget of ₹1,850 crore for this project," he said.

In another decision, the government handed over the guesthouse at Ramabai Ambedkar Sthal to Estate department. In 2015, the said guesthouse was handed over to Civil Aviation from Estate department. The Cabinet rescinded the order on Tuesday.



Members of the Jat community welcoming Chief Minister Yogi Agriyanath and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Marya with a huge garland at a meeting organised by the BJP at Vishverraiya Hall on Tuesday

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my younger brother name from Salman Khan to Sharof Khan and he will be known by this name only from now onwards. Naushad Khan S/o Akhlaq Ahmad Khan Gram: Nindura (medu purwa) Tehsil: Kamaiganj, District : Gonda, U.P.

नीलामी सूचना

26.09.2018, 11:30 बजे प्रधान आयकर आयुक्त (केन्द्रीय), 27/2-पी0के0 काम्लेक्स, राजा राममोहन राय मार्ग, लखनऊ निष्प्रयोज्य एम्बेसडर कार :- यू0पी0 78-यू-1292 नीलामी, सिक्कोरिटी रू0 5,000/- नगद/आई.पी.सिंह एण्ड सन्स

CHANGE OF NAME

I Imkongsenla Pongen is legally wedded spouse of No 4427660N Rank Sepoy Name Imsummeren presently residing at Vill - Aoyimti Dist - Dimapur PO - Dimapur Teh - Dimapur State - Nagaland, have changed my Name from Imkongsenla Pongen to Imkongsenla vide affidavit No 61 AD 182972 and affidavit dated 10 Sep 2018 before Notary Govt of Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow).

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No 4375608N Rank Lnk Name Yumam Surjit Singh is presently residing at Vill - Yumnam Khunou Mamang Leikai PO - Nambol PS - Nambol BPO - Keinou Dist - Bishnupur State - Manipur Pin - 795134, have changed my name from Yumam Surjit Singh to Yumnam Surjit Singh, vide affidavit No 61AD 688632 dated 10 Sep 2018 before Notary Govt of Uttar Pradesh.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Yumam Omila Devi is legally wedded spouse of No 4375608N Rank Lnk Name Yumnam Surjit Singh presently residing at Vill - Yumnam Khunou Mamang Leikai PO - Nambol PS - Nambol BPO - Keinou Dist - Bishnupur State - Manipur Pin - 795134, have changed my name from Yumam Omila Devi to Yumnam Omila Devi, vide affidavit No 61AD 688631 dated 10 Sep 2018 before Notary Govt of Uttar Pradesh.

Youth bobbitised by GF's family members

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre case, a youth was bobbitised by the family members of his girl friend after the couple was caught in a compromising position in Gorakhpur late on Monday night. The youth is battling for his life at a local hospital. Interestingly, the victim's family did not lodge a case though the local police made an entry of the incident in the General Diary (GD) on the basis of the doctor's report.

As per reports, Shreya Gupta (name changed) of Mahuadabar hamlet of Khajni police station area entered the house of his girlfriend in the same locality late on Monday night. As the lovers became intimate, the girl's family members woke up and caught them in a compromising position.

The indignant family members nabbed the youth and chopped off his private part after which the critically

injured youth rushed out shouting for help. Later, he was shifted to the district hospital by his family for treatment.

However, to avoid embarrassment, the youth's family members did not register a case. The police said that they were aware of the incident and had asked the youth's family members to lodge a complaint for legal proceedings to be initiated.

Meanwhile, in Gonda, an eight-year-old girl was kidnapped from her house and raped by an unidentified person. The girl was kidnapped on Monday night when she was sleeping in her house, taken to a secluded spot and raped. While the girl had to be shifted to Lucknow for treatment, efforts were on to identify the perpetrator. A case was registered and the police were investigating.

Elsewhere, in Rae Bareilly, half a dozen persons were injured when two families

came to a head over a petty dispute late on Monday night. Ram Khelawan of Jyona hamlet under Kotwali police station area complained to the police that he was sitting outside his house late on Monday night when Ajay Kumar aka Kallu Yadav and his brother Ram Kumar Yadav reached there in a drunken state and started hurling expletives. When he objected, they took out knives and attacked him. As his wife Geeta rushed out to help, she was attacked too. Later, Ram Khelawan's family members reached there and both the sides were engaged in a clash, which left two persons from the other side injured. All the injured were taken to a primary health centre from where the seriously injured Geeta and Ram Khelawan were referred to the district hospital. The police registered cross cases in which five persons were named. While no one was arrested, a probe was on.

NR to deploy RPF at all level crossings in state

PRABHA SHANKER ■ LUCKNOW

Alarmed over an incident in the national capital, where a gateman was attacked for asking miscreants to stop at a level crossing, Lucknow Division of Northern Railway has decided to temporarily deploy Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel at level crossings in remote areas in its jurisdiction.

"The Delhi incident is a serious issue. We are sending RPF cops at different railway crossings of UP falling under our division temporarily. They have been asked to prepare ground report on hindrances that a gateman faces while manning crossings. After a report is submitted, we will chart out a plan," senior divisional commercial manager (DCM) Jagtosh Shukla said.

The railway official said that the Lucknow division would discuss the issue with the district administration and police and seek help for protection of gatemen. "Incidents of verbal spat and manhandling of gatemen have been reported in the past at several places but not in Lucknow," Shukla added.

"Since the Indian railways



did not have adequate number of RPF cops, hence they could not be deployed permanently at all level crossings of the Lucknow Division (NR). The RPF personnel inspect level crossings falling in urban areas," Shukla said.

Gatemen working at level crossings in remote areas during night are prone to attack or manhandling by public, who insist on crossing even when a train is approaching. Most of these incidents go unreported or top officials ignore it. The RPF cops are usually deployed at railway stations or at workshops where their job is usually to stop trespassing and protect railway property. In case of any exigency, they are sent to level crossings but

these issues are mostly handled by local police.

A top railway official chose to play down the murderous attack on the gateman in Delhi terming it as a 'purely law and order situation. "The case is being investigated by the Delhi police," he said.

On what measures the Lucknow division officials are mulling to take in light of the Delhi attack, PRO of North Eastern Railway Alok Srivastava said that a strategy would be chalked out to meet such challenges.

Interestingly, the maximum number of incidents in which gatemen were bullied/manhandled or attacked by the public are from Lucknow division of NER.

Mayawati keeps SP guessing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Repeated assertion of 'respectable share of Rs seats' as a condition for joining the secular 'mahagathbandhan' by Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has placed the Samajwadi Party in a quandary.

Soon after Rajya Sabha election in March and later on last Sunday, Mayawati asserted that her party would join the anti-BJP secular front only if it was given a respectable number of seats to contest. "Earlier, we felt that she was pressuring the Congress for Assembly seats in poll-bound Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Now, it appears that Mayawati has national ambitions and wants to have a nationwide alliance with the Congress, while the Samajwadi Party will be a partner only in Uttar Pradesh," said a Samajwadi Party leader.

The SP leader clarified that SP chief Akhilesh Yadav was not concerned about Mayawati's stance as he had made up his mind to offer a larger share of seats to the SP. "Akhilesh has already said that of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP, he will offer 36 seats to the BSP and contest only 32 seats," he reminded.

The SP leader added that the Congress, which had expressed interest in joining the grand alliance, asked for at least 9 seats. For the Congress, Amethi and Rae Bareilly seats represented by Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi respectively are non-negotiable. In addition, the Congress wants to contest from Kushinagar and Saharanpur. The fourth partner ally in the equation is the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) is likely to get three seats - Muzaffarnagar, Baghat and Kairana. The last seat was wrested by the RLD from the BJP in a bypoll recently. A source close to RLD chief Ajit Singh said: "Initially, when neither the Congress nor RLD were in the picture, Mayawati suggested that the SP and BSP would contest 40 seats each. But after Kairana bypoll, she ceded some space for the Congress but made it clear that any seat for the RLD or other parties like Nishad Party would have to be given from SP's kitty."

Sengar's brother throws tantrums

Lucknow (PNS): Rape accused and BJP legislator Kuldeep Singh Sengar's brother Atul Sengar created a ruckus in Unnao district jail after officials prevented him from carrying personal stuff and eatables into the jail on Monday evening.

Lodged for the murder of the rape victim's father, Atul and his cohorts manhandled the jail staff.

Interestingly, senior jail superintendent Premnath Pandey denied any such incident.

On Monday evening, Atul Singh Sengar and an aide returned after being produced in a local court. As they were entering the jail, they were found carrying a bag containing personal belongings and eatables. When the jail staff stopped them, the duo abused them and later manhandled them. However, the officials seized the belongings and then only allowed entry to them.

कानपुर विकास प्राधिकरण
शिवगंगा इनक्लेव (छतमरा) आवासीय योजना के अन्तर्गत भूखण्ड प्राप्त करने का स्वर्णिम अवसर

कानपुर विकास प्राधिकरण जोन-4 के अन्तर्गत शिवगंगा इनक्लेव आवासीय योजना के अन्तर्गत आवासीय भूखण्डों को विक्रय करने हेतु इच्छुक व्यक्तियों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। पंजीकरण पुस्तिका टाइप-ए श्रेणी हेतु रुपये 1180.00 व टाइप-बी व टाइप-सी श्रेणी हेतु रुपये 590.00 (जी.एस.टी. सहित) नगद भुगतान कर एक्सिस बैंक सिविल लाइन कानपुर की शाखा से प्राप्त कर पंजीकरण धनराशि के साथ आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 24.09.2018 से दिनांक 15.10.2018 तक जमा किये जायेंगे। निर्धारित तिथि के बाद कोई आवेदन स्वीकार नहीं होगा। आवेदन पत्र पर निवास स्थान का पिन कोड दर्ज करना अनिवार्य होगा। लाटरी की तिथि बाद में प्रकाशित की जायेगी।

क्र. सं.	भूखण्ड श्रेणी	भूखण्डों की अनुमानित संख्या	अनुमानित क्षेत्रफल (व.मी.में)	अनुमानित भूमि दर (प्र.व.मी.)	पंजीकरण धनराशि
1	टाइप-ए	58	112.50	12500	141000
	टाइप-बी	9	60.00	12500	75000
	टाइप-सी	58	30.00	12500	37500

आवेदन की मुख्य शर्तें :

- योजना के भूमिदर 9 मी. रोड तक रुपये 12500.00 व 9.00 मीटर से अधिक 18.00 मी. चौड़ी रोड तक रुपये 13800.00 है।
- भूखण्डों का आवंटन लाटरी द्वारा किया जायेगा।
- भूखण्डों की संख्या, क्षेत्रफल व मूल्य अनुमानित हैं जो घट बढ़ सकता है। भूखण्ड का साइट प्लान उपलब्ध होने पर वास्तविक क्षेत्रफल के अनुसार तथा भूखण्ड कार्नर होने पर 10 प्रतिशत कार्नर चार्ज सहित अलग से लिया जायेगा।
- आवेदन पत्र जारी होने के 30 दिन के अन्दर भूखण्ड के मूल्य के 1/4 धनराशि (पंजीकरण धनराशि समायोजित करते हुये) एवं 3/4 धनराशि को 12 प्रतिशत ब्याज के साथ 24 तिमाही किस्तों में जमा करना होगा जिसे एक्सिस बैंक के कानपुर नगर की किसी भी शाखा में जमा की जा सकेगी।
- आवेदन पत्र जारी होने की तिथि एवं रजिस्टर्ड डाक की तिथि से 90 दिन के अन्दर पूर्ण भुगतान करने पर भूखण्ड मूल्य के 90 प्रतिशत धनराशि पर 5 प्रतिशत की छूट दी जायेगी।
- यदि किसी कारण वश भूखण्ड विवादित हो जाता है तो वैकल्पिक भूखण्ड का आवंटन किसी भी दशा में नहीं किया जायेगा तथा जमा धनराशि बिना कटौती वापस कर दी जायेगी।
- यदि किसी विवाद की दशा में उपाध्यक्ष, कानपुर विकास प्राधिकरण का निर्णय अन्तिम व मान्य होगा।
- आवेदित भूखण्ड का साइट प्लान उपलब्ध होने पर आवंटी द्वारा पूर्ण भुगतान करने के पश्चात निबंधन हेतु भेजे गये सूचना के अनुसार यदि आवंटी निबंधन नहीं करता है तो नियमानुसार रुपये 2.00 प्र.व.मी. के अनुसार चौकीदारी शुल्क प्रति माह देय होगा।
- अन्य नियम व शर्तें पंजीकरण पुस्तिका में अंकित हैं।

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Office of the Cantonment Board
64, Subhash Chandra Bose Marg, Cantt Kanpur -208004
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Dated : 18.09.18

Online tender for the financial year of 2018-19 through two bid system are invited from experienced supplier and /or registered eligible contractor of Cantt. Board Kanpur through the Government e-procurement portal http://eprocure.gov.in/epro_cure/app by the Cantonment Board Kanpur.

Sl. No.	NIT NO.	Name of work	Estimated cost of tender
1	CBK/SK/K-1576/1	Supply of Bleaching Powder	Rs. 10,00,000/-
2	CBK/SK/K-1576/2	Supply of Misc. Bazar Items	Rs. 25,00,000/-
3	CBK/SK/K-1576/3	Supply of Electricals Items	Rs. 25,00,000/-

S.NO.	ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
1.	Date of publication of e-tender	24-09-2018	1000 hrs.
2.	Last date of submission of online bids (Technical as well as financial) on e-tender portal	15-10-2018	1500 hrs.
3.	Opening of technical bid (cover 1)	16-10-2018	1600 hrs.
4.	Opening of Financial bid (cover 2)	Tenderers qualified in technical bid will be intimated separately	

The CEO/Board reserves the right to increase/decrease the estimated cost of supply and to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning reasons therefor.
Further details may be obtained from www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. For any clarification contact Cantonment Board Kanpur office on any working day during office hours. Tenders will be accepted via online mode only.

(Harendra Singh)
Chief Executive Officer,
Cantonment Board, Kanpur

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Burglars spend hours in bank, unable to break open locker

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Exposing police laxity in providing security to financial establishments in the state capital, a group of burglars broke into a Bank of India branch in Maal police area sometime on Monday night, stayed there for several hours while searching for the cash and left after they failed to break open the locker. There were reports that the miscreants made off with some loan documents. On Tuesday morning, some of the villagers spotted a big cut in the south side wall of bank's office and alerted the police. Later, the police contacted bank manager Shailendra Verma, who reached the spot.



The alarm system did not work even when the thieves entered the bank, displaced some of the almirahs and other goods, and tried hard to break open the locker

The bank officials and police team checked the rooms at the bank's office to find out the damages. It surfaced that the alarm system did not work when the thieves entered the bank, displaced some of the almirahs and other goods, and even tried hard to break open the locker. Later, the bank manager lodged an FIR, stating that the miscreants broke into the bank by cutting the south wall of the office and attempted to break the locker. However, he added that the thieves could not steal anything from the bank.

Contrary to the police claim, sources said some documents on loan were missing. "Some of bank-related documents were found abandoned in a mango grove and the police suspect that the thieves took a halt there," the sources said. The bank officials said the same was being verified and the police would be informed if anything of that sort surfaced during internal investigation.

The incident exposed police alacrity as well. The

SSP for 'UP 100' vigil in fringe areas, near banks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

After the theft attempt at a Bank of India's Maal branch on Monday night, SSP Kalanidhi Naithani has asked the 'UP 100' personnel to patrol fringe areas and maintain a vigil near banks. Police spokesman Arun Kumar Singh said the orders were issued by the SSP office on Monday and the same had been circulated to the 'UP 100' officials and local police.

Interestingly, the Lucknow police had conducted a number of mock drills in the state capital and at around financial institutions following the dar-

ing robbery and murder of a security guard outside Axis Bank in Hazratganj on June 30.

The drill was aimed at sensitising the policemen about safety of the financial institutions in Lucknow. "The drill proved to be a 9-day wonder in due course of time. The SSP conducted drills outside Axis Bank, in Hazratganj and Gomti Nagar to check police alacrity and response time. Some of the cops were given punishment for failing to perform. However, the drills which started with much ado were shelved later," the sources said, adding that it was just an image-building exercise.

bank office is located close to a police picket and on the main road linking Malihabad with Itaunja. "The police vigil was stepped up during the night as the road links to neighbouring districts after the incidents of dacoities which took place in Kakori, Maal and Malihabad were reported some time back. The order has been in place ever since. It is strange that the cops could not get a whiff of the theft till morning," the sources

said. Police spokesman Arun Kumar Singh said a case of theft attempt was registered against unidentified miscreants. He said the thieves could not succeed in their plan and the reports about theft of loan documents were not verified, when cross-checked. He gave a virtual clean chit to the Mall police, saying no laxity on their part surfaced. Singh failed to give details of the number of cops deployed at the police picket.

LU hostellers create ruckus after insect found in mess food

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

LU hostellers created a ruckus at the central mess on Tuesday afternoon, alleging that there was an insect in the lunch served to them. As per LU officials, the issue escalated when the students manhandled the mess incharge and a servant.

Police also reached the spot to bring the situation under control. Incidentally, there had been reports of insects found in meals in the past few days.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, LU proctor Vinod Singh maintained that it was a deliberate effort on the part of the students to create a ruckus. He

said he would submit a complaint against two students who manhandling the mess staff. "Even a person who is working as a servant has dignity and cannot be manhandled. If there was any problem, the students should have discussed it," Singh said. In the evening, the issue was sorted out, he added. A meeting with the coordination committee of students from hostels was also held to sort out the problem. "The students have also pointed out in the meeting that there are 10-15 per cent students who want to derail the central mess because they want meals to be served in hostels as in the previous years," he said. Singh said it was decided in



the meeting that two students selected by the students themselves would check the food once it was cooked and before it was served. "Once the food is served, an insect may possibly fall in it. If this happens, only that particular serving bowl will be removed and not the entire food," he asserted. He said the students had problems with the previous mess incharge and through a tender, a new mess incharge was

brought in, but the problem was still there. Chief provost Sangeeta Rani said when she reached the spot after the ruckus, the students took up other issues instead of insect in food. "They wanted an RO system for drinking water and they talked about refund of the caution fees instead of focusing on the issue of food," she said.

However, LU media spokesperson NK Pandey said one could not say that there was an element of mischief from the side of students until it was properly looked into. "The insect may have dropped in the food because of the prevailing weather conditions. We will see that this does not occur in the future," he added.

2 bodies recovered

Lucknow (PNS): Recovery of the mutilated body of an unidentified man near railway tracks in Chintah and another from Gomti river near Samta Mulak crossing on Tuesday ratcheted up pressure on the Lucknow police passing through a trying phase due to recovery of bodies from Sharda Canal. As per reports, a railway employee employed in track patrolling work spotted the body lying close to railway tracks between Malhaur and Dilkusha railway station in the morning. On being informed, a police team, led by sub-inspector Shiv Narayan Singh, reached the scene.

Police said the body was cut into pieces and the victim had head injuries. "The man died while crossing the tracks," the police said. However, they failed to explain why he reached there. The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained. The police said he was aged around 28 years. In another incident, the body of an unidentified man was recovered from Gomti river near Samta Mulak crossing on Tuesday morning. Reports said a man, identified as Mohammed Furqan of Mahanagar, spotted the body and informed the police. The deceased was aged around 45 years. Meanwhile, the Chintah police succeeded in ascertaining the identity of the man whose body was recovered from the canal on Monday. The police said the deceased was identified as Santosh (25) of Kamlapur locality of Sitapur. He was missing for last three days. He was identified on the basis of a bank's pay-in slip, which was recovered from his purse. Interestingly, police spokesman had said that the body of the victim was several days' old and was in a highly decomposed state. However, the police failed to ascertain the identity of the woman whose body was recovered from the canal in Chintah on Monday. The police have yet to ascertain the identity of the bodies recovered in the past.

Bizman threatened, extortion demanded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A man, said to be a relative of an MP, threatened a businessman, and demanded Rs 10 lakh as extortion when the latter was coming out of a bank in Hazratganj on Monday afternoon. A case was registered in this connection late Monday night. As per reports, the victim, identified as Mohammad Mushfiq of Shalimar Apartment (New Hyderabad) in Mahanagar police area, had gone to a pri-

ivate bank to deposit cash. He alleged that when he came out around 3:30 pm, Sajid and five his aides stopped him. "They dragged me to the other side of the road and asked me to cough up the extortion money or they would kill me," he told the police.

He said he instantly called the police control room, but a police team reached there after the miscreants had fled the scene. "Sajid is a relative of an MP and is a close relative of a corporator of Old City," he said. Sources said Sajid was named in several

crime cases in the past, and he and his aides were in the extortion business. "Sajid's relative, who is a corporator, is close to police officials presently posted in the Old City and could be seen hobnobbing with them in meetings which took place with residents in the past," the sources said.

Police spokesman said a case under sections 504/506/386 of IPC (threatening and demanding extortion) had been registered with the Hazratganj police. "A manhunt has been launched for the accused," he said.

उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद
104, महात्मा गाँधी मार्ग, लखनऊ
Web: <http://www.upavp.in>, E-mail: info@upavp.in

विभिन्न शहरों में आवंटन/नीलामी के माध्यम से आवासीय/अनावासीय सम्पत्तियाँ प्राप्त करने का सुनहरा अवसर

आवंटन/नीलामी तिथि 29.09.2018 आवंटन/नीलामी समय प्रातः 11 बजे

जोन का नाम	योजना/शहर का नाम	नीलामी स्थल
लखनऊ	लखनऊ, सीतापुर, हरदोई एवं लखीमपुर	कार्यालय संपत्ति प्रबंध, ऑफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स, सेक्टर - 9 वृन्दावन योजना, लखनऊ
कानपुर	कानपुर, एवं फर्रुखाबाद (फतेहगढ़)	कार्यालय संयुक्त आवास आयुक्त, (कानपुर जोन), ऑफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स (भूलाल), केशवपुरम, कल्याणपुर, कानपुर
आगरा	आगरा, मथुरा, अलीगढ़, सुर्जा शिकोहाबाद, फिरोजाबाद, कासगंज हथरस एवं बुलंदशहर	ऑफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स (भूलाल) सेक्टर-13 आवास विकास कालोनी, सिकन्दरा योजना, आगरा
मेरठ	मेरठ, सहारनपुर, बदायुँ, खतोली हनुमानपुर एवं गाजियाबाद	सामुदायिक केन्द्र, सेक्टर - 3 जागृति विहार, मेरठ
बरेली	बरेली, शाहजहाँपुर, पीलीभीत मुरादाबाद, विजोनौर एवं चन्दौसी	सामुदायिक केन्द्र, चौक विहार योजना, मुरादाबाद
वाराणसी	इलाहाबाद, गोरखपुर, फैजाबाद गोण्डा एवं बस्ती	वाराणसी जोन कार्यालय, उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद, वाराणसी

नीलामी स्थल पर केवल टोकन लेकर बोलीदाता ही प्रवेश कर सकेंगे। आवंटन/नीलामी स्थल पर प्रातः 10 से 11 बजे तक टोकन प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। सम्पत्ति जोनों की आवासीय एवं अनावासीय सम्पत्तियों की विस्तृत जानकारी यथा क्षेत्रफल अनुमानित मूल्य, बयाना धनराशि आदि से सम्बन्धित जानकारी शहर के सम्पत्ति प्रबंध कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड तथा परिषद की वेबसाइट <http://www.upavp.in> पर Public Notice पर उपलब्ध है।

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आयुष्मान भारत
PM-JAY

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50 करोड़ से अधिक व्यक्तियों
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Housing Commissioner refutes charges of RWA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The residents of different housing schemes of the UP Housing and Development Board in the city accused its authorities of not taking any step for protecting their lives if perchance any mishap occurred.

The high-tension transmission lines are passing in between the four towers of the Bhagirath Apartments of the Avadh Vihar Yojana located on Sultanpur Road. Besides, the poor electricity fittings at the Vrindavan Apartment and the fire extinguishers at the Mandakini Apartment, both situated on Rae Bareilly Road, are

causing concern. Interestingly, the prices of the flats in these apartments vary from Rs 80 lakh to Rs 1.25 crore. In such cases the Board authorities should take additional precautions to provide excellent facilities to them, they said. It is said that the Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) of the Bhagirath Apartments had lodged a complaint with the UP Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, recently complaining to him about the potential risk to their lives. There are 750 flats in this particular apartment of which 70 per cent are occupied. An agreement was signed between the Board authorities and the buyers at the time of taking possession that the high-tension transmission cable passing through these towers would be shifted to another site as a security measure. Housing Commissioner, AK Chauhan said that there would not be any compromise with the security of the residents at any cost and added that the shortcomings, if any, would be removed in the shortest possible time, if detected. Another example of ignoring the security norms was the poor

condition of the fire-fighting equipment at the Mandakini Apartments which was a multi-storied housing complex. No provision has been made to evacuate its residents or to extinguish a fire if perchance it was a big one broke out there. It is said that the Board authorities were not taking any initiative to shift the transmission cable to some other place as it was supplying electricity to the VIP areas. Its officials would not like to annoy the big bosses come what may. However, the Housing Commissioner refuted the charges of the RWA and said that the shifting of the transmission cable was delayed due to some unavoidable circumstances. He said that the issue had been taken up with the authorities concerned and the transmission cable would be shifted to a safer place soon. The Housing Commissioner claimed that no major anomaly was found in any housing scheme so far which could endanger the lives of the residents or cause any harm to them. He claimed that the Board authorities were working day and night for safeguarding the lives of the residents and ensuring their welfare.

Traffic diversions for 8th Moharram procession

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Traffic department has announced diversions in view of 8th Moharram procession to be taken out on Wednesday from Dariya Wali Masjid to Imambada Ghufanmaab in Chowk. The procession will be taken out at 8 pm and it will culminate at around 3 am. Traffic officials said that the diversions would be enforced from 7:30 pm till the time the procession ended.

Traffic coming from Sitapur road won't be allowed to move towards Pucca Pul and Bada Imambada. It will be diverted towards Daliganj crossing overbridge and Kapoorthala and IT crossing. All vehicles coming from Hardoi Road won't be allowed to move towards Koneshwar crossing, Chowk and Medical College trisection. These vehicles will be diverted towards Durga Devi trisection and Kudia Ghat and then the new bridge.

Vehicles moving from Kaiserbagh towards Sitapur road won't be allowed to ply over Pucca Pul. These vehicles will be diverted towards Daliganj bridge and IT crossing, Kapoorthala and Madaion. No traffic will be allowed from Shahmina trisection towards Pucca Pul, Jinnata Wali Masjid and Bada Imambada. It will be diverted towards Daliganj bridge and Medical College crossing. Heavy vehicles moving from Kaiserbagh to Hardoi road will not be allowed to move towards

Pucca Pul. They will be diverted towards Daliganj Pul, Madaion and Dubagga.

Traffic won't be allowed to move from Chowk crossing towards Khun Khunji Girls' Degree College, Nimbu Park and Kamla Nehru crossing. These vehicles will be diverted towards Koneshwar crossing.

Vehicles won't be allowed to move from Kamla Nehru crossing towards Nimbu Park and Nakkhas, and will be diverted towards Medical College crossing. Vehicles won't be allowed to ply from the Medical College crossing to Kamla Nehru crossing, and will be diverted towards Shahmina trisection and Rakabganj. Traffic won't be allowed to move from Nakkhas crossing towards Victoria Street. It will be diverted towards Rakabganj. No traffic will be allowed from Kamla Nehru crossing towards Victoria Street, and will be diverted towards Rakabganj bridge.

All the vehicles coming from Khadra won't be allowed to move towards Jinnata Wali Masjid and Bada Imambada. They will be diverted towards Bandha road. The vehicles won't be allowed to move from Kudia Ghat trisection to Nimbu Park crossing. This traffic will be diverted towards the new overbridge. Traffic will be prohibited between Akbari Gate and Kamla Nehru crossing, from Jinnata Wali Masjid to Pucca Pul, Nimbu Park, Kamla Nehru crossing and Bada Imambada.



'Mehndi ka Julu' being taken out from Asaf Imambara on the seventh day of Moharram, in Lucknow on Tuesday

Cops accused of loot, threatening

Lucknow (PNS): The Monday noon showdown between a traffic constable and traders took an interesting turn when the accused lodged a case against constable Dharamveer Singh and two policemen, including a traffic sub-inspector, accusing them of threatening and loot at gunpoint.

As per complainant Gagandeep Singh Bagga, he had gone to Awadh Nursing Home on Monday to see his grandmother, who is admitted in ICU. He alleged that Dharamveer deflated the tyre of his car which he had parked outside the nursing home as there was no other parking arrangement. "My car was parked close the nursing home and it was not encroaching

upon the road. Instead, there were several other cars obstructing the traffic. I was checking the tyre when Dharamveer reached there and asked me why had I parked the car there. I told him my car was not on the road," he told the police. He alleged that Dharamveer called his colleagues — constable Anil Rai and TSI Ajay Singh. "They thrashed me and dragged me to the other side of the road. Later, the TSI whipped out his service weapon and trained it on me," he stated in his complaint. He further alleged that the cops looted his gold chain during the brawl. Police spokesman AK Singh said a case for loot and threatening had been registered against TSI Ajay Singh, and constables Dharamveer and Anil

Rai. "The police have been asked to cross-check the allegations," he said. The Lucknow police were left red-faced after the news leaked on Tuesday. On Monday night, the cops had tried to hush up the case. Around midnight on Monday, the media cell of Lucknow police had said no case had been registered against policemen.

Interestingly, the case was registered on Monday night," sources said. They said the complainant reached the SSP office to meet the top cop to tell him his side of the story on Tuesday evening and it spoiled the police attempt to hush up the case as mediapersons approached him and got a copy of the FIR registered at Manak Nagar police station.

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED TIME EXTENSION NOTICE Due to some unavoidable circumstances opening date of Short term E-Tender No. 41/2018-2019/ETC/VNS is extended upto 28-09-2018. Other terms & conditions shall remain unaltered. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CIRCLE UPPTCL, D.L.W., BHIKHARIPUR, VARANASI** No. 746 Date 18.9.2018 Save energy in the interest of Nation.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा जिनका संक्षिप्त विवरण नीचे दिया गया है ई-निविदा की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड कर दी गई है। अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या : टी-95 / 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र मेठरवान सिंह का पुरवा, कानपुर में वातानुकूलन तथा इस्के सहायगी उपकरणों की आपूर्ति तथा स्थापना का कार्य। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेण मण्डल द्वितीय, पनकी, कानपुर पत्रांक: 494 दिनांक 18.09.2018 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये"**

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-TENDER TIME EXTENSION Opening date of E-Tender No. 125/ETC/2018-19 for Procurement of 36 KV 1250 Amp. RAM make Male moveable and Female fixed jaw assembly suitable for 36 KV RAMA make Isolator for 132 KV S/S Shahganj under ETD. Jaunpur & E-Tender No. 166/ETC/2018-19 for Annual routine maintenance & minor break down works at 132 KV S/S Manyahu under ETD. Trans. Division. Jaunpur is hereby extended upto 05.10.2018 at 12:30 hrs. 13:30 hrs. respectively. Tender Bids of this E-Tender can be uploaded & submitted by 17:00 hrs. on 04.10.2018 and the same will be opened on 05.10.2018 at 12:30 hrs. & 13:30 hrs. respectively. Please visit web site www.etender.up.nic.in for details/download and for any other corrections/ amendments. /modification extension till the date of submission of tender. In case the tender opening date is holiday, the date of submission and opening of tender will stand extended to next working day. Undersigned has the right to reject/divide any tender without assigning any reason thereof. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. Other terms & conditions of this tender will remain unchanged. **Superintending Engineer (Trans.) Hazipur Azamgarh** No. 2142 Date 17.9.2018 Save Electricity in the interest of nation.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेण मण्डल, गोण्डा ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना अनुमती पत्रों/केवारा से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सिलबन्ध निविदाये दो मागों में दिनांक 11.10.2018 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) ई-निविदा संख्या 99/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र बहराइच पर लीन के वार्षिक अनुखण सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (2) ई-निविदा संख्या 100/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उत्तराला-दुनरियामगंज लाइन हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (3) ई-निविदा संख्या 101/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 बहराइच(220)-पारले लाइन एवं 132 के0वी0 बहराइच(220)-बहराइच लाइन के वैदूतसिग सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (4) ई-निविदा संख्या 102/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र कर्नालमगंज पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (5) ई-निविदा संख्या 103/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (6) ई-निविदा संख्या 104/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (7) ई-निविदा संख्या 105/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (8) ई-निविदा संख्या 106/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (9) ई-निविदा संख्या 107/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (10) ई-निविदा संख्या 108/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (11) ई-निविदा संख्या 109/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (12) ई-निविदा संख्या 110/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (13) ई-निविदा संख्या 111/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (14) ई-निविदा संख्या 112/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (15) ई-निविदा संख्या 113/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (16) ई-निविदा संख्या 114/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (17) ई-निविदा संख्या 115/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (18) ई-निविदा संख्या 116/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (19) ई-निविदा संख्या 117/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (20) ई-निविदा संख्या 118/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (21) ई-निविदा संख्या 119/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (22) ई-निविदा संख्या 120/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (23) ई-निविदा संख्या 121/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (24) ई-निविदा संख्या 122/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (25) ई-निविदा संख्या 123/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (26) ई-निविदा संख्या 124/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (27) ई-निविदा संख्या 125/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (28) ई-निविदा संख्या 126/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (29) ई-निविदा संख्या 127/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (30) ई-निविदा संख्या 128/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (31) ई-निविदा संख्या 129/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (32) ई-निविदा संख्या 130/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (33) ई-निविदा संख्या 131/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (34) ई-निविदा संख्या 132/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (35) ई-निविदा संख्या 133/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (36) ई-निविदा संख्या 134/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (37) ई-निविदा संख्या 135/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (38) ई-निविदा संख्या 136/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बलरामपुर पर 132 के0वी0 एवं 33 के0वी0 मेन सब बार (दिन नसू) हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स की आपूर्ति सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोरोहर राशि रु0 2000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (39) ई-निविदा संख्या 137/ई0टीसी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 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TALK DURING ATAL VIKAS YATRA

Will wipe out Maoism soon: Raman

RAKESH K SINGH ■ BASTAR (CHHATTISGARH)



The menace of Naxalism will be wiped out from the State "soon", Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh said here even as he emphasised that dialogue is always a preferable channel for resolution of conflicts.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, during the ongoing Atal Vikas Yatra that is underway from September 5 and will continue till October 5 across the State, Singh said, "I could not have said this 15 years back but now I can say it with conviction that the problem will be finished soon. The development push by the State Government, particularly, in the affected regions like Bastar, and the exposure of duplicity of the ultras' ideology coupled with the security action have created favourable conditions for elimination of violence."

The Chief Minister said he is even open to a dialogue with the Naxals to resolve the issue. "We are on a path to develop a new Chhattisgarh with rapid development of the State, especially areas freed from the influence of the ultras."

On a question on administrative vacuum in Dandkaranya region still under the Naxal influence, he said, "Rapid development of the areas will be undertaken once they are freed from the ultras' stranglehold. The focus of the Chhattisgarh Government is now on the Dandkaranya region both from the standpoint of security action as well as developmental push."

On a question if a timeline for wiping out Naxalism can be fixed, Singh said, "It is an inter-State problem and the ultras often engage in guerilla tactics in one State and take shelter in another State. But the situation has significantly improved and we have even reduced the number of affected districts from 16 to 13. The violence is now

restricted to the Dandkaranya region and the tri-junction of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. The security forces are seized of the matter and appropriate strategy is in place as part of counteraction against insurgents. Naxalism has failed in Andhra Pradesh and it will fail in Chhattisgarh too."

The CM's emphasis on the Bastar region can be gauged from the fact that he has begun his Atal Vikas Yatra from the area where he addressed public rallies and meetings from his especially designed "Rath". The improvement in the security situation in Bastar was clearly visible as the CM even mingled with the crowd at the rallies in Bhanupratappur in Kanker, Makdi in Kondagaon besides Sargipal and Asna in Jagdalpur district.

Highlighting the developments undertaken by his Government including construction of state highways besides the national highways and roads constructed for rural connectivity under the PMGSY and a host of Government schemes to cater to the requirements of the tribal population right from birth (allowance for

pregnant and lactating mothers) to death (Government provides ₹2,500 for facilitating cremation), he pitched for support for another term.

In a clear indication that the Government intends to exploit the improved security situation for development, the CM said the works undertaken in the next five years will be four-fold than what has been achieved during the last 15 years.

For a better communication interface, the Chhattisgarh Government has launched a Rs 500-crore plus scheme Sanchar Kranti Yojana (SKY) in the ongoing fiscal for distribution of 50 lakh smart phones out of which 15 lakh handsets have already been distributed, he said.

The Bastar region has now emerged as an educational hub with the establishment of integrated education facilities right from school education to vocational institutions like the polytechnic colleges and institutions of higher learning like medical and engineering colleges, the CM said adding the time is not too far when the tribal students from the region will become collectors and superintendents of police in Bastar region.

Rejecting Muslims will kill the essence of Hinduism: Bhagwat

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI



Seeking to put the records straight and allay apprehensions regarding its ideology, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday defined Hindu as one who seeks to accept all and integrates with all even as he affirmed that excluding or rejecting any community like Muslims would deprive the term Hindu of its essence.

Speaking on the second day of the lecture series organised by the RSS here, Bhagwat said the concept of Hindu is all-encompassing — seeking everyone to walk together and wishing 'Kalyan' (well being) of the entire universe.

"Hindu Rashtira hai isliye Musalman nahin chalega isse Hindupan nahin rahega (thinking that a Muslim has no place in a Hindu Rashtira will kill the essence of Hinduness)," the RSS leader made it clear while giving a liberal exposition of the Hindu concept.

He said though the term Hindu was first used in the 9th century, it carried with it the substance of 'Sanatan Dharm' (eternal religion) that guides 'Bharat' since ancient times. "Bharat celebrates diversi-

ty and follows it, this is the Hindu message," he said.

In a significant comment, the Sangh leader said, "The RSS will first organise Hindus and then organise all other communities."

He said it is like in an exam where one first attempts easy questions and thereafter, takes up tough questions. "None is our enemy," he said in a clear message to remove any misgiving that it was anti-Muslim.

The RSS chief said Indian philosophy and thought sees truth in all religions and it is this strength and substance that had sustained us through the centuries "even when we were invaded".

Bhagwat said Indian unity is reflected in the Constitution and Sangh respects it. Seeking to define its rela-

tion with the BJP, Bhagwat asserted that RSS never asks its volunteers to work for any particular party but does advise them to back those working in the national interest.

He said there is a perception that the RSS plays a key role in the functioning of a particular party, a reference to the BJP, because of the presence of many of its workers in that organisation, but it is wrong.

"We never ask swayamsevak (volunteer) to work for a particular party, we do ask them to back those working in national interest. RSS keeps away from politics but has views on issues of national interest," Bhagwat said adding the Sangh believes the centre of power should remain as envisaged in the Constitution and that it considers it wrong if it is not so.

Naidu reconstitutes 24 House panels

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday reconstituted 24 Departments related to Parliamentary Standing Committees. Eight of them are serviced by the upper House, beginning this month.

While the Committee of Home Affairs will be chaired by former Home Minister P Chidambaram, his Cabinet colleague in UPA Anand Sharma will head the Science and Technology Department. TMC member Derek O'Brien has been appointed Chairman on Committee of Transport, Tourism and Culture.

A Rajya Sabha Press communiqué said the tenure of the reconstituted Committees is one year and each Committee has 10 members from Rajya Sabha and 21 from Lok Sabha. The Committee on Commerce will be chaired by Naresh Gujral with Rajya Sabha members Vayalar Ravi, Kapil Sibal, Roopa Ganguly, MP Virendra Kumar, Rakesh Sinha and Lok Sabha MPs Abhishek Banerjee, Jitendra Chaudhury, Bijoya Chakravarty, Kavitha Kalvakantia, Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati as its members.

The Committee on Health and Family Welfare will be chaired Prof Ram Gopal Yadav with Jai Ram Ramesh, Dr CP Thakur and others from Rajya Sabha as members and likewise few MPs from Lok Sabha including Arjun Lal Meena, Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Chirag Paswan and Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde.

The Committee on Home Affairs will be chaired by P Chidambaram and members from Rajya Sabha — Pratap Keshari Dev, Dr V. Maitreyan, Manas Ranjan Bhunia, Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, R.K. Sinha and Members from Lok Sabha Prem Singh

Chandumajra, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Mallikarjun Kharge, Kirron Anupam Kher, Ashwini Kumar, Faizal PP. Mohammad, Jagdambika Pal, Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati, Dr Prasanna Kumar Patasini as members of the panel.

The Committee on Human Resource Development will be chaired by veteran leader Dr. Satyanarayan Jatya while Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forest will be chaired by Anand Sharma. The other members of Sharma's panel are Sharad Pawar, Prasanna Acharya, Anil Baluni, Raj Kumar Dhoot, Sushmita Dev, Ninong Ering, Dr. K. Gopal and others.

The Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice is to be chaired by Bhupender Yadav with prominent MPs of both houses — Swapan Das Gupta, Prabhat Jha, Majeed Memon, D. Raja, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Tariq Anwar, Meenakshi Lekhi and Kalyan Banerjee as the panel's members.

The Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture will be chaired by Derek O'Brien with Praful Patel, Dr Sonal Mansingh, Rewati Raman Singh, Subrata Bakshi, Rajeshbhai Naranbhai Chudasama, Arpita Ghosh, Major General BC Khanduri and Shatrughan Prasad Sinha as its members comprising from both the house of Parliament.

DAC clears procurements of defence buys over ₹ 9,100 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday approved procurements worth over ₹9,100 crore including two additional regiments of indigenously-developed Akash surface to air missile besides water breathing apparatus and test equipment for guided weapon systems of T-90 tanks.

The Akash missile to be procured is an upgraded version of the previously included Akash missiles and will include seeker technology, possess 360 degree coverage and will be of compact configuration with reduced signature. The upgraded Akash weapon system is operationally critical equipment which will provide protection to vital assets, defence ministry officials said.

The Army has already inducted two regiments of

Akash and last year two more regiments which are in the process of being delivered. The Akash system has since been upgraded and the DAC has given approval for the 3rd and 4th regiments to be of the upgraded variant.

Akash was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme initiated in 1984 and is manufactured by public sector Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). The two additional regiments of Akash will also be supplied by BDL under 'Buy Indian', category, they said adding the objective is to give a fillip to indigenisation and self-reliance.

The tactical missile has a range of 25 kms and can simultaneously engage multiple targets in all weather conditions and has a large operational

envelope from a low altitude of 30 metres to a maximum of up to 20 km. Each regiment consists of six launchers with each launcher having three missiles.

Meanwhile, the DAC, the apex body for clearing weapon acquisition proposals of the three Services, also accorded gave the nod for progressing design and development of Individual Under Water Breathing Apparatus (IUWBA) for T 90 Tanks.

Developed by Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL) of DRDO, the IUWBA is used by the crew of tanks as a safety gear and is required by the tank crew for emergency escape when negotiating water obstacles while deep fording. The DAC also accorded approval for design and development of Test Equipment for Guided Weapons System of T 90 Tank.

India registers lesser IMR but it's highest in world: UN report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of infant deaths in India came down from 8.67 lakh in 2016 to 8.02 lakh in 2017 — the lowest in five years. Nevertheless, it was the highest in the world followed by China at 3,30,000, according to a UN report released recently.

The report prepared by United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME), said of 8 lakh deaths in India, 6,05,000 were neo-natals while the number of deaths among children aged 5-14 was 1,52,000. Infant deaths were reported highest in the world in India, followed by Nigeria at 4,66,000, Pakistan 3,30,000 and Democratic Republic of Congo 2,33,000 (DRC), the report said.

Dr Gagan Gupta, Chief of

Health at the World Health Organisation, said India is making good progress in combating reasons leading to infant deaths through a number of Government-led initiatives.

"It has to be taken into consideration that India has a birth rate of 25 million every year and the number of infant deaths has come down and is lowest in five years. This is also the first time that the number of deaths under five is equal to number of births. The next step would be reducing the number of deaths," he said.

"About 18 per cent of children born globally are from India," he added. The main reasons behind infant deaths remain to be lack of access to water, sanitation, proper nutrition or basic health services, Gupta said.

Govt assures all help to southern States ravaged by rain, floods

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday assured the southern States of providing all help in recovering from the damage caused by rain and floods during the monsoon season. This was conveyed at the Southern Zonal Council meeting, chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, here, according to a Home Ministry statement.

The day-long meeting, attended by chief ministers of Karnataka and Puducherry, deputy chief minister of Tamil Nadu, Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and one Minister each from Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property in the floods caused by monsoon fury in the southern States.

MUZAFFARPUR SHELTER HOME CASE SC stays Patna HC order for new CBI team

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a Patna High Court order to set up a fresh CBI team to probe the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual abuse case, saying such a move would not only be detrimental to the ongoing investigation but also to the interests of the victims.

The apex court, while staying the high court's order directing the CBI's special director to put in place a fresh team to probe the case, said there was no reason now to change the existing investigating team which was set up by the CBI Director.

The high court had on August 29 ordered that a fresh team of investigators be constituted by the CBI's special director in the case in

which incidents of alleged rape and sexual assault of women inmates over a period of time had come to light in an NGO-run shelter home at Muzaffarpur in Bihar.

A bench of Justices

Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta also noted that no allegations were made against the team probing the case with regard to the manner in which the investigation was being conducted. PTI

Mules on Katra-Vaishno Devi track to get RFID tags, SC told

New Delhi: Mules operating on the Katra-Vaishno Devi shrine track in Jammu will soon be implanted with radio frequency identification (RFID) tags to ensure that no illegal or unauthorised animal is pressed into service, the Supreme Court was informed Tuesday. In a report placed before the apex court, the sub-committee of the state advisory council has

recommended that the cap on registered mules operating on the track would be reduced from 4,600 to 2,500 over a period of 10 years and 175 animal would be phased out every year starting 2018-19. A copy of the sub-committee's report was placed before a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta, during the hearing on Tuesday. PTI

SC terms some States disputing accidental deaths data 'unfortunate'

New Delhi: Taking note of almost 3,600 deaths reported last year alone due to potholes on roads across the country, the SC on Tuesday said it was "unfortunate" that some States were disputing the data published by the Centre on such accidental deaths. A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta expressed "surprise" that the States were disputing the data provided by them to the MoRTH on the ground that the figures were not verified by the transport departments of the respective States. PTI

Govt disregards 'Trust' of persons with disabilities

Nat'l Trust headless for last 3-4-years

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Paucity of funds and ineffective management — reflecting the Government's apathy — have hit hard the functioning of the National Trust (NT), a statutory body of the Union Social, Justice and Empowerment Ministry for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities in the country.

While the Government has merged various NT schemes to cut down recurring grants being doled out to the NGOs, the Trust also doesn't have a full-time chairperson for the last three years. If this was not enough, the Union Finance Ministry is yet to look into the sector's repeated requests to enhance the corpus fund,

which continues to be just ₹100 crore since it was set up in 1999.

"Several letters have been written to the Finance Ministry to enhance the NT's corpus from ₹100 crore to ₹500-1000 crore for better management and welfare of the sector, but in vain," lamented a senior NT official.

"It is not a happy state of affairs (insufficient funds). We are spending more than our income (interest accrued on the corpus). If funds are limited, then we have to reduce the recurring grants under various schemes, some of them now merged. Unless we get sufficient funds there cannot be better situation for the sector," he said.

Till April, this year, the NT had overall 10 schemes. Post April, Disha, Vikash, Samarth and Gharounda schemes have been merged. While the number of beneficiaries will remain same as in the scheme guide-

lines i.e. Disha - 20, Vikaas - 30, Gharounda - 20 and Samarth - 30, the maximum number of BPL beneficiaries funded by NT will be limited to 20 BPL beneficiaries for Disha and Vikaas Schemes and 15 BPL beneficiaries for Samarth and Gharounda.

Ignorance and fund shortage have been a regular affair. For instance, under Prerna scheme, the budgeted ₹10 lakh for 2017-18 was unspent as the Government found "no proposal up to the mark". Similar was the case with the Sambhav scheme. These schemes are run through registered organisations (ROs) with National Trust.

ROs too are not happy. Said Dr Alok Kumar Bhawan of Delhi-based Manovikas, an RO, "We are the link between the Government and the beneficiaries. However, we were not consulted before revising/merging the schemes. Not only the Government is non-

serious in running the schemes, it is also making excuses that proposals are either not up to the mark or NGOs are not sending proposals.

"A look at the annual report of the Trust reveals that fund spent on seminars and workshops is on increase while it is decreasing when it comes to the schemes. Moreover, now the Government has drawn a line within the disability sector itself by categorising them into BPL and APL," he said.

It has been revealed that most of the Trustee Board members who are not below the rank of Joint Secretary representing the Ministries or Departments of Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development, Health, Finance, Labour, Education, Urban Affairs and Employment and Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation have never attended Board meetings for the last fifteen years, while the NT

officials have been taking key decisions on their own without keeping in loop the Board members, thus defying the mandate of the statutory body.

The said Ministries too did not bother to ensure any welfare activities for the benefit of the sector in all these years.

An expert in the sector summed up, "Ironically, at a time when the Trust should have gradually increased its schemes and widened its ambit to reach out to many more people with the special needs, it is, on the contrary, reducing the expenditure and schemes. Since its inception, the interest rates have dropped significantly and it is apparent that the reduction on earnings from the NT corpus has resulted in a reduction in expenditure on welfare schemes."

We need to have a cess-like method which can assure a regular source of income, he suggested.

BJP accuses Sidhu of demeaning India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday accused Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu of demeaning India, speaking as an agent of Pakistan and demoralising the soldiers of the country by attempting to "justify" hugging Pakistani Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa and claiming that Pakistan is willing to allow Sikh pilgrims access to a gurudwara on its territory.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "Sidhu has a lot of admirers...Somebody of that stature going there and then hugging the chief of the army, an army about which, in India, we have very clear feelings. It certainly has an impact on soldiers and people in the (defence) ministry. The public response is also similar. It is

demoralising. I wish Sidhu had avoided it."

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra also demanded a response from Congress president Rahul Gandhi over the issue, saying Sidhu has been speaking on the matter with his permission as Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has already condemned him over his conduct in Pakistan during the swearing-in ceremony of Imran Khan recently.

He also accused Sidhu of meeting External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj deceptively as she had given appointment to former Union minister M S Gill with whom, Patra alleged Sidhu tagged along.

Patra said Swaraj reprimanded Sidhu in their meeting on Monday for his conduct in Pakistan.

INSHORT

CENTRE ASKS BENGAL TO REPEAL ITS HOUSING ACT

New Delhi: With West Bengal notifying its own Housing and Industrial Regulation Act, 2017 (HIRA) instead of implementing the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) 2016 Act enacted by Parliament, the Centre has asked the State Government to repeal its Act, as there is already a Central law on the same subject. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday made it clear that there is no ambiguity when it comes to implementation of the Central law and States have to conform to it.

NAVY CHIEF TO VISIT US FOR SEAPOWER MEET

New Delhi: Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba is visiting Rhode Island, USA on a bilateral visit from September 18 to 22 September for attending the 23rd edition of the International Seapower Symposium (ISS) organised by the US Navy. He is scheduled to present his views on the topic 'Defending the Maritime Commons: Safeguarding the Free and International Order' and participate in panel discussion during the symposium. Lanba will also meet the US Navy top brass during the visit, officials said here on Tuesday.

RAHUL APPOINTS JHA AS BIHAR UNIT CONG CHIEF

New Delhi: Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday appointed Madan Mohan Jha as president of the Bihar unit of the party. The post was lying vacant since former PCC chief Ashok Kumar Choudhary was sacked last year by Sonia Gandhi and Kaukab Qadri was appointed the acting president.

OZ ENVOY LAUNCHES 6-MONTH LONG FEST

New Delhi: Seeking to engage Indians with the Australian culture, spanning food, music, theatre and heritage, a six-month-long mega festival was Tuesday launched by the country's envoy here, who emphasised that people-to-people ties would be the "defining feature" of the Indo-Australia ties. Australia Fest, which builds on the Oz Fest held in 2012, will be hosted across 20 cities in India involving over 75 events.

HOUSING MIN TO HOLD REVIEW WORKSHOP

New Delhi: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will hold a review workshop with the Urban Development Ministers of all States in next three months for effective implementation of the Street Vendors Act. Speaking at a convention of National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), the Minister said that issues pertaining to implementation of the Act will be addressed during the workshop.

AICC FOREIGN DEPT VICE CHAIRMEN APPOINTED

New Delhi: Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday appointed Bhubaneshwar Kalita and Pratap Singh Bajwa as vice chairmen of the AICC Foreign Affairs department. Former ministers Manish Tewari and M M Pallam Raju have been made general secretaries of the committee, which is headed by former Union minister Anand Sharma.

AMITY BAGS SOUTH ASIA EDUCATION AWARD



New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has conferred the 'South Asia Legal Education Excellence Award' upon Schools of Law, Amity Group of Universities during the 10th Law Teacher's Day. Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Group of Education accepted the award. Naidu emphasised upon change in quality and content of legal education in the country.

22 LAKH DECADE-OLD CASES PENDING

New Delhi: Over 22 lakh cases, which are over a decade old, are pending in various subordinate courts of the country. These cases constitute 8.29 per cent of the total nearly 2.50 crore cases pending in the lower courts. According to the National Judicial Data Grid, as on Monday, September 17 evening, a total of 22,90,364 cases, which are 10 years or older, are pending in the lower courts. Of these, 5,97,595 or nearly 5.97 lakh cases are civil in nature and 16,92,769 or 16.92 lakh are criminal in nature.

Rahul: Special status to AP if Cong comes to power

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday declared that after Congress comes to power at the Centre its first step will be to accord Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh.

Rahul Gandhi who was on a day-long visit to Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh today said that the Centre had promised SCS to the State at the time of bifurcation. "We will fulfil the promise made by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. It is the right of Andhra Pradesh", he said, taking part in an interactive session with students. He regretted that the promise of the then Prime Minister was not fulfilled by the present Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Replying to a question from the students, Rahul Gandhi expressed his deep concern over an aggravating situation of unemployment and pointed out that in neighbouring China 50,000 jobs were created every day against only 450 in India.

Soon after his arrival Rahul visited the home of former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Damodaram Sanjeevaiah at Pedapadu village and also met his family members. Sanjeevaiah's small house was in dilapidated and neglected condition. He was the only Dalit Chief Minister



HE CHARGED THE BJP WITH CHEATING THE STATE BY NOT FULFILLING THE PROMISES MADE BY MANMOHAN SINGH IN THE PARLIAMENT

of the State. Later, Rahul had another meeting with the minority leaders of Congress party and discussed the issues facing the community. Kurnool is among the districts of the country with the biggest concentration of Muslim community.

Addressing a public meeting at STBC Grounds in the evening, Rahul said that there was always a special relationship of love between the Congress party and Andhra Pradesh.

He charged the BJP with cheating the State by not fulfilling the promises made by Manmohan Singh in the Parliament.

Recalling the special bond

between AP and Congress, he recalled that for the first time in the history of the country a Dalit, D Sanjeevaiah, had become the Chief Minister of a State during the Prime Ministership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

He told the people about his experience of visiting Damodaram Sanjeevaiah's house earlier in the day to pay respects to him.

Describing Sanjeevaiah as an honest and sincere leader, Rahul narrated an incident. "When some people alleged before Nehruji that Sanjeevaiah was corrupt, the Congress party sent a team to his village. When the team saw a small house where an elderly lady cooking on a smoke chullah they asked her where was the house of Sanjeevaiah. The team was shocked when the lady replied that this was his house and she was his mother. Sanjeevaiah was made CM a week later".

Rahul said that today AP needs a Chief Minister like Sanjeevaiah and Andhra Pradesh has set an example for the entire country long ago that a person who works honestly to serve the people should become the Chief Minister.

N Raghuvendra Reddy, State Congress president, said that the visit of Rahul Gandhi will be a shot in the arm for the party and galvanise the rank and file.

TN most corrupt State in India: Stalin

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is the most corrupt and unsafe State in the country, according to MK Stalin, president, DMK. Addressing a mammoth rally organised by the DMK as part of its State-wide agitation against the "corrupt" AIADMK Government, at Salem on Tuesday, Stalin unleashed a series of attacks on the Edappadi Palaniswamy-led Tamil Nadu Government.

In his first address at a public meeting after getting elected as the party chief following the death of his father M Karunanidhi on August 7, Stalin described Tamil Nadu as the worst administered State in India. His tirade against the AIADMK Government could make investors and entrepreneurs think many times about their plans to invest in Tamil Nadu.

"The economy of the State is in a shambles. There are no employment opportunities for the youth in Tamil Nadu. Farmers are committing suicide and entrepreneurs are leaving the State in search of greener pastures because of the greed of AIADMK politicians and rampant corruption. All Ministers in the Edappadi Palaniswamy Cabinet are facing corruption charges," said Stalin.

Stalin's attack on the EPS-led Government came a day after the Madras High Court asked the Advocate-General



DMK leader MK Stalin addresses party members during a protest rally against ruling AIADMK party in Salem on Tuesday

to submit a detailed report about the major contracts on infrastructure works awarded by the Tamil Nadu Government. The DMK in a petition to the Madras High Court had charged the Tamil Nadu Government with violating all norms while awarding the contracts of five major highway projects funded by the World Bank.

He said there has been a total breakdown of the law and order in Tamil Nadu. "We saw the State police chief himself being raided by the CBI. Women and children are not safe even in their homes. The woman superintendent of police who was in charge of protecting women herself was sexually abused by her seniors," lambasted Stalin.

Stalin warned the IAS/IPS officers in the State whom he accused of being hand in glove

with the AIADMK Ministers in massive corruption and violation of all norms in awarding big contracts of the Government. "The DMK through our secret network has collected all details of the misdeeds perpetrated by the officials and the politicians. We have the entire data of how much money was collected by the officials and the AIADMK Ministers and politicians. We also have proof of the money handed over to the party MLAs to ensure their support to the Edappadi Palaniswamy Government," warned Stalin.

Stalin charged that the Tamil Nadu Government was reluctant to appoint the Lok Ayukt, the super sleuths with power to probe and prosecute corrupt Ministers and officials. "Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam

know well that they would be the first politicians to go to the jail once they appoint the Lok Ayukt. I warn the politicians and bureaucrats in Tamil Nadu who have been counting currency notes till now would soon start counting the bars in jails," said Stalin in a no-holds barred attack on the AIADMK as well as the BJP.

The entire Karunanidhi clan barring estranged son M K Alagiri was out in the streets on Tuesday addressing anti-corruption rallies from several venues in the State. While Udhayanidhi, son of Stalin, led the demonstration in a Chennai suburb, Kanimozhi, the late Karunanidhi's daughter from his third wife, inaugurated the rally at Tindivanam. Dayanidhi Maran, grand nephew of Karunanidhi who is accused in the multi-crore illegal telephone exchange case, declared in Chennai that corruption could be wiped out only if Stalin becomes the Chief Minister of the State.

Meanwhile, Sellur Raju, Minister for cooperation termed the DMK rally against corruption as a comic drama. "The DMK speaking about corruption is akin to the butcher quoting the scriptures. The Ranjit Singh Sarkaria Commission which probed corruption charges against the then Chief Minister Karunanidhi had described the latter as a man of scientific corruption. Stalin is defaming an honest Govt," he said.

Surveys show TRS miles ahead of Opp in race for Assembly polls



OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

One after the other, three opinion polls by media outlets have put the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti clearly ahead of its opponents in the coming Telangana Assembly elections.

But the good news for the Congress is that its president Rahul Gandhi registered higher popularity rating compared to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The separate surveys by India Today-Axis, TV5 I-Flash Team and VDP Associates have forecast that TRS will return to power for a second term with overwhelming majority.

While India Today poll has said that the TRS had 43% approval rating against 18% for the Congress and 15% for the TDP, the other two polls have given projections of seats in the 119-member Assembly.

According to the TV5-Flash Team the TRS may bag 90 seats while the Congress will be reduced to 15 seats down from 21 in 2014.

While MIM may retain all its seven seats the survey said that BJP's strength will come down from 5 to 3. Telugu Desam Party had also emerged as a big loser in this poll.

Another interesting finding in TV5 Survey was that 41.33% people in Telangana prefer Rahul Gandhi as Prime Minister against only 33.1% supporting Narendra Modi.

Survey by VDP Associate has projected 80 seats for TRS, 20 for Congress, 7 for the BJP and 12 for others.

However, TV5 added an important rider that its survey was conducted before the Congress, TDP and other smaller parties agreed to form a Grand Alliance against the TRS.

But the survey findings were in consonance with the general perception that the TRS was clearly ahead of its rivals. There were also a near consensus that both the BJP and TDP were not in the reckoning. Commenting on the findings of the polls, senior TRS leader K Taraka Rama Rao said, "People of Telangana have made up their mind. It's KCR Garu again as CM".

The Election Commission is likely to announce the poll schedule for Telangana Assembly anytime next month.

Honour killing: Widow takes her fight for justice to social media

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Amrutha Varshini, who became widow after the honour killing of her husband, has taken her fight against the curse of casteism to the social media.

Amrutha has opened a Facebook page, "Justice for Pranay," to launch a social movement against the caste discrimination and said she will dedicate her life to build a "caste-free society".

Amrutha, who hails from Vyssa family, had married a Dalit-Christian youth, Pranay Kumar, in January last. But in a shocking incident 25-year old Pranay was killed on Friday last in Miryalaguda town of Nalgonda district in Telangana, sparking a massive public outrage. Police have arrested Amrutha's father T Maruti Rao, uncle Shrawan and five others on the charges of hiring contract killers to eliminate Pranay as all their attempts to separate the young couple through threats had failed.

In her first post on the

Facebook page Amrutha wrote, "don't worry Pranay...U r not alone...Not only me u are in the heart of crores of people...Many people are fighting for justice."

She appealed to the people to cooperate with her in installing a statue of her departed husband in Miryalaguda town as a symbol of fight against caste discrimination.

Amrutha, who is 7-month pregnant, said that after delivering the baby she will dedicate her entire life to build a society which will be free of caste violence and repression.

Apart from numerous photos of protests and candlelight vigil to demand justice for Pranay, the Facebook page also has several video clips of the young couple in love.

Another post on the page demanded that on the line of "Nirbhaya act" against rape there should also be a "Pranay act to give stringent punishment to those who victimise the young couple and indulge in so-called honour killing of those who marry persons of other castes.

MSRDC, WII team up to protect wildlife along MSM e-way

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an effort to preserve wildlife habitat along the new under-construction Nagpur-Mumbai Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg (MSM), the State-run Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

Under this MOU, the WII will undertake a study of wildlife habitats, through which the MSM passes, as part of the MSRDC's initiative to protect wildlife. Apart from making recommendations to the MSRDC through a report, the WII will guide the State undertaking on the steps required for protecting wildlife habitats.

After construction of the Nagpur Mumbai Super Communication Express way (NMSCEW), the MSRDC plans to ensure that there is free movement for wild animals in their habitats. "When the construction of expressway is complete, proper care will be taken

This is for the first time in the country that any infrastructure development project will focus on wildlife conservation work

so that there is no threat to the wildlife," a MSRDC spokesperson said.

The WII, which comes under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), will partner with the MSRDC till the completion of the Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg. This is for the first time in the country that any infrastructure development project will focus on wildlife conservation work.

"MSRDC is sensitive towards the issue of conserving wildlife and committed to maintain their habitat. We are determined that Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg will serve as a model project for the protection of wildlife. Therefore, we are extremely keen to develop the interest of

wildlife in the sanctuaries falling along the expressway," MSRDC's Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Radheshyam Mopalwar said. According to Mopalwar, development of infrastructure projects involves a thorough study of the social and environmental impacts. "Proper care needs to be taken to maintain environmental balance. As part of the exercise, we will address the effect of the project on wildlife habitats along the Nagpur-Mumbai expressway," he said.

Two wildlife sanctuaries fall within 26 talukas and 390 villages that will be connected through NMSCEW, also known as MSM, a project that will three major cities of Nagpur, Aurangabad and Mumbai. "Many wildlife habitats are in these sanctuaries. We are taking the assistance from the Wildlife Institute of India to see to it that the wildlife does not suffer from vehicular traffic and pose any problem due to construction of the expressway," Mopalwar said.

Madan Mohan Jha is Bihar Cong chief

PNS ■ PATNA

After a wait of almost one full-time president. AICC chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday appointed 62-year old Madan Mohan Jha as the new president of the PCC. A notification was also issued for nomination of four working presidents and members of the working committee and the advisory committee. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, who was a claimant for the post of president, has been appointed chairman of the election campaign committee.

Jha's nomination came as a surprise among the Congress rank and file here since nobody ever speculated about his elevation. He also did not make rounds of AICC headquarters like some other leaders who wanted to grab this position. Jha, a former Minister, is said to be a non-controversial figure who likes to stay away from media glare. His father Nagendra Jha was also a Minister.

The appointment of a Brahmin is seen as Congress' attempt to win back the support and confidence of the upper castes as the party's bid to nominate backward castes or dalits as party chief did not yield much result. It is after a gap of a dozen

years that a leader from the upper caste has been given this office. The last Brahmin to hold this office was Dr Jagannath Mishra. Anil Sharma, a Bhumihar, was PCC chief for a brief period in early 2000.

Kaukab Quadri, who served as caretaker president for about one year was also claimant for the post. Ashok Choudhary served as PCC president for a long time and demitted the office last year after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar severed ties with grand alliance. Choudhary was a Minister in Nitish Cabinet and he did not only quit the party chief's post but also resigned from the Congress and joined the JD(U) amid speculations that he might be appointed president of Bihar unit of JD(U) in view of his closeness to Nitish. Quadri is among the four working presidents as others are Ashok Kumar, Sameer Kumar Singh and Shyam Sundar Dhiraj.

The 23-member state working committee has, among others, Amrita Bhushan, Shakil Khan, Prem Chandra Mishra, Brajesh Pandey, Md Jawed and Kirpanath Pathak. The 19 member advisory committee has Meira Kumar, Sadanand Singh, Shakeel Ahmad, Nikhil Kumar, K K Tewari, Jyoti, Asrarul Haq, Ranjeet Ranjan and others.

Rape of minor girl by employee: Govt orders closure of school

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

More than 500 students of Azan International School were staring at an uncertain future as Telangana Government has ordered its closure following the incident of a school employee raping a minor girl on the school premises.

The four-year-old student was sexually abused in a bathroom of the school on Saturday, sparking an outrage among the parents and others. Another school on the same premises with 1,100 children is also facing uncertainty as people are demanding action against it too as both are run by the same management.

The management of Azan International school, where most of the students are NRI children paying exorbitant fee, has sent a message to parents, "The school will remain closed until further notice as there is an ongoing police investigation taking place

regarding the unfortunate incident".

The police have arrested school supervisor Jeelani in connection with the incident while the girl was discharged from the hospital after a surgery last evening. Golkonda police station has booked a case of a rape of minor against the arrested person.

The school located at Tolichowki area faced the fury of the local people as a mob attacked its property and pelted stones after the news about the heinous crime spread. The incident came to light late on Saturday evening as the girl did not return home and worried parents reached the school to inquire as all other children had returned.

The management tried to cover up the incident saying the girl was attending a special class. But when the mother came to know that the girl was lying unconscious inside and the

school staff was trying to hide something she raised an alarm and people started gathering there.

Hyderabad Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi and area MLA Kausar Mohiuddin took up the issue with the higher officials including the Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar and district Collector Yogita Rana demanding stringent action against the management and closure of the school till probe is over.

According to the officials of the Education department notice was issued to the school management and an order for its closure was served. They said that the alternate schools were being identified where the students will be shifted soon.

The management was also facing other charges including running a primary school with 218 students without permission from the government.

Health camps held across Bihar to mark PM's birthday

PATNA: Marking the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Bihar health department on Tuesday extended health services to the doorsteps of the ailing poor across the State.

Health Minister Mangal Paandey said, "As the Prime Minister belongs to a poor family and has dedicated himself to the welfare of the people belonging to the lower strata of the society, the department thought to dedicate the occasion to the suffering masses of Bihar."

The health department held 604 health check-up camps covering all the blocks in the State, where around 1.65 lakh people were examined for various health problems. The camps were specially organised to examine the health of all those living in the slum localities. In each camp, on an average 270 patients had turned up.

In the state capital, deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi and

health Minister Paandey inaugurated a health camp. Road construction minister Nand Kishore Yadav was also present on the occasion. In addition to this, more such camps were organised in Patna. In the camps, people were not only examined of their various ailments, but were also provided necessary medicines. Those who were found to be suffering from serious ailments were referred to nearby health centres for follow-up treatment.

The people, who thronged the camps with all enthusiasm, were also informed about the preventive aspects of the diseases. They were also told about the Prime Minister's ambitious programme, "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan", and asked to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings. As per the directive issued by health minister Paandey, the department had deployed adequate number of doctors, nursing and paramedic staff to attend to all those who turned up at the camps.

300 Guj Cong men detained, 'Assembly gherao' march over farmers' issues fizzles out

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

More than 300 Congress leaders and workers, including Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Chavda and the party's Gujarat unit incharge Rajiv Satav, were detained after they marched towards the State Assembly in Gandhinagar raising farmers' issues on Tuesday.

The Congress workers shouted slogans for waiver in farmers' loan and tried to gherao the State Assembly complex. A large posse of policemen were on guard in the State Capital as the Congress had threatened to take siege of the Assembly House after the gathering of farmers and party workers at Satyagraha Chhavni nearby under the aegis of relatively sparsely attended 'Khedut Aakrosh Rally'. The rally was ahead of the two-day monsoon session of the Assembly.

Addressing the Congress workers, Chavda said that the march towards Assembly raising the voice for farmers shouldn't stop even if the police resisted. Except for minor skirmishes and stone throwing, the march later on, however, turned out to be a damp squib as the Congress leaders walked in to police vans stationed getting detained without much protest.



Police detain Congress party leaders and supporters during their 'Khedut Aakrosh rally' and 'Assembly gherao march' in Gandhinagar on Tuesday

Among the other senior Congressmen detained include former State party chief Arjun Modhvadia and legislator Harshad Ribadia.

However, the Gujarat Congress chief claimed that thousands of farmers apart from Congress workers were present at the rally. Satav said that with the farmers rally was just beginning there would be more such agitation across the State against the BJP-ruled Government in coming days.

Meanwhile, Congress legislator Virji Thumar was seen grappling with a lady police official and pushing her as she tried to nab him. On this Thumar said that he was

unaware of pushing a lady cop. According to him, despite his MLA identity card being shown he was not allowed inside the Assembly.

On Congress party's protest Deputy CM Nitin Patel said that the Opposition party has done nothing for the farmers but fired upon them. It was under BJP rule that the Sardar Sarovar project progressed rapidly and farmers got their dues, Patel said.

The first day of the two-day Assembly session was adjourned after paying tribute to former Prime Minister the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. On Wednesday, the Congress would raise the issues.

Over 22 L cases pending in lower courts for over a decade: Official data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 22 lakh cases, which are over a decade old, are pending in various subordinate courts of the country, latest official data shows. These cases constitute 8.29 per cent of the total near-

ly 2.50 crore cases pending in the lower courts. According to the National Judicial Data Grid, as on Monday, September 17 evening, a total of 22,90,364 cases, which are 10 years or older, are pending in the lower courts. Of these, 5,97,595 or

nearly 5.97 lakh cases are civil in nature and 16,92,769 or 16.92 lakh are criminal in nature. Civil cases usually involve private disputes between persons or organisations. Criminal cases involve an action that is considered to

be harmful to society as a whole, according to a definition available on Find Law. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a part of the ongoing e-Courts Integrated Mission Code Project. The NJDG works as a monitoring

tool to identify, manage and reduce pendency of cases.

The e-Committee of the Supreme Court had launched the National Judicial Data Grid to provide data on cases pending in the district courts across the country.

Fake ONGC recruitment gang busted

Seven cheats were hand in glove with 2 staffers of Min of Rural Development

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted a gang who were cheating youths seeking jobs in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) by employing a unique modus operandi.

The gang was being run by seven members in active collusion of two employees of the Ministry of Rural Development, who were posted with multi-tasking section of the Ministry. The duo was instrumental in getting the keys of the rooms of officers, who were on leave, posted with Krishi Bhawan. The prospective candidates were called in those rooms to give impression that interview was genuine and they readily agreed to pay a whopping sum of ₹ 22 lakh for being appointed as Assistant Engineer with ONGC.

The police have recovered 27 mobile phones, two laptops, 10 cheque books, fake voter ID card and 45 mobile sim cards used by the accused persons for cheating.



The 2 employees of Ministry of Rural Development were instrumental in getting the keys of the rooms of officers, who were on leave, posted with Krishi Bhawan. The prospective candidates were then called in those rooms to give impression that interview was genuine and they readily agreed to pay a whopping sum of ₹ 22 lakh for being appointed as Assistant Engineer with ONGC

"The accused have been identified as Jagdish Raj (58), Sandeep Kumar (31), Wasim (28), Ankit Gupta (32), Vishal Goel (28), Suman (32) and Kunal Kishore (32). A case was registered after a complaint received from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) alleging fake recruitment by unscrupulous persons," said Rajiv Ranjan, Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch.

"During investigation, it was revealed that the victims received e-mails from ONGC's official mail account and they were interviewed at Krishi Bhawan. The victims were introduced to a man named Randhir Singh alias Kunal Kishore who

took ₹ 22 Lakhs from the victims for getting them jobs in ONGC. But later on, all the contacts of Randhir Singh went off the radar," said Ranjan.

"The mastermind Kishore was nabbed by police from Laxmi Nagar. Based on Kishore's revelations, other six accused were also arrested including Sandeep and Jagdish, the two employees of Ministry of Rural Development who are in government job," said Ranjan.

Explaining the modus operandi, Additional CP said that Ravi Chandra, who runs a consultancy firm in Hyderabad used to choose victims who were ready to pay money to secure Government jobs and introduced them to Kishore

who enticed victims by claiming that his brother-in-law is an ONGC employee and has good influence on ONGC hierarchy.

"He collected the education certificates and money from them and prepared fake interview call letters with the help of his associate Wasim who is an expert web designer. Wasim also prepared fake voter cards for Kishore who assumed the identity as mentioned in the fake ID card. These emails were sent with the help of Vishal Goel who is a software engineer and has prepared an email spoofing system for the gang," said Ranjan.

"The gang used to call victims at Krishi Bhawan so that there is no doubt created

among the victims. Jagdish Raj, an employee in ministry of Rural Development would arrange the office of any such officer who was on leave and his other associate Sandeep Kumar ensured the entry of victims. Suman and Ankit Gupta who posed as employees of ONGC used to conduct fake interview and after that they used to give joining letters to the victims. Kishore used to collect money from victims after they have received joining letter," said Ranjan.

"Considering the modus operandi and the interrogation conducted there is a possibility of more victims of this syndicate. Further investigation is going on," Ranjan added.

Assets monetisation to lift AI visage to tempt buyers

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to pare its debt, Air India has asked the National Building Construction Company (NBCC) to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) on monetisation of its prime properties located at Baba Khadak Singh Marg in Connaught Place and Vasant Vihar in the national Capital.

The property at Vasant Vihar is spread on 30 acres and it houses Air India's staff colony. The property at Baba Khadak Singh Marg is spread across 16,000 square metres. Air India is expected to raise ₹3,000-4,000 crores through this monetisation process.

These two properties were surrendered by Air India to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs last year. The Government wants to expedite monetisation of Air India's immovable assets to reduce its debt burden in a bid to make the airline attractive for privatisation.

Top sources said Air India has come up with a fresh roadmap on asset monetisation to tackle its fiscal woes. "At a high-level meeting held last week, Air India asked the NBCC to make separate roadmap for each properties,"



sources added. As per the plan, the NBCC will make residential projects in the Vasant Vihar property, while it will raise commercial projects on the Baba Khadak Singh Marg property.

"These properties were on perpetual lease of 99 years and can't be monetised directly by Air India due to land title issues. The Government will monetise the properties and the proceeds will be transferred to the Consolidated Fund of India. From there, the Government will transfer the money to the airline for reducing debt," said officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had given in-principle approval for disinvestment of the Government's stake in Air India and five of its subsidiaries, based on the recommendations of the NITI Aayog.

Air India has a total debt of around ₹52,000 crore which comprises ₹22,000 crore as aircraft loan and the rest as working capital loan and other liabilities. The property at Baba Khadak Singh Marg is just a plot with no construction. It was meant to house the national carrier's city terminal office. Both these properties were allotted to Indian Airlines Ltd, which was merged with Air India.

Both the NBCC and Air India have agreed on some common terms regarding asset monetisation over the national carrier's properties in Vasant Vihar and at Baba Khadak Singh Marg. Sources added the NBCC has already started planning for these projects. In the second phase, Air India will reportedly monetise three other assets.

Earlier, in a reply to Parliament, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had stated that Air India has mopped up Rs 543.03 crore so far from monetisation of its assets in prime locations such as Mumbai and Chennai. The monetisation included the sale of six flats at Sterling apartment, Mumbai to the State Bank of India with each of these flats fetching Rs 22 crore.

Logo, portal launched for Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind Tuesday launched the logo and the web portal to be used for commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, an official statement said.

The logo was released in the presence of Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) Dr Mahesh Sharma.

"The logo has been obtained through crowdsourcing. Logo branding will be done in trains, metro rail, Air India aircraft, state roadways buses, government websites, e-mails, government stationery, calendar and diary, government advertisements and publicity material, digital signature," the statement from the Ministry of Culture said.

The logo will also be used by Public Sector Undertakings, subordinate or attached offices, autonomous bodies etc. under



the central government. The new web portal will identify visitors from different geography and serve them personalised information.

Organisations and individuals can join the celebration and submit their 'Karyanjali'

through an easy upload process.

It will also provide information related to Gandhian literature, philosophy, audios, videos and rare photos.

"The web portal is participatory in nature and all the

participating organisations will be able to upload their activities regarding commemoration on the website. It also has a unique feature Gandhipedia which will be a repository of Gandhian knowledge and will continue to grow with time,"

the statement said.

The two-year-long celebrations from October 2, 2018 to October 2, 2020 will be held across the country and all over the globe to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. A meeting of the national committee headed by the president was held in May 2018 to draw out a plan of action for the mega celebration where a total of 92 suggestions were received.

Further, a total of 33 suggestions were approved by the executive committee headed by the prime minister to organise nationwide and worldwide commemoration.

Accordingly, all ministries and departments of the Government of India and all state and UT governments have initiated actions pertaining to their ministries or departments. These action plans are being uploaded on the web portal.

Ex-Cong Min stirs row over cash shower video clip

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Senior Congress legislator and former Minister Naseem Khan found himself in an embarrassing situation on Tuesday, after a video clip showing him being showered with currency notes at a community Ganesh Chaturthi event went viral on social media.

The video clip showed some Ganesh mandal activists showering currency notes on Khan when he entered the venue of a Ganesh festivities event organised by the Bhanushali festival community at Chandivli locality of Andheri (east) in north Mumbai last week.

A few activists standing on either side welcomed the former minister by showering

him with new currency. One of the activists was seen holding a wad of new currency notes. The showering of currency notes went on for a few minutes.

Quickly seizing the issue, Maharashtra's BJP spokesperson Madhav Bhandari demanded an inquiry into the showering of currency notes on the former Congress minister. "How can anyone throw so much of cash freely on the former Minister? It is an ugly display of wealth," Bhandari said, as he rooted for an inquiry into the incident.

Seeking to clarify matters relating to the incident, Khan said: "I had gone to Ganeshostav event organised by the Bhanushali community. Two members of the

Ganpati mandal showered currency notes on me. I tried to prevent them but in vain. ...Every community has different traditions and customs. How can I challenge these customs?"

"What was surprising was that even leaders of the BJP and MNS from the Bhanushali community were openly showering cash to welcome the guests," Khan claimed.

On their part, the Mandal functionaries said that the money showered on the minister and other guests would be distributed among poor people.

Khan said that the cash thus collected was donated for religious activities like construction or maintenance of cow shelters.

Maj Gogoi shifted out from unit, attached to HQ

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The Army has shifted Major Leetul Gogoi, who was at the centre of the 'human shield' controversy, out of his unit and attached to local formation headquarters after being indicted by an Army Court of Inquiry (CoI) for "fraternising" with a local woman in Srinagar, officials said Tuesday.

Last month, the CoI instituted by the army indicted Gogoi, an officer with 53 Rashtriya Rifles — a specialised anti-militancy force

and others in his address. "Today the faces of Varanasi Cantt, Manduadih and Varanasi City stations have been changed and train connectivity with different parts of the country increased. With the construction of Babatpur-Kutchery four-lane road, tourists' flow from airport has increased sharply from about eight lakhs four year ago to 21 lakhs," he said.

"This attempt of making changes in the city through tourism has become possible as the approaches to famous temples, Sarnath and other heritage places have become easy and four famous ponds have been renovated, apart from betterment of

facilities to weavers and artisans by providing better marketing through trade facilitation centre and others," he said. Modi also highlighted the projects launched for betterment of farmers. Earlier, welcoming the PM, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted the projects done under the IPDS apart from the rural electrification work going on in full swing under the Deen Dayal Rural Electrification Scheme, giving benefits of power supply to 54 lakh families under the Soubhagya Scheme. The function was also addressed by State BJP chief and MP from Chandauli Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey.

General Court Martial (GCM) or Summary General Court Martial (SGCM). The GCM is like a full court whereas the proceedings in SGCM are conducted in a much shorter time span and cases are disposed of quickly. Gogoi, who was commissioned as a lieutenant in December 2008, was detained by Jammu and Kashmir police on May 23 following an altercation at a hotel in Srinagar where he was allegedly trying to enter with an 18-year-old woman.

Independent India's first woman IAS officer Anna Malhotra dead

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's first woman IAS officer post-Independence, Anna Rajam Malhotra, died at her residence in suburban Andheri here on Monday, her family sources said she was 91.

The last rites were performed in the city, they said. She was born as Anna Rajam George in Kerala's Ernakulam district in July 1927. She shifted to Chennai after her schooling in Kozhikode to pursue higher education at the University of Madras.

Malhotra joined the civil services in 1951 and opted for the Madras cadre. She then served in the Madras state under Chief Minister C Rajagopalachari.

She married RN Malhotra, who served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1985 to 1990.

She is also known for her contribution in setting up the country's modern port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) near Mumbai. She was the chairperson of the JNPT during the execution.

Malhotra was given the task of JNPT as a part of her deputation in the Central government. In 1989, she was honoured with the Padma Bhushan award. Malhotra had worked under seven chief ministers of Tamil Nadu.

She had worked closely with Rajiv Gandhi when he was in charge of the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi.

PM: VARANASI EMERGING AS GATEWAY OF DEVELOPMENT

From Page 1

old temples were being demolished. Modi said, "I always want that all modern facilities be given to this ancient city maintaining its original heritage."

"Kashi is fast being developed as a hub of medical facilities not only in Purvanchal (eastern UP) but also in adjoining States where patients come from Nepal for better treatment," he said, highlighting the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology (RIO) for which he laid the foundation stone.

Modi surprised many by naming most of the projects, names of places, stations

and even Indian Government should be ready for a long haul. It takes anywhere between 20-25 years to reach maturity in this otherwise risky industry."

He said private sector should start with becoming Tier-1, Tier-2 and Tier-3 suppliers of big players like Airbus, Boeing, Embraer and HAL etc. That will help in establishing skills, processes, quality certificates and human resources and management capabilities.

In terms of prototypes flight testing, only the HAL has the unique experience. LCA, IJT, HTT, ALH, LCH and LUH are good examples.

The HAL has also produced Su 30, Hawk, Tejas and

many helicopters to defend the borders. A defence expert remarked, "The reluctance of the Indian Government to fund LCA MarkII, AMCA, Aero engines development, IMRH helicopter is ill-conceived. At the end of the day, no country can defend its borders with imported machines."

"It is one thing to import a few to address inescapable emergency, but in the long term Indian defence and security policy should encourage design, development and manufacturing of indigenous designed ones. Make in India in the long term should come

to mean "Design in India and Make in India," he added. Given the reluctance of Indian industry to innovate and build new aircraft, there is still room for more than one industry in addition to the HAL, in the manufacturing of aircraft/Aero engines and helicopters. Twenty-five years from now, one can visualise export of parts, assemblies, sub-assemblies and even fully flight worthy aircraft, Aero engines and helicopters.

It is in the national interest that the Indian Government should tread carefully, to encourage private industries, certainly not at the expense of DPSU HAL.

Govt hiding Rafale truth...

From Page 1

"Instead of seriously trying to resolve those teething issues, Prime Minister Modi went to Paris and announced the unilateral purchase of 36 Rafale aircraft under the inter-governmental agreement on April 10, 2015," he said.

Antony said Sitharaman claimed that HAL does not have the capability to manufacture these aircraft, but it is the only aerospace company in India having the capacity and has been awarded the Navaratna status. He said HAL has manufactured 4,660 aircraft of 31 types, including the Sukhois and the MiG. During the UPA rule, HAL was a profit-making company, but under the Modi Government, HAL, for the first time in its history, has taken approximately 1,000 crore loan from various banks, Antony claimed.

Office of the Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD, Allahabad, Circle- Allahabad, Address- Kasturba Gandhi Marg (in front of SSP office) Katra, Allahabad NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Letter No:- 3292/11Prakrid(Pratap)-PMGSY Circle All/18 Dated:- 12-09-2018

The Superintending Engineer, Allahabad Circle, PWD, Allahabad on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana PMGSY-1 (Batch-1) for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD/UP RED, in appropriate class (A, or B as per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD/MES/P&T/Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments. Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Package No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion	Cost of Bid Document including all taxes	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)
				Construction (Excluding GST)	Maintenance (Including GST)				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Pratapgarh	UP 57136	Amamau to Jagesharganj Benipur Beraua Road	517.83	62.39	580.22	08 Month including rainy season	Rs. 3500/=	11.60
2	Pratapgarh	UP 57137	U.F.A. Rd. to Khajurni	241.83	29.19	271.02	08 Month including rainy season	Rs. 3500/=	5.42

- Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement- 24.09.2018
- Cost of Bid Form: Rs 3500.00 per package (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Chief Executive Officer, UPRRDA, Lucknow payable at Lucknow.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstyendersup.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstyendersup.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender."
- Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Office of the Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD, Allahabad, Circle- Allahabad, Address- Kasturba Gandhi Marg (in front of SSP office) Katra, Allahabad on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.
- Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 15.10.2018 up-to 12.00 Noon
- The site for the work is available.
- Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstyendersup.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 12.30 PM (time) on 15.10.2018 (date) by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
- The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. (Sanjay Kumar Srivastava) Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD Allahabad

the pioneer PAPER WITH PASSION KCR still on top

Despite Opposition protests about voters' list tweaks, the acting Chief Minister has the more cogent campaign

The acknowledgement of a formidable force usually comes from the pesky antics of the Opposition and its relentless litany of complaints and petitions of injustice. In this respect, both the Congress and the BJP's reactive behaviour over the last few days is enough to testify that the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) chief K Chandrashekar Rao is not just holding out on strong ground but building a national relevance for himself by sheer dint of determination and some shrewd strategy. So if he had forced everybody by dissolving the Assembly — thereby necessitating an early election and ensuring the popular wave of a national election didn't wash over his personality cut — the Opposition is clutching for issues with the Election Commission considering the possibility of clubbing polls in Telangana with that of other States by the end of the year. For all the BJP chief Amit Shah's aggressive posturing and firebrand bristle, even calling out KCR for ignoring Hyderabad's merger to the Indian Union, fact is the party still doesn't have the requisite base to challenge KCR at the grassroots level or question his credibility in a State election. The rains have been good, saving him from drought debts, he seems to have delivered on most populist promises and has ensured that his State has the highest economic growth at 17 per cent in competitive states. Perhaps that led to the arrogance of him announcing that the State elections could be held in November, with no less than the Election Commission, which is yet to complete logistical assessment, taking exception to his over-confidence.

However, the wily KCR perhaps did it mischievously to kick off a political storm and sharpen the apprehensions of the Opposition while allowing it no time to build cogent poll planks. Any semblance of opposition in Telangana, by virtue of the vestige of an undivided State, is the Congress. The grand old party has alleged that there are around 70 lakh discrepancies in the voter list of Telangana, implying that KCR was trying to manipulate the verdict by deleting Congress voters under the guise of avoiding overlap with voter rolls of Andhra Pradesh. But the same was not added on the roll of Andhra Pradesh, it claims. The revised roll was published only on September 10 leaving not much time for both political parties or people to identify these discrepancies. In fact, it completely obfuscated the electoral priorities of the Congress. Number-crunching the voter list, the Congress has yet to mount an agenda-driven campaign here. As it fumbled and the Opposition scrambled to get its act together, KCR even announced 105 of the 119 candidates. He is posting this as his sincere move to carry on his goal-oriented growth while exposing the Congress as hungry for political power and bereft of fresh ideas, not to be trusted, therefore, at the reins.

Meanwhile, the EC's training of administrative officials is well under way. While the EC goes about doing its job according to the rulebook, it is KCR's smart posturing which has helped him seize the narrative. Remember, he initiated the concept of an "anti-Delhi, non-Congress" federal front with Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the pitch clearly being to be the kingmaker with a sizeable booty for any ruling dispensation at the Centre, one that he can extract for his own gains and one that cleverly keeps all doors open. He would rather strengthen his regional satrap status if it means keeping the national parties on alert with a thriller-like suspense and ensures he is a key player in the national narrative without shifting an inch.

SO WORD EDIT Swachh life please! The death of five manual scavengers in the Capital as also in Odisha, which takes fatalities to 10 in just about a week, makes it amply clear that Swachhata is not for this dispossessed class. While existing laws remain unimplemented, basic workplace infrastructural facilities for them like machinery are either inadequate or non-functional. Our scavengers deserve a life of dignity. Not asphyxiation.

Aged whine

Why single out Anup Jalota for his choice of partner? Just because he isn't a stud but a god-fearing bhajan singer?

It's the millennial world. Age here is just a number, relevant only for documentation. Relationships, on the other hand, have graduated to love without boundaries and marriages of convenience. So, if the man is 30 years or more in age and his PVT wife doesn't mind, it's their world, their decision and their way of life. That's individualism, that's today and that should be accepted. So putting singer Anup Jalota on the mat for his unconventional relationship with his muse Jasleen Maruthala can be modestly called uncalled for, even if it was unfolding in the salacious Bigg Boss House and was meant to be a publicity marker for the newly started Season 12 of a reality show battling familiarity and ennui. If the gracefully aged dude Milind Soman could marry Anika Konwar, 25 years his junior, without anyone raising an eyebrow, why can't Jalota? Well, the answer lies in collective societal hypocrisy, double standards and, last but not the least, the inherent need for human kind to blow hot air over gossip.

For one, in popular mindset, Jalota lacks the profile for such a relationship. A bhajan singer from the Hindi heartland is supposed to be strictly conventional on two counts. One, that he is in worship of God through his songs, and the other, that he is an old man who was never a dude and is likened to the papas and the grandpas of our world. He is 65 and his two children from an earlier marriage are close to the age of his muse and girlfriend Jasleen. But then, Jackie Kennedy married moneybag Aristotle Onassis when he was 62 and she only a 39-year-old presidential widow. That was a 37-year age gap. Hollywood actor Alec Baldwin and Hilaria Thomas sport a 26-year age gap. The present French President has a wife 25 years his senior and who was his teacher in school! Star Trek actor Sir Patrick Stewart and his wife Sunny Ozell do not cringe about the 38-year difference and the fact that they tied the knot when he was 82 and she just 43! Back home there are examples galore and the society doesn't mind. Actor Shahid Kapoor has a wife 13 years younger — through an arranged marriage. Saira Bano showcases "eternal love" as a power point presentation of her long-standing marriage to the 28-year Dilip Kumar, 22 years her senior. Kabir Bedi with his velvet voice and his 29-year junior wife Parveen Dusanji never had to answer questions about what he was up to when he got married at age 70. So here's for Jalota in his own bhajan: Aisee Lagi Lanam...!

Monsanto pigeons come home to roost

More and more reports and studies suggest a link between GMOs, auto-immune diseases and cancer. Monsanto, the leading producer of GMO, is now on the run



Sandhya Jain writes about Monsanto's glyphosate and its impact on health and the environment.

Once the bully on the block, Monsanto is on the run. Environmentalists will recall the early years of genetically modified (GM) crops when wind pollination contaminated the crops of traditional farmers and the company forced the victims, the farmers, to pay for patent infringement, an atrocity upheld by the US judicial system until the horrendous consequences of GM foods became too palpable to ignore.

A "probable human carcinogen" in 2015. In 2017, California added glyphosate to its list of chemicals known to cause cancer. The ruling will impact other cases filed by cancer survivors against Monsanto, which now have to be faced by its new owner, Bayer AG. Johnson's legal team presented internal emails, showing how the company rejected critical research and expert warnings against glyphosate's potential risks. Inspired by the verdict, Vietnam has decided to seek justice for victims of Agent Orange, used by the US military during the Vietnam War. Nguyen Thuong Tra, deputy spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry, stated, "The verdict... refutes previous claims that the herbicides made by Monsanto and other chemical corporations in the US and provided for the US Army in the war are harmless. Vietnam has suffered tremendous consequences... especially with regard to the lasting and devastating effects of toxic chemicals, including Agent Orange."

Agent Orange is a defoliant used to strip Vietnam's thick forests; it poisoned the soil in large tracts, causing genetic deformities in generations of Vietnamese. Nearly three million Vietnamese were exposed to Agent Orange between 1961 and 1971, when nearly 12 million gallons were sprayed over the jungles. Monsanto claimed the chemical was produced for and used by the Government, and that it was only one among nine wartime contractors who produced the toxin.

Amidst rising public awareness, an organisation



INDEPENDENT SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS HAVE LONG WARNED REGULATORY BODIES AND THE BIOTECH INDUSTRY THAT GMO GENES CAN BE TRANSFERRED FROM DAIRY AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS TO PEOPLE OVER TIME

called Moms Across America is agitating for a ban on glyphosate in all 50 States, in the wake of evidence that gluten foods and too many illnesses are linked to glyphosate and GMO poisoning. Activists point out that most European and many other countries have banned GMOs and Roundup as people and animals are becoming sick from herbicides/pesticides in the food, water and air. Europe is emerging as the next battleground. Reports suggest that the European Union could withdraw the licence for Roundup this year. Earlier, the licence was extended for five years, until 2022, instead of the usual 15 years. The lawyers involved in the California lawsuit claim to have revealing documents about Monsanto's activities in Europe. Robert Jr Kennedy told Euronews, "...we have documents now in our possession, several hundreds of documents, that have not been declassified and some of those are explosive." In Brazil, a federal judge in August 2018 ordered suspension of all products containing glyphosate until the Government reassesses its toxicity. As Brazil has used Monsanto's GM soybean seeds and herbicide on a large scale for four decades, the decision is startling and unexpected.

Recently, the Public Library of Science (PLoS) published research showing that the DNA of GM foods can enter the human bloodstream intact and cause many health problems. Researchers collected blood samples of more than 1,000 participants; the results indicated that meal-derived DNA fragments (which were large enough to carry complete genes) can avoid degradation and ultimately enter

the human body's circulation system. Hungarian researchers observed that these are not just fragments of DNA but stretches of DNA which are large enough to pass complete genes of GMO plants (like soy, corn or canola oil) to humans.

In some blood samples, the relative concentration of plant DNA was higher than human DNA. The researchers noted that participants with inflammatory bowel disease and auto-immune disease had the highest concentration of the transgenic gene. Previous studies have indicated that GMOs could change the beneficial bacteria in the intestines and trigger auto-immune diseases and inflammation. Beneficial bacteria help with food digestion and protect the human body against foreign invaders. However, when the DNA of GMO foods enters the small intestine, it can alter the composition of beneficial gut bacteria and make the body unable to absorb real nutrients in foods.

Other studies suggest a link between GMOs and auto-immune diseases. The researchers have observed that pigs fed on GMO soy and corn suffered from severe inflammation of stomach and intestinal tissue; female pigs fed a GMO diet had their uteri (uterus) enlarged by 25 per cent.

These studies refute the claims made by biotech and regulatory agencies regarding the safety of GMO foods. Independent scientists and researchers have long warned regulatory bodies and the biotech industry that GMO genes can be transferred from dairy and animal products to people.

After years of denial, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has reluctantly admitted that DNA from food (GMO and non-GMO) could end up in animal tissues and milk and dairy products consumed by people. The critical issue is GMO, as it marries a bacterium, a microbial species, with plant tissue — a hybrid alien to Nature.

In Canada, meanwhile, authorities discovered a patch of an unapproved, genetically modified strain of wheat in the wild, far from the old Monsanto test areas. The crop was found on an access road in Alberta in 2017, after it survived the spraying of the area with herbicide. Tests by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency revealed that the crop was genetically modified and herbicide-tolerant; was never approved for commercial use or production within Canada; and belonged to a Monsanto GM wheat line (MON71200) which was used in multiple confidential field trials in the late 1990s and early 2000s in Canada and the United States. It was subsequently destroyed. But the fact that the strain got into the wild more than 100 km away from any known former test fields, and survived for nearly two decades thereafter, is a warning of the dangers posed by GM plants, whether food or non-food.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj assured me that she would write a letter to the Pakistan Government for opening of Kartarpur passage. —Congress leader NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU



Swaraj has reprimanded Sidhu for 'misusing' his personal visit clearance and lowering India's reputation as well as causing diplomatic faux pas. —Shiromani Akali Dal leader HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL

Elements of educational change

The foundation for a new education system must rest on several factors that influence learning deeply — good teachers, dynamic curriculum and an emotional bond between teachers, learners and their school



J.S. Rajput writes about the foundation for a new education system.

Generally encouraged to offer such courses as spinning and weaving, home science or social science subjects only. It was possible only because of the presence of visionary educationists under the leadership of Prof DS Kohbar that the National Commission on Education (1964-66) recommended compulsory teaching of science and mathematics to both boys and girls till they complete 10 years of schooling.

This can be one of the historic examples of dynamism being in education, its policies and implementation. The shape of schools, laboratories and also the intent and process of education and teaching have undergone significant changes. From the Tat-Pati stage, India is rapidly transitioning to smart classrooms.

Dynamic systems, however, never permit lethargy or systemic slumber to relax/enjoy and gloat over achievements. Every issue resolved and every problem tackled generates new challenges. Indian education is no exception and one could list a plethora of issues and concerns that demand urgent remediation. It is because of such imperatives in educational advancements that the educational curriculum at every stage is consistently reviewed and revised. It requires regular execution of surveys, studies and researches to point out what needs to be changed, discarded and deleted; and added and augmented.

Normally, a five-year cycle is considered necessary to bring about curricular reforms in school education. Text books are revised after the curricular renewal and formulation of syllabi for each area. Certain alert systems do realise that the pace of change is so fast that a five-year cycle may be a bit too prolonged and, hence, provisions for frontline curricula are also incorporated in broader guidelines, and made available to schools and teachers. This provision takes care of urgent requirements and students are not deprived of being made familiar with new developments.

In India, with over 50 school boards authorised to prepare their own curricula, syllabi and textbooks, the task becomes complex when it comes to national-level competitions. Students from different boards must come with equality of learning attainments. This requirement leads to the creation of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which is mandated to prepare a school curricula in consultation with State agencies; prepare textbooks



and leave it to the State Governments to adopt these as such, or prepare their own books with local elements of curricula included wherever necessary.

NCERT books should normally not be accepted for every subject. Take the example of environmental education. Books must be different in 'Tirupura and Thiruvananthapuram, but the NCERT textbook can offer guidance in maintaining the level and standard. At this stage, even curriculum developers and textbook writers require regular in-service orientations on how things are being analysed and included in an era characterised by the advent of information and communication technology (ICT).

Textbook is no longer the only source available to the student. While it is universally acknowledged that in spite of all that is now available to the learner, courtesy ICT, Internet and ever-improving gadgets, the criticality of teacher-taught relationship shall always be necessary to bring in the human element in the growing up of the learner. This is also the time for every teacher to realise that life-long learning must be put to practice to remain relevant in the profession. Only such teachers can impress upon the child the real import of 'life-long learning'.

In the Indian tradition of the knowledge quest, yanavadveiti adhy-

ate viprah was propounded much earlier. Teachers of today and tomorrow would do well if they recall the wisdom of Socrates: "I cannot teach anybody. I can only make them think." Sri Aurobindo had said it in very simple but meaningful terms: "Nothing can be taught" and that "mind must be consulted in its own growth." Once these simple-looking elements are properly internalised by the teacher, it would not be tough for him to visualise his changed role.

Only with such a vision, an alert teacher would be in a position to give wings to the nurturance of creativity and curiosity that are the nature's gifts to every child. It is no longer implicit on him to transact everything in the classroom, he could support the learner to reach other sources of knowledge, and in the process, learn how to sift information and extract knowledge and skills out of it. In the process, the teacher is educating him in learning to learn a skill that has to be a necessary acquisition during the process of schooling.

As the learner moves upwards on the learning curve, the need arises for flexible and individualised curriculum. It helps self-learning, self-actualisation and helps optimise their potential. Motivation and inspiration for all this must come from committed and performing teachers. Essentially, a

teacher must be prepared to comprehend the imperatives of assisting the learner in the development of total personality and comprehensive abilities to enable him to contribute creatively in socio-economic, cultural, political and technological sectors. This would be feasible only when teacher preparation institutions realise their transformed role to help student-teachers acquire the skills of developing, which is now known as 'multiple intelligence'.

At every stage, the role of the teacher-educator and teacher remains. Changes in education, though envisioned and incorporated at various levels of expertise, must include teacher participation and his inputs. A teacher's role is no longer limited to that of a mere transactor of textual material within the classrooms. He/she encourages the learner to ask questions, acts as an appreciator, guide, counselor, moulder, instructor and much more. In fact, he/she is the first icon after parents, he/she is an exemplar. Only such teachers shall succeed in the future who realise the criticality of their persona in the life of the learners.

What could be more critical to a community than the availability of a functional school nearby? Textbooks, teachers, Internet and other aspects come only afterwards. It is indeed

intriguing that teacher preparation and recruitment leaves much to be desired. The situation has deteriorated gradually and has reached rather disturbing proportions. Several State Governments are now 'merging' thousands of schools situated mostly in far-flung rural, tribal and hilly areas with nearby schools to make them viable. When a school has an enrolment of less than 10 or 20, its continuation may not be considered viable in the routine economic consideration but should that be the only criterion? How demoralising and demotivating it would be for the community and children whose school is shifted to another place?

Traditionally, India has successfully experimented with various models of schooling during initial years. Now that educated and literate persons are available in almost every habitation and village, models other than what is demanded in the RTE Act could also be tried to ensure that no child drops out of school because of merger and assimilation of their school. Good education requires good teachers, dynamic curriculum and an emotional bond between teachers, learners and their school.

(The writer is the Indian Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO)

Invest in IPO but with caution

It's always difficult to differentiate between good or bad IPOs. A careful investor must identify potential companies through a detailed and extensive research



The ₹470 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO) by miniratna Irocon International is in the news for full subscription of the quota limit for retail individual investors. The issue was subscribed 43 per cent till September 18. The offer for sale (OFS) received bids for 42,24,090 shares compared with the total issue of 9,905,157 shares and the Government is looking forward to offload Irocon shares in ₹470-475 price band. So, should an investor invest in this IPO? What are the things that a retail investor needs to know before investing in one?

An IPO is the very first sale of shares issued by a company to the public. Prior to an IPO issue, the company is considered private with a relatively small number of shareholders, primarily comprising early investors, such as the founding members, their families and friends, and then later on professional investors, such as venture capitalists or angel investors. The public, on the other hand, consists of everybody else — any individual or institutional investor who wasn't involved in the early days of the company and who may now be interested in buying shares of the company. Until a company's stock is offered for sale to the public, the latter is unable to invest in it. One can potentially approach the owners of a private company about investing but they're not obliged to sell anything. Public companies, on the other hand, have sold at least a portion of their shares to the public to be traded on a stock exchange. This is why an IPO is also referred to as 'going public'.

Why do companies go public? Well, capital is a scarce resource and companies go public to raise money that can then be used in different ways like clearing debts, improving infrastructure, investing in research and development of new products, introducing new products, among others. Moreover, the company gets credibility and visibility after it gets listed on the stock exchange. This can increase scope for mergers and acquisition deals and also attract top talent in the industry.

Additionally, because of increased scrutiny from analysts and investors, public companies can usually enjoy better, in most cases lower interest rates, when they issue debt. A privately held company has some benefits that are forfeited once it goes public. For example, any private company owner does not have to disclose much financial or accounting information about the company. However, once the company goes public or is in the process of issuing an IPO, its financial information, strategic plans and other policies are up for scrutiny which can be good in some cases, as increased financial scrutiny during the process of going public will get them better debt rates when they are issuing it.

When a company is planning to raise funds from the public, it provides detailed information about its business operations and financials through a draft red-herring prospectus or offer document. This includes details about its promoters; reasons for raising money; how the money will be used; risks involved with investing in the company and so on. Investors should bear in mind that it does not provide information about the price or size of the offering. And how should investors choose an IPO for investment? The answer is research. The first and foremost thing any investor should do is to research various aspects of the company. Now the question is: Why are funds required? It is obvious that if a company is clearing its debt with the public's money, and has no plans to invest and grow the funds, then that IPO is a bad choice. However, if funds are raised for investing in R&D or a new product line, which could change the future of the company, investment in such an IPO is worthwhile. So, it is very important to understand in what ways a company wants to use its funds.

In addition, an investor should research about operations of the business, market share, future growth plans et al. One of the crucial investigations that any investor should undertake is to understand the management — their honesty, transparency, ethics and values. Honest leadership means that an investor's money is in safe hands. Second, try and select an IPO with strong brokers and underwriters because generally, quality brokerage companies bring quality public issues. Speculism is a positive attribute to cultivate in the IPO market. As there is always a lot of uncertainty surrounding IPOs, mainly because of the lack of fully available information, like in other already listed companies, one should always approach an IPO with caution.

Although it is difficult to identify which IPO is good to invest in, a careful investor may be able to sift through risk-riff and identify potential companies through a detailed and extensive research. In case if an investor loses an opportunity to invest in an IPO, he must follow the company's progress and if it is a fundamentally strong company with good operations, transparent management and robust financials, he must not leave an opportunity to buy the stock in the secondary market the next time it falls.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INTER-COMMUNITY PEACE

Sir — This refers to the article, "In search of a path to integration" (September 18) by Prafull Goradia. In his thought-provoking write-up, the writer has proposed ways to 'integrate' two major communities, Hindus and Muslims, for the welfare and stability of the country.

He has tried to examine the 'separatist' tendencies of the Indian Muslim community, both before and after the Partition, saying that the Muslim minority constituted 25 per cent of the Indian population before

Independence, and, hence, under Mohammad Ali Jinnah's leadership it regarded itself as a community in need of a separate homeland, Pakistan. Though around 10 million Muslims migrated to the newly-created Pakistan, many more stayed on.

Unfortunately, the ruling Congress sought to exploit them for political agenda. Since 2014, when Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) came to power, inter-community peace has largely preponderated. Despite initial resistance, Muslims are progressively coming forward to support the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP). Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to be making vigorous efforts to impress upon the community that for India's growth sabka sath, sabka vikas (cooperation of all, for development of all) is the foremost requirement.

M Ratan Via email

SAVE SCAVENGERS

Sir — Death of manual scavengers is not new. And it's not just the National Capital, the fact is that numerous scavengers die all across the country but incidents go unreported.

At the core of the problem, urban

Goodness is the key to mankind's evolution

Mirra Alfassa (referred to as "The Mother") said, "I have very often heard people saying, 'Oh! Now that I am trying to be good, everybody seems to be bad to me! But this is precisely to teach you that one should not be good with a motive — one must be good for the sake of being good.'"

Sujit De Kolkata



If we are in doubt as to whether all of us have natural fountain of goodness within ourselves then we must see the smile of an infant. Indeed, each and every baby's face bears a testimony to it. This naturally comes to a baby without an obstruction as it does not calculate the balance sheet of being good.

Spiritual collaborator of Sri Aurobindo

It helps induce positive energy and harmony. Second, it gives a person an opportunity to see a radiant face of whom she or he is showing goodness to.

If we start seeing everyone with equal respect then we can feel that happiness is emerging from within us and also from the person who happens to be in front of us. As a matter of fact, goodness is the key to evolution.

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



QUOTE OF THE DAY
Without mathematics, there's nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers
— **Shakuntala Devi**

AIR HOSTESS/CABIN CREW

The Flying Queen Air Hostess Training Institute, New Delhi, invites application for admission to its one-year diploma and three months certificate course in Air Hostess and Cabin Crew Training. The course offers an opportunity to aim a challenging career in the aviation industry. It covers all aspects of grooming the candidate's skills and personality. The main attractions of the course are personality development, swimming, first-aid, mock aircraft training, in-flight training and much more.



2019. The degree is accredited by the Association of MBAs. This 12-month programme combines academic rigour with practical skills and unique research to give students a world-class international business education.

After completion of the course, the eligible students can get huge opportunities to travel and explore all over the world for free, and can have a great chance for meeting and assisting people all over the world.

Eligibility: Minimum qualifications for securing admission in this course is Class XII pass in any stream from a recognised board.

How to apply: Admission forms can be obtained by filling the institute's application forms available at Flying Queen Air Hostess Institute, FD-8, second floor, pitampura, New Delhi.

Important dates: Last date to apply is September 28, 2018. For more information, log on to www.flyingqueen.in.

MSc IN MANAGEMENT

The Sheffield University Management School, UK, is inviting applications for MSc international Management course starting in September

Management is taught full-time over two semesters followed by a project dissertation, though a combination of lectures, seminars, case studies and group work to develop intercultural collaboration. Students will also have the option to undertake an organisational project, giving them real-world work experience within a company.

Eligibility: An honours degree of minimum of 60 per cent. Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in all components.

Fee: The fee for overseas students for 2019 entry is yet to be confirmed. For 2018, it was £22,450.

For more information, log on to https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/management/study/m-sc/courses/m-sc-international_mana.

MANAGEMENT GETS SPECIFIC

Many BSchools offer niche MBA programmes in AgriBusiness and Environment to encourage students gain extensive knowledge and hands-on experience of a particular field, says **DIPEN PAUL**

With more and more specialised MBA courses coming up in various BSchools, the requirement for professionals, who have done MBA in AgriBusiness and Environment, is increasing.

AGRIBUSINESS

AgriBusiness is a growing field today and is India's primary employer which is largely unregulated and still comes under the unorganised sector. There is a huge demand of professionals with MBA in AgriBusiness who can evolve the sector from unorganised to organised, fix the loopholes in the logistics, warehousing, post-harvest sectors, and communicate effortlessly with the Government due to their heavy involvement with the sector.

MBA in AgriBusiness possess knowledge about management, marketing, and finance when it comes to seed grain, pre and post-harvest, warehousing and supply chain, exports and imports amongst other things. These programmes qualify students to develop new marketing ideas for agricultural products, innovations in existing logistics, infrastructure, and managing the agri input sector, along with crucial management in the microfinance field.

JOB PROFILES

Graduates can choose to work in both the private and Government sector. Those who would prefer to work in the private sector can choose to work with various argo based organisations like:

- ITC ABD
 - Rallis India Limited
 - Excel Crop Care Limited
 - Global AgriSystem Private Limited
 - Godrej Agrovet Limited
 - Synthite Industrial Chemicals Limited
 - MFIs
 - Adventa
 - Rasi seeds
- On the other hand, if an individual wants to work in the Government sector, there are various types of career opportunities they can pursue. Some Government organisations that actively seek out MBA graduates in AgriBusiness are:
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Food Corporation of India
 - Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited
 - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

An MBA degree in AgriBusiness would give you knowledge of management, marketing and finance in seeds, grains, pre and post-harvest and warehousing



- Food and Health Department of Government
- The various roles they can occupy in these organisations are:
- MFI Bankers
- Agri Input Management
- Consultancy
- Product Manager
- Research Analyst
- Business Manager

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Energy is the foundation of every economic development effort and is intrinsically linked with environment. A management degree in Energy and Environment Studies comprises of planning and operating energy related production and consumption. It also includes resource conservation, climate protection, cost saving, and managing the delicate relationship between energy and the ecosystem. An MBA in Energy and

Environment teaches students to effectively execute all these activities and understand energy and environment on a global level to tackle the present needs of the industry.

JOB PROFILES

MBA graduates in Energy and Environment can seek jobs in production management, energy and power management companies like:

- NHPC
- NTPC
- Neyveli Lignite Corporation
- Damodar Valley Corporation
- Adani Power
- Reliance Power
- Tata Power

The different job roles that graduates can undertake are:

- Energy Markets Reporter
- Environment Officer/ Engineer
- Health Safety Environment
- Product Manager
- Research Analyst
- Business Manager

If you are aspiring to do an MBA, you could choose to specialise in an unconventional subject. This will open up to you job opportunities in upcoming sectors that are looking for highly knowledgeable professionals.

You could choose to pursue a niche MBA programme through Symbiosis National Aptitude (SNAP). It is the key to seeking admission in one of the top business schools under Symbiosis International (deemed university).

The writer is assistant professor, Department of Energy and Environment, Symbiosis Institute of International Business

Mega sports event



Students of SRM University, Delhi-NCR, at an inter-department mega sports event — Samavesh 2018

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The SRM University, Delhi-NCR, recently conducted Samavesh 2018 — the fourth annual inter-department mega sports event at the University Sports Complex, where approximately 600 students participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. After the invocation and exchange of greetings, Sonia Bathla, assistant director, Sports, welcomed the august presence and emphasised the purpose of conducting this event.

Chief guest of the event Dr P Prakash, vice chancellor, in his presidential address, eulogised the efforts of the Sports Department, and articulated the fervour and spirit of



the youngsters in participating the sports with a competitive spirit. He also praised the commendable efforts on the sports activities of the university, and added, sports has become an indispensable and unavoidable part of human life.

The sports event, which was kick-started on

September 11, had competitions on athletics, basketball, badminton, chess, cricket, table tennis, tug of war, volleyball and seven-a-side soccer for both men and women. The university departments were divided into six teams — CSE Firestones, Dark Horses, Legal Knight, Spartans, Scorpions, and Fire Blades who with a competitive spirit of winning participated in different sports.

Dr Prakash gave away the awards and certificates to the winners and runner-ups of competitions organised. The function was attended by the registrar, deans and directors, many senior functionaries of the university, faculty members and students of different departments.

Primary Olympiads

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The registration deadline for Primary Olympiad's has been set for October 15. The Olympiad's Season 9 is scheduled to be held in India. The exam is designed to help both students and parents understand the areas of improvement and national-level academic preparedness.

Primary Olympiad runs as a national-level certification programme and competition for young learners along with their teachers from Class I - V. The competition has five levels and the students studying in respective classes can opt for the respective levels. The Olympiad consists of Language, Mathematics and Science sections. The Language Olympiad focuses on spelling and grammar, Maths Olympiad focuses on Arithmetic & Geometry and the Science Olympiad focuses on science and environmental studies. The last date for registration is October 15, 2018.

"In our education system, the National Level examinations are best held at only X or XII standard level, which hampers the educational outcomes. This situation needs to be addressed urgently, as lack of early transparency eliminates the system's knack to rectify itself. There are tremendous contentions among academicians on measuring student's learning from younger grades.

"Some believe that the damage done to young children through exam stress outweighs the benefits of actual learning, and others contend that the examination results are not the actual reflection of true learning," Hemant Bisht, National Product Head, Primary Olympiad, says.

Students enrolled in the Primary Olympiad receive books as study materials which are

aligned with their school curriculum and hence can also be utilised as an additional practice material.

A teacher's guide is also provided to the teachers of the participating schools to enable them for effective preparation assistance to the students. A team of master trainers also assist the teachers of the enrolled schools on teaching methodology and easy ways to understand the subjects better.

"In parallel to the issue of not having annual exams, students in primary classes are devoid of exposure to non-academic and in-school activities as well. While the Government makes systematic yet gradual progress towards improving the education system, the approach that the Non-Profit Organisations have undertaken is to highlight the above issues and support the Government initiative by either creating a content of International standard or raise their exposure by conducting competitive exams," Bisht adds.

Winners from each grade will be awarded a scholarship of up to ₹10,000 along with certificates and recognition. For students not making it to the finale, in addition to awards, certificates and recognition, a detailed score card that analyses their performance in a variety of competency dimensions is given. Schools also receive a confidential score card that shows how the school performed relative to other schools.

With Alumni bases in over 20 cities and associations with the best schools, the services provided are niche in the segment. Successfully implementing with the State Governments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) to support their quality education drive, Primary Olympiads continuously proves to have a substantial impact on effective learning.

JKLU innovation challenge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The JK Lakshmiipat University has launched the JKLU Innovation Challenge, a competition that encourages the school students with different ideas to think in the wake of problem solving and innovation. Themed as *Finding solutions for tomorrow, today*. The challenge is open to Class XI and XII students of schools across India.

The participants must provide innovative solutions to achieve for the any one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations Development Programme for the year 2030, to make a difference in the world and at national, state, city or community level.

The format of the competition is such that students, guided by their teachers and mentors, will

describe, conceptualise, and build on an innovative idea in selected areas of social importance. Students can further give shape to their ideas through prototyping and by demonstrate them.

After being sieved through an eminent jury from renowned organisations and institutions, the best teams will get awarded with prizes worth ₹5 lakhs. Along with this, the enthusiastic participants get to attend workshops on problem-solving and innovative 21st-century technologies. The participants can also get incubated JKLU's Incubation Centre.

The University intends this Challenge to also be a platform to bring to life several ideas and innovation that will transcend this initiative and may well lead to social and commercial start-ups spurring community-benefiting entrepreneurship.

Cyber security lab for varsity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Communications, a leading digital infrastructure provider, has partnered with Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA), Tamil Nadu, to fund and establish a cyber security lab at the university. The aim is to create an ecosystem to address cyber-security challenges while building the skills and capabilities for tomorrow.

The new cyber security lab was officially inaugurated at the university on September 15th, a day celebrated as Engineer's Day to give a tribute to the renowned Indian Engineer Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

Through this association, Tata Communications and SASTRA have built a cur-

riculum in cyber security with a focus on training, developing and strengthening the practical application of cyber security, encompassing the process and technology elements of cyber threat detection and mitigation.

"This lab will act as a catalyst to spark students' interest in cyber security. The new facility will help our students gain hands-on knowledge with access to mentors and guest lecturers from senior Tata Communications staff, and real life case studies on how to mitigate cyber security risks with the latest cutting edge technologies. As a result of this launch, we have already begun to see huge interest among our graduate and post-graduate students," Dr Vaidhyasubramanian, dean - planning and development, SASTRA said.

VUE test centre launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pearsons, the world's learning company, has announced the launch of a new Pearson VUE test centre which will offer Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) tests in New Delhi. The establishment of the new test centre supports Pearson India's aim to increase the reach of PTE Academic centres across India and offer easy, local access to a globally-recognised, fast and reliable English language proficiency test for immigration and study

abroad opportunities. PTE Academic is a computer-based language test and is gaining immense popularity for providing the most accurate and impartial scoring results.

To provide test score validity, all Pearson Professional Centres use state-of-the-art and industry-leading security measures such as incorporating palm-scanning, secure paperless results, randomized test formats and CCTV, thereby ensuring aspirants test in a controlled and secure environment.



Go for IT

The IT sector is evolving at a rapid pace with the advent of cutting-edge technologies. Hence, there is a need for young and dynamic talent, says ABHISHEK AGARWAL

The IT sector is evolving at a rapid pace with the advent of cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Internet-of-Things and Blockchain. Such technologies have automated countless business operations transforming the traditional business landscape into modern. IT companies now realising the need for educated, dynamic, and young IT talents who can get the firm hold of every nut and bolt of industry requirements and accordingly cater to them.

For businesses, acquisition of new clients epitomises the need for ingenious recruitment. As the client base expands with one step, the urge for talent recruitment doubles up to pacify the business growth. However, IT staffing trends are also changing, making it important for both companies and job seekers to stay aligned with. Companies no longer intend to entertain the long-term employees who are unable to upgrade their skill sets in the volatile environment. What skills and expertise an employee possesses might become outdated with ultra-modern developments. This has given rise to increasing demand for contract-based jobs.

Social Networking

Over the years, it has been observed that a majority of the businesses rely on their existing clients and employees for revenue generation. As tapping on potential job seekers and expanding the client base is a tough job, businesses prioritise it less in their business growth strategy. Instead, they choose to train the existing employees for advanced roles regardless of the investments it would call for.

Ideally, SMBs and MSMEs must focus on recruiting the skilled candidates capable of managing the innovative projects, expanding the client base and eventually boosting the business growth. For this, they must work hard on brand-building and promotion to ensure the greater visibility for both clients and the job-seekers in the niche market. Social media and professional platforms are proven effective tools for brand management and market the vacancies. Extensive networking is the trend in IT staffing industry.

Flexible Staffing

Many firms juggle with recruiting and terminating the full-time employees. Recruiting full-time employees is, no doubt, expensive for every organisation. But, the expenses are truly paid off when the new talent (full-time or temporary) leads the business innovation and uplifts the growth of the company. Since the world runs on uncertainty and ideating before which employee would be a misfit is impractical, the staffing companies are embracing flexible-staffing model with open hands. Flexible staffing enables the organisations to hire the candidates on the basis of workload and projects. It saves the company both time and costs of initiating the recruitment process.

Passive candidates

The best of IT talents are employed in the industry. While there are innumerable employed people who are satisfied with their jobs, the majority of them would not miss the new and profitable opportunities. Such

candidates are called passive candidates who may not be actively searching for new avenues, but if sought after, can avail the offer. Hiring passive candidates with exciting compensation packages encourages them to work more dedicatedly. Unluckily, the thriving IT firms lack sufficient time to skim through the pool of talent and spot the passive candidates. However, passive staffing is becoming the first choice for many businesses as the experienced job seekers need lesser time and efforts to get trained while working with a new firm.

Challenges

Lack of skilled and loyal candidates: One of the biggest challenges that IT industry faces is the inadequate staffing and disloyalty of skilled resources. A lot of times, despite hiring more and more resources the output produced are disappointing for the companies. The ones who are not fit for the job role in terms of skills and expertise are kicked off by the companies themselves. Those who are accomplished in work are often found unable to stick to the company. Disloyalty of skilled workforce often become the primary reasons for companies hiring again and again for the same job positions.

Employee retention strategies: A CareerBuilder study and Sologig.com study highlighted the fact that nearly 34% of the total hiring firms are concerned with small team size and retention of existing employees. They fear of being used as a stepping stone by the existing employees to grab the better career opportunities. This not only reduces the team size but also disrupts work.

Thus, companies must devise actionable and effective employee retention strategies.

Changing role of HR as a marketer: The upshots of rising social media popularity, IT companies are creating a competitive environment to get hands on the tech-savvy candidates. Instead of posting jobs on portals, recruiters have to master marketing and advertising skills to lure the qualified and experienced candidates. They should know how to reach the target candidates.

Standing distinct and high in the market: Long past the days when recruiters used to have a myriad of candidates CVs and they had to choose one from many. Now, the privilege has been shifted to well-informed candidates. Being young, talented and experienced, the candidates have excellent job offers in hand. Calling it a candidate-driven market, companies must strive to emerge as the distinctive firm where the candidates will want to work. For this, HR teams must focus on work culture, work space and the workload.

The IT industry holds uncountable opportunities for both job seekers and the staffing firms. The expectations, expertise, and experience that both parties require should match suitably for mutual growth. Where companies should identify and hire the potential candidates, the candidates should also stay loyal to the company by being a good resource. Companies should come up with retaining strategies by creating a cordial work environment, whereas, employees should focus and contribute significantly to the companies' growth.

The writer is senior vice-president global professional services firm Judge Group

Professionalism on your sleeve

In the corporate world, it is important to dress appropriately to make an impression, says DR KULNEET SURI

The popular adage, don't judge a book by its cover, does not really hold true in the business arena. Rather in this highly competitive world, the saying that we suggest you keep in mind is that you get no second chances to make a first impression. Your appearance becomes the mirror through which the world looks at you and for any budding professional looking to make his mark in the business landscape, it is imperative to make it count from the moment he or she enters the room. Young professionals often look for assistance and ideas when it comes to personal styling for either reworking the personal image or to enhance their personality. So, we have brought here some of the ideas on how you can create the right impact in the professional world with your work wear.



Dr. Kulneet Suri
Senior Director, IMS, Noida

Dress the image you want to portray: The dress that you put on depicts the image that you want to portray and the fact that you need to dress for the occasion rings true in this scenario. For instance, imagine a situation where you are addressing a group of young and driven team members and you want them to feel that you are one of them rather than someone they need to cover from. However, when you are going for the board meeting with the CEOs of companies, go for sharp suits that symbolize power dressing.

Leverage your persona: The attire that you wear should speak for yourself and not suppress who you are. Make your unique allowances for the context but also ensure that you put in elements that stand out. For instance, the men need not always stick to black suits and they can always explore the possibilities of light grey, navy, charcoal, and brown with ties in interesting patterns. Women can make even fuchsia suits work if they pair it up with the right accessories.

Create a subtle and refined statement: Making a refined and subtle statement is essential when you are deciding on your workwear. When choosing the right attire for the corporate world, it is important to understand the cultural undertones, and especially so, when you are

meeting the associates from different backgrounds. The things that are appropriate to you in your culture might not be taken in its right sense by a person from a different cultural background. In some cultures, going for a casual dress to a workplace is taken as an insult and so, keep in mind your routine for the day when you select your attire. A good example of making a subtle statement is the wearing of the colour white by the politicians as it is a neutral shade that denotes trust.

Spend on the essentials: There is no excuse for wearing non-ironed and ill-fitting clothes to the office. If you want to dress to make an impact, we suggest that you build up the wardrobe one piece at a time. You can wait for the sale and get genuine products to last you for years. You can get two to three bespoke suits in classic colours, comfortable and smart shoes, and if you are a lady, definitely go for a good leather bag. Besides, spending money on a good watch is always a great idea.

Ask for assistance or advice: We can assure you that every new entrepreneur or new joiner in the office ends up making a few mistakes when it comes to selecting work wear. There is nothing to feel shameful about in looking for some assistance and advice. If you are a new entrepreneur, you can take a cue from the other people in your field of work and if you are a new employee, take pointers from your seniors and colleagues to know what should be your attire.

As per recently released comprehensive report on the Ease of Living 2018 (by Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry of Government of India), 111 cities across India were assessed on 79 indicators grouped under 4 broad parameters — institutional, social, economic and political. Whatever the relevance of rankings may be, the report succeeds in highlighting the fact that we need to address environmental challenges to step up in social progress indicators. This essentially means that we need to structure a robust and sustainable community that can combat pressing needs of the populace.

Sustainability, the latest buzzword that has been dissected by at various conventions and congregations, is not

an alien concept to the Indian ethos and culture. India, a country known for its diversity and contradictions, has been nurturing a sustainable ecosystem.

In fact, sustainable and environment friendly practices such as hoarding and thriftiness have long been an integral component of the lifestyle and culture of Indians. Have we ever paused and pondered over the core idea of sustainability? What makes us preserve certain products over generations, while discarding some.

Emotional sustainability is a concept that stems from the value of a product and what it means to the consumer or end-user. Sustainability stretches beyond the realm of

MINDIT

going green and a holistic approach to the subject would indeed include emotional sustainability as an integral aspect.

Designers by trade are trained to identify problems, critically analyse and view situations from multiple perspectives, and above all use logic, intuition and empathy to devise impactful solutions. Products with a heightened probability of emotional sustainability share the uniqueness of utility and time spent on the design. They strategically strike the perfect balance between aesthetics and functionality.

In fact, it is important for design professionals to go beyond products and systems, sustainable as they may be, and act on social challenges like increased stress levels, anxiety, depression and the like. This can be done by designing innovative mechanisms that will help inculcate a more inclusive society.

Design has a crucial role to play in furthering the cause of sustainability. Thus, the need of the hour is to groom the next-gen designers who can seamlessly adapt themselves to the demands of the society

and leverage expertise of cross-functional teams to arrive at environment-friendly solutions while being sensitive to the social challenges people battle in the real world.

The time is right for us to internalise emotional sustainability in a world that is struggling to drastically reduce carbon emissions while developing sophisticated technologies of the future. However, while doing so, we must respect indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices that eventually contribute to sustainable and equitable development. It is important that stakeholders of design education in India take a leaf out of our dynamic Indian culture and ensure sustainability permeates effortlessly through the entire design process

rather than seem like an afterthought. We must build an ecosystem where more and more consumers establish an emotional attachment to the product, thereby, reducing the prospects of it being disposed off.

Sustainable development is a collective responsibility and therefore, skilled minds from all facets and holding varied expertise must brainstorm together towards building emotionally sustainable communities. Therefore, design schools must essay their role as 'providers' and build a stimulating ecosystem that triggers conversations around sustainable design solutions in the holistic sense.

— Dr Jitin Chaddha, IAD founder

Scholarship

can apply for only one fellowship at I Tatti per academic year.

Application deadline: November 20, 2018

The Villa I Tatti, The Harvard Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies invites applicants for its David and Julie Tobey Research Fellowship. The fellowship is available for international students.

Eligibility: Applicants must be conversant in English and have familiarity with Italian. At the time of application, a PhD is required. Priority will be given to early and mid-career scholars. Projects should represent advanced research in the Italian Renaissance. The selection committee aims to assess the ability of candidates to contribute in a collegial way to the intellectual life of the Harvard Center. Short-term Fellowships at I Tatti can be held only once and cannot be deferred. Short-term Fellowships are intended for scholars who have not previously held appointments at I Tatti (with the exception of Graduate Fellows). **English language requirements:** Applicants must be fluent in English and Italian.

How to apply: Applications can be written in English or Italian and must be submitted electronically by midnight (Cambridge, MA time) on November 15, 2018. Scholars

STUDY CENTRES

Rural management is the study of planning, organising, directing and controlling of co-operatives, agribusiness and allied fields. Recently, there is a lot of talk about rural development as it impact on the economic growth of India. The fact that the Government is taking part in upgrading rural sector, by investing huge amounts for the development of the people living in rural areas means that there will be several job opportunities opening up in the next few years. Hence rural management as a career has great prospects. A few more colleges to study are:

- **Institute of Rural Management (IRM), Jaipur.** Course: Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Marketing
- **Sri Krishnadevaraya University Centre for Distance Education, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh.** Course: PGD Programme in Rural Development Management
- **Kakatiya University School of Distance Learning and Continuing Education, Warangal.** Course: PGD Programme in Rural Development Management
- **University of Calcutta: Centre for Urban Economic Studies, Kolkata.** Course: PGD Programme in Rural Development Management
- **National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad.** Course: PGD Programme in Rural Development Management



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT OSEIO

Location: Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore
Stipend: ₹2,500-₹7,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/14415
Application deadline: September 27, 2018

DIGITAL MARKETING AT UBICUE MARKETING

Location: Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/14416
Application deadline: September 27, 2018

DATA ENTRY (MS-EXCEL) AT FEVER ENTERTAINMENT

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/14417
Application deadline: September 27, 2018

FINANCE AT QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹19,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/14418
Application deadline: September 26, 2018

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT BESTSELLER RETAIL

Location: Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/14419
Application deadline: September 26, 2018

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT DEN NETWORKS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/14420
Application deadline: October 15, 2018

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT INDIA'S WORLD CHAMPION ACADEMY

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹2,000-₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/14421
Application deadline: September 27, 2018

FORTUNER/VINAYAK BHATT

QUERY: My name is Sambhavika Garg. My date of birth is February 23, 1993. Please suggest the right career option for me according to astrology?

BHATT: You are a Piscean and the element is Water. Your ruling planet is Neptune. You are artistic and this helps you think out-of-the-box, which will make you stand out in the crowd.

Pisceans are highly sensitive by nature and try to maintain equilibrium between financial goals and fulfill their dreams. They are intuitive and the metaphysical nature can lead them into careers in sales, copywriters, marketing creative and advertising executives. You are committed to work and master the art so that you can excel in whatever you do.

Team Leader: Pisceans are always ready to lend a helping hand. They are creative beings and can think out of the box. Hence the contribution of Pisces is important to accomplish the team's work that makes them stand out in the crowd making them excellent leaders.

Artist: You can make a successful career in art as you are creative. You love bringing the vivid landscapes of your imagination into material form.

Psychologist: As you are sensitive by nature, you can sense the problem of others. Hence, a career as a psychologist is apt. It's difficult for you to keep a nine-to-five job. Visions and impressions will be helpful for you in this career, unlike working as an

ACCOUNTANT OR EXECUTIVE.

You are also emotional and intuitive and have a way with animals as well as people. You could really enjoy working as a trainer, school counselor or a social worker. Do take care if you are in an emotionally intense job. This might prove to be too heavy for you to handle.

Finance: The Pisceans has the ability to maintain the proper financial management. Your stars show that you know the how to handle finances. Thus, you can do well in finance related job because you never cross your limit. If you want to make a career in this sector, you will do well.

Pharmacist: As per astrological calculation Pisces love to be around and dispense drugs. They have a fascination with the properties and qualities of substances and their effect on the human body. Either way they will make good money, while using their natural compassion and concern for others' well-being.

Filmmaker: Pisceans excel at anything that involves a vivid imagination. In films they can create another world. This is very much what you excel at.

Physical Therapist: Physical therapists must embody adaptability and compassion, both of which is second nature to you. Thus, in this role you can do well and the patients will also look forward to the therapy.

— Vinayak Bhatt is a cosmic counsellor at Vedic Grace and can be reached at either pavenues@yahoo.com and/or info@vedicgrace.com

IN BRIEF

HOMELY STUDENTS

An education research has found that Indian students are not eager to leave their State to go to college. Google search volumes show how much more interest there is in attending colleges in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Kerala. The SEMrush study found that there are about 22,200 Indian Google searches per month related to colleges in India. This is followed by a much smaller number of searches for colleges in Canada (8,100), Australia (1,900), Germany (1,300), the US (1,300) and New Zealand (1,000).

The study also discovered, that colleges are much more popular in terms of Google searches than universities. But when it comes to the last ones, India takes only the 4th place in ranking, following Germany, Singapore and Canada. And these choices are pretty understandable and coincide with the overall world state of education.

ASHOKA PILLAR AWARDS

Ashoka University's Centre for Entrepreneurship hosted the inaugural edition of the Ashoka Pillar Award, to select and award young talent for their innovative solutions to tackle the worsening air quality in India on September 18, 2018 at the campus in Sonapat.

The award creates a platform for young minds by crowd sourcing ideas, which then leads to crowdsourcing funds for the winning idea, all of which uses the global network to solve problems for those living on the margin.

This year entrepreneurs were asked to propose innovative and cost-effective solutions for air pollution.

Market rout continues as US-China trade war intensifies; Re woes worsen

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE benchmark Sensex Tuesday tumbled by about 295 points to close at an over one-month low of 37,290.67 due to hectic selling in realty, PSU, power and banking counters amid flaring up of trade tariff tensions between the US and China and weakness in the rupee. The broader Nifty also cracked below the 11,300-mark. The domestic currency after remaining range-bound was quoting lower by 27 paise at 72.78 (intra-day) against the US dollar in late afternoon trade. Market sentiments were

Market sentiments were further dampened after Donald Trump on Monday announced imposition of new tariffs on imports from China

further dampened after US President Donald Trump Monday announced imposition of new tariffs on an additional USD 200 billion worth of imports from China, escalating the trade war with the Asian giant. Alleging that China has been unwilling to change its

unfair trade practices, Trump said the new additional tariff structure would be effective September 24 from when it would be at 10 per cent until the year end, but would increase to 25 per cent level from January 1. The 30-share Sensex opened on a somewhat better note at 37,660.19 and advanced to touch a high of 37,745.44 but turned choppy and hit a low of 37,242.85 as selling pressure gathered momentum towards the day-end, before settling 294.84 points, or 0.78 per cent, down at 37,290.67. This is the lowest closing since August 2 when it had settled at 37,165.16.

It had lost 505.13 points on Monday as rupee woes and trade war worries spooked investors despite the government announcing measures to stem a steep fall in the domestic currency. Also, the 50-share NSE Nifty plunged 98.65 points, or 0.87 per cent, to end at 11,278.90. During the session, it moved between 11,411.45 and 11,268.95. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares worth ₹180.36 crore, while foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) also offloaded shares to the tune of ₹106.54 crore on Monday, provisional data showed.

Govt eyes record 285.2 MT foodgrain output in '18-'19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has set a target of record 285.2 million tonne (MT) foodgrain production in the 2018-19 crop year despite deficit rains so far this monsoon. India harvested a record 284.83 MT of foodgrain in the 2017-18 crop year (July-June). The target for 2018-19 crop year was set at a conference called today for preparing strategies for Rabi (winter-sown) crop.

"Despite patchy monsoon rains, we are expecting higher production in Kharif season," Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala said at the conference here.

Harvesting of Kharif (summer-sown) crops will begin from end of this month and sowing of Rabi crops will start thereafter.

As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), rain deficit in the current monsoon season beginning June is 9 per cent below the normal. According to a senior agriculture ministry official, the target for rice has been set at 113 MT in 2018-19 crop year as against record 112.91 MT last year. Wheat output target has been set at 100.91 MT from record 99.7 MT in 2017-18.

The Centre has set a target of 46.7 MT of coarse cereals production as against 46.99 MT last crop year. Pulses production target has been kept at 25 MT from an all-time high output of 25.23 MT in 2017-18. Among non-foodgrain crops, the target of oilseeds has been fixed at 36 MT from 31.31 MT in the 2017-18 crop year.

Cotton production target has been fixed at 35.5 million bales (170 kg each) while that of sugarcane at 355 MT. In the last crop year, cotton production stood at 34.89 million bales (of 170 kg each) and sugarcane at 376.91 MT. At the conference, Agriculture Secretary S K Pattanayak said the government has set a target of doubling farmers' income by 2022. He highlighted the steps taken by the government in the last four years to achieve this target.

Talking about the new procurement policy announced by the government last week, the secretary said states and private players have an important role to play in the new scheme while the FCI and cooperative NAFED would continue to procure foodgrain.

SBI to sell 8 NPAs to recover dues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest lender State Bank of India will sell eight non-performing assets to recover dues worth over Rs 3,900 crore and has invited bids from asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) and financial institutions (FIs).

"In terms of the bank's revised policy on sale of financial assets in line with the regulatory guidelines, we place these accounts for sale to ARCs/banks/NBFCs/FIs, on the terms and conditions indi-

cated," the bank said in the bid document on its website. Of the eight accounts on the block, Kolkata-based Rohit Ferro Tech has the highest loan outstanding against it at ₹1,320.37 crore, followed by Indian Steel Corporation Ltd at ₹928.97 crore; Jai Balaji Industries at Rs 859.33 crore and Mahalaxmi TMT Pvt Ltd at ₹409.78 crore.

The remaining accounts belong to Impex Ferro Tech (₹200.67 crore), Kohinoor Steel Pvt Ltd (Rs 110.17 crore), Modern India Concast (Rs

71.16 crore) and Ballapur Industries (₹47.17 crore).

SBI has asked the interested ARCs/FIs to conduct the due diligence of these assets with immediate effect after submitting expression of interest and executing a non-disclosure agreement with the bank. The e-bidding for these accounts will take place on September 26.

Earlier in August, the lender had put two non-performing assets (NPAs) worth Rs 2,490 crore for sale to ARCs/FIs.

The two accounts on sale were — Bombay Rayon Fashions Ltd which owed ₹2,260.79 crore to the bank. The second account, Shivam Dhatu Udyog Pvt Ltd, had to repay ₹229.32 crore.

In April, SBI had invited bids to sell 12 sour accounts to recover dues worth ₹848.54 crore. SBI's gross NPAs rose to 10.69 per cent of the total advances at the end of June this year, as against 9.97 per cent a year ago. In value terms, they increased to ₹2,12,840 crore, from ₹1,88,068 crore.

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
HINDUNILVR	1,622.00	1,670.95	1,618.00	1,664.90	59.45
YESBANK	319.35	328.95	319.1	324.6	6
ONGC	172.35	174.6	171.75	174	2.3
DRREDDY	2,579.90	2,637.00	2,570.00	2,598.90	30.4
ITC	302.2	304.9	299.3	304.5	2.5
WIPRO	324.3	333.55	325	332.5	2.45
HCLTECH	1,080.00	1,091.00	1,078.40	1,084.95	6.55
GAIL	372.7	378.3	372.6	374.75	2.2
TITAN	819	843.95	818.65	824.5	1.05
TCS	2,073.00	2,078.80	2,057.60	2,074.00	-0.15
HDFCBANK	1,994.90	2,008.85	1,980.95	1,991.00	-1.2
SUNPHARMA	646.4	655.7	640.5	645.6	-0.6
INFRATEL	268	268	266	266.45	-0.4
ADANIPORTS	383.6	388	377.1	380.15	-0.65
COALINDIA	274.6	276	268.7	274.4	-0.55
CIPLA	665	673	660.6	663.3	-1.6
TATASTEEL	618	624.55	609.3	614.6	-1.8
GRASIM	1,066.50	1,074.00	1,054.05	1,061.60	-3.6
BAJAJFINSV	6,570.00	6,635.60	6,495.00	6,520.00	-29.95
M&M	949.45	961	940.4	945.9	-4.95
HEROMOTOCO	3,140.00	3,153.20	3,104.50	3,107.75	-20.15
INFY	730	730	717	720	-5.95
TECHM	769.85	769.85	750	761	-0.55
INDUSINDBK	1,867.25	1,889.30	1,856.05	1,861.00	-16.05
RELIANCE	1,226.00	1,239.40	1,214.35	1,215.40	-10.5
ASIANPAINT	1,306.00	1,331.75	1,285.00	1,295.70	-12.95
ULTRACEMCO	4,102.00	4,112.90	4,027.35	4,057.80	-45.7
NTPC	173.2	174.45	169.1	170.05	-2.2
KOTAKBANK	1,227.95	1,233.85	1,210.50	1,213.00	-17.4
POWERGRID	201.5	203.9	198.15	199	-2.9
HDFC	1,877.25	1,888.75	1,847.05	1,850.00	-28.85
BAJFINANCE	2,610.00	2,627.45	2,559.00	2,563.40	-41.2
MARUTI	8,537.70	8,596.50	8,380.20	8,396.00	-142.8
BPCL	365	369.25	352.2	357	-7
LUPIN	953.5	963.15	926.4	931.55	-18.65
ICICIBANK	324.25	328.05	317.7	319.15	-5.55
VEDL	235	235	228	230.1	-4.8
UPL	727	738.15	704.65	708.5	-1.5
BHARTIARTL	380.2	384.8	372.55	374.15	-7.9
EICHERMOT	29,601.00	29,800.00	28,572.10	29,031.25	-632.45
HINDALCO	242.4	243.2	233.5	235.2	-6.15
IOC	157.4	157.7	152	152.55	-4
ZEEL	474	477.3	461.3	462.55	-12.7
AXISBANK	624	633.05	606.15	609	-16.95
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,850.00	2,869.00	2,762.25	2,776.00	-84.65
HINDPETRO	258.5	261.65	248.1	250.45	-7.9
TATAMOTORS	257.75	259.8	250.6	251.25	-9
IBULHSGFIN	1,195.00	1,204.05	1,149.80	1,158.00	-42.85
SBIN	285	286.9	272.4	273.6	-11.7

BSE 500

Script	Traded	Last Price	Abs Change	% Change
CHENNPETRO	287.9	-14.65	-4.84	
CHOLAFIN	1318.2	3.6	0.27	
CIPLA	662.25	-0.75	-0.11	
COALINDIA	273.45	-1.35	-0.49	
COCHINSHIP	412.55	-8	-1.9	
COFFEEAY	310.15	2.45	0.8	
COPAL	1117.65	6.65	0.6	
CONCOR	614.5	-21.1	-3.32	
COROMANDEL	403.7	-6.7	-1.63	
CORPBANK	28.3	1.65	6.19	
COSKINGS	215.3	-1.6	-0.74	
CRISIL	1740.1	-7.45	-0.43	
CROMPTON	227.3	6.55	2.97	
CUB	179.35	-3.1	-1.7	
CUMMINSIND	718.5	-19.55	-2.65	
CYIENT	705	-27.5	-3.75	
DABUR	469.5	9.6	2.09	
DALMABHA	2579.15	-59.5	-2.25	
DBCORP	216.05	-1.4	-0.64	
DBL	747.95	-8.65	-1.14	
DCBANK	166.3	-1.05	-0.63	
DEEPSHFERR	422.65	7.2	1.73	
DEEPAKNI	246.7	4.65	1.93	
DEEPAKNI	268.5	1	0.37	
DELTACORP	1533.45	-21.55	-1.39	
DENABANK	19.1	31.5	197.5	
DENABANK	19.1	31.5	197.5	
DHUNUKA	537.7	4.4	0.83	
DHFL	611.05	0.85	0.14	
DISHTV	65.85	-1.15	-1.72	
DIVISLAB	1381.25	17.5	1.27	
DIVS	202.85	-10.15	-4.78	
DMART	1536.5	13.9	0.91	
DRREDDY	2586.95	17.55	0.68	
ECLERX	1118	-53.2	-4.54	
EDELWEISS	259.05	-8.05	-3.1	
EICHERMOT	2891.06	-756.45	-2.55	
EIDPARRY	234.4	-2.05	-0.87	
EIHOTEL	161.35	-1.8	-1.1	
EJELQUEIP	282.9	-5.25	-1.82	
EMAMILTD	544.05	-3.8	-0.69	
EMARILTD	456.65	30.6	7.18	
ENGINEERSIN	128.6	-7.45	-5.48	



SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
DABUR	462.85	475.15	461.85	471.7	9.85
GICRE	347.3	358.55	339.4	354.5	6.95
COLPAL	1,119.95	1,136.80	1,107.95	1,126.15	11.9
EMMILTD	548	555.3	543	552	4.85
BRIANTANNA	6,022.50	6,136.80	6,002.45	6,075.00	53.25
PIDILITIND	1,111.00	1,131.60	1,110.65	1,116.85	7.35
DMART	1,525.00	1,549.90	1,520.50	1,533.90	9.1
OIL	206	208	203.6	207.25	1.1
MARICO	344.1	352.6	343	344.15	1.55
GODREJCP	853.45	877.5	850	856.3	2.55
HINDZINC	299	306.45	295.65	298.5	0.4
ABB	1,431.50	1,459.00	1,429.05	1,441.00	-0.6
SUNTV	678.55	685.45	670.25	673.9	-0.95
SIEMENS	980.2	986.75	958.95	978.2	-4.2
MCDOWELLN	571.2	581.4	565	568	-2.4
PGH	9,826.70	9,926.70	9,770.00	9,849.50	-44
MOTHERSUMI	287.75	288.75	284.1	286.2	-1.55
AMBUJACEM	226	227.85	223.1	224.65	-1.25
NMDC	120.3	121.4	117.7	119.45	-0.85
CADILAHK	413.8	420	405.65	410.05	-3.1
ASHOKLEY	127.75	128.8	125.8	126.4	-1.05
ICICIRULI	362.8	362.8	357.05	359.25	-3.2
SIWSTEEL	412.75	415.7	404.7	408.2	-3.65
SRTANSFIN	1,200.00	1,217.70	1,180.60	1,186.00	-11.2
PEL	2,974.50	2,996.55	2,915.15	2,929.95	-30.6
NHPC	24.6	24.8	24.25	24.3	-0.43
AURPHARMA	793.7	800	772.45	779	-10.45
ACC	1,581.00	1,595.00	1,580.05	1,584.20	-22.55
BOSCHLTD	20,986.10	21,150.00	20,601.10	20,650.00	-336.1
MRF	69,782.30	70,119.00	68,500.85	68,632.90	-1,149.40
ABCAPITAL	132	133.4	129.5	130	-2.2
LICHSGFIN	478	480.15	465	468	-8.45
CUMMINSIND	737	737.8	712.5	722	-15.7
RECLTD	114	115.5	110.45	111.65	-2.45
SAIL	78.25	79	75.5	76.2	-1.9
PETRONET	238.65	240.75	229.6	231	-6.4
INDIGO	894.4	897.4	856	863.5	-25.4
IDEA	48.35	48.45	46.05	46.25	-1.45
BHEL	76.25	76.75	72.8	73.8	-2.35
HAVELLS	663.4	668	645.1	646	-20.9
CONCOR	633.9	636.55	612	613.5	-20.45
L&TFH	155.5	157.2	150.1	150.5	-5.3
SBILIFE	642	642	619.9	620.5	-22.15
PFC	84.75	85.6	81.05	82.2	-2.95
BBL					

Trump orders new tariffs on Chinese imports

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday slapped 10 per cent tariffs on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports and the duties will rise to whopping 25 per cent at the end of the year, triggering a strong response from Beijing which vowed to take "countermeasures". Escalating the trade war with the world's second largest economy, Trump alleged that China had been unwilling to change its unfair trade practices. He said the new additional tariff structure would give fair and reciprocal treatment to American companies.



In this Aug. 29, 2018 photo, a man works in an auto parts factory in Liaocheng in eastern China's Shandong province. The Trump administration announced Monday, Sept. 17, 2018, that it will impose tariffs on \$200 billion more in Chinese goods starting next week, escalating a trade war between the world's two biggest economies and potentially raising prices on goods ranging from handbags to bicycle tires. AP

The tariffs on USD 200 billion worth of products come on top of the USD 50 billion worth already taxed earlier this year. The next wave of tariffs, which are scheduled to go into effect on September 24, will start at 10 per cent before climbing to 25 per cent on January 1. The staggered increase will partially reduce the toll of price increases for holiday shoppers buying Chinese imports in the coming months.

"Further, if China takes retaliatory action against our farmers or other industries, we will immediately pursue phase three, which is tariffs on approximately USD 267 billion of additional imports," Trump warned. After a thorough study, the US Trade Representative (USTR) concluded that China is engaged in numerous unfair policies and practices relating to United States technology and intellectual property — such as forcing United States companies to transfer technology to Chinese counterparts, Trump said. These practices plainly constitute a grave threat to the long-term health and prosperity of the United States economy, he added.

"For months, we have urged China to change these unfair practices, and give fair and reciprocal treatment to American companies. We have

been very clear about the type of changes that need to be made, and we have given China every opportunity to treat us more fairly," he said.

"But, so far, China has been unwilling to change its practices," he said.

China, he said, has had many opportunities to fully address US concerns. "I urge China's leaders to take swift action to end their country's unfair trade practices," Trump said. The US has already levied tariffs on USD 50 billion worth of Chinese products.

Beijing responded with measures targeting USD 50 billion on American goods, raising fears about damage to the American farm industry.

Reacting to Trump's announcement, China said it would "take countermeasures" to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests and the global free trade order "China has no choice but to take countermeasures in lockstep," the commerce ministry said in the statement in Beijing.

"The US insists on increasing tariffs, which brings new uncertainty to the consultations between the two sides," the ministry said.

Some administration officials

have pushed for additional talks with China. But Trump contended last week that the US was under "no pressure" to reach an agreement. Economists warn the tariffs could chip away at economic growth in the US.

A senior administration official told reporters that China has had many opportunities to change those practices. By imposing such a tariff, the official said, the US is not trying to constrain China's growth. "We have no problem with China trying to grow its economy, trying to lift its people out of poverty, that's a good thing. But, in doing so, they can't take actions that deliberately discriminate against other countries; actions that hurt American workers.

And they can't take actions that entirely flout the rules of the international trading system," the official said.

"But this is an effort to work with China and say, it's time that you address these unfair trading practices that we have identified, that others have identified, and which have harmed the entire global trading system," the official asserted. At the same time, the official said, the US remains open to negotiations.

China threatens 'counter measures' to retaliate tariffs

PTI ■ Beijing

China on Tuesday threatened to retaliate with "synchronised counter measures" against President Donald Trump's third round of tariffs on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports, saying the US' move will add "new uncertainties" for future talks between the world's top two economies.

President Trump on Tuesday slapped 10 per cent tariffs on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports and the duties will rise to whopping 25 per cent at the end of the year, escalating the trade war with the world's second largest economy. He alleged that China had been unwilling to change its unfair trade practices and the new additional tariff structure would give fair and reciprocal treatment to American firms. China's Ministry of Commerce said it would be forced to take "synchronised counter measures" against the new tariffs. In a statement, the ministry also said that the tariffs announced by Trump had "added new uncertainties" to trade talks between the two sides. Trump also warned China against any retaliation, saying if Beijing retaliated this time, the US would impose further tariffs on another USD 267 billion worth of products virtually covering almost all Chinese exports to the US totalling about USD 522.9 billion. According to official figures, US goods and services trade with China totalled an estimated USD 710.4 billion in 2017 of which US exports were USD 187.5 billion and imports were USD 522.9 billion. Trump has been pressuring China to reduce the trade deficit with the US, totalling to USD 335.4 billion in 2017. Last month, both sides resumed trade talks but at a lower level.

Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen held talks in Washington but without much results. Trump, who has been demanding that China should reduce trade deficit immediately by USD 100 billion, recently called for talks to resolve the issue. In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang on Tuesday gave no inkling about how China's

plans to retaliate Trump's new round of tariffs and said it brought more uncertainties to future round of talks.

"I want to say that China has to respond to uphold our legitimate rights and interests, the order of free trade," Geng told reporters. "This measure by US side added more uncertainties to the talks between the two sides," he said. Asked how the two sides plan to end the trade war, Geng said "We have been stressing that talks need to happen on the basis of equality and good faith so as to resolve the issues between the two sides. What the US has done shows no sincerity, no good faith at all," he said. To another question on whether China viewed escalation of tariff war by the US as an attempt to contain Beijing's rise, Geng said, "regarding containment, I have never heard of that from any US official. "We have been repeating that sound and steady development of China-US ties serves the fundamental interest of the two sides and what the international community wishes to see". Geng said China would like to work with the US to achieve that, adding that "however the protectionist and unilateral measures taken by US were not acceptable to us". He also declined to go into specific measures on whether Beijing would contemplate non-trade measures like containing visas to US citizens. "In the light of the latest round of tariffs, China has to counter act but what kind of counter measures would the Chinese side take will be released in time. You made assumption (about not granting visas), I have no comment on that," Geng said. Hong Kong-based "South China Morning Post" reported on Tuesday that China is likely to cancel its tentative plans to send President Xi Jinping's top economic adviser Liu He to Washington after Trump's new tariff announcement. According to the source, who declined to be identified, as the plans have not been made public, China is reviewing its earlier plans to send a delegation, headed by vice-premier Liu He to Washington next week, the report said.

US announces sharp cut in refugee intake for 2019

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump Administration on Monday decided to take only 30,000 refugees next year in the country, slashing the intake from 45,000 in 2018. "The United States anticipates up to 310,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Fiscal 2019. We propose resetting up to 30,000 refugees under the new ceiling," the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State department.

The US also anticipate processing applications of "more than 280,000 asylum seekers," he said. They will join over 800,000 asylum seekers who are already inside the US and are awaiting adjudication of their claims, he said, asserting that these figures testify to America's "longstanding record of the most generous nation in the world when it comes to protection-based immigration and assistance." Wary that the decision to cap refugees intake may face criticism, Pompeo said the ceiling on the refugees num-



ber should not be viewed in isolation from other expansive humanitarian programs. "Some will characterise the refugee ceiling as the sole barometer of America's commitment to vulnerable people around the world. This would be wrong," he said.

"Other countries, when not their humanitarian protection efforts, highlight their assistance to both refugees and asylees. The United States should do the same," he said. This year's refugee ceiling reflects the substantial increase in the number of individuals seeking asylum in US, leading to a massive backlog of outstanding asylum cases and greater public

expense. "The daunting operational reality of addressing over 800,000 individuals in pending asylum cases demands renewed focus and prioritisation. The magnitude of this challenge is unequalled in any other country," he explained. Pompeo said this year's refugee ceiling also reflects US's commitment to protect the most vulnerable around the world while prioritizing the safety and well-being of the American people, as President Donald Trump has directed. "We must continue to responsibly vet applicants to prevent the entry of those who might do harm to our country," he said. Democrats and human rights bodies were quick in opposing the decision.

"Outrageous," said Senator Jeanne Shaheen. "The decision to reduce an already all-time low refugee admissions is the opposite of what we stand for as a nation. It harms vulnerable families who face near-certain dangers and weakens our hand on the world stage," she said.

Indian-origin Nobel laureate calls for 'sensible' immigration system

PTI ■ LONDON

India-born Nobel Prize winning biologist Venkatraman (Venki) Ramakrishnan has called for a "sensible" post-Brexit immigration system to ensure that mobility of scientists is maintained when Britain leaves the European Union (EU) next year. Prof Venki, who is president of the UK's Royal Society is the country's key advocate for science, warned that Britain is in danger of losing its position as a leading scientific hub in the event of a no-deal or bad-deal scenario in the ongoing negotiations on the country's future ties with the EU.

In a referendum in June 2016, a majority of British voters supported leaving the 28-member EU. The UK will formally exit from the EU on



March 29, 2019.

"We in the Royal Society and the rest of the scientific community are working very hard to have a new sensible system for immigration that would be fast, transparent, efficient and with proportionate costs," said Prof Venki.

"We plan to fight very, very hard to make mobility straight forward, regulations transparent and efficient so that this is less of an issue. This

is a political fight, but we intend to do our best," he said at a Royal Society event in London on Monday.

Sir Venki, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 for his contribution to science, was joined by two former Royal Society presidents — geneticist Sir Paul Nurse and astronomer Lord Martin Rees — to warn that the political aspects of the Brexit debate threatened to drown out the interests of the scientific community.

Venki, who was born in Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu, and went on to study biology in the US before moving to the UK 19 years ago, recalled a "fairly simple" process he underwent at the time.

"The requirements today are so onerous that they act as a barrier," he said.

Moon and Kim hold summit talks

AFP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's president and the North's leader Kim Jong Un drove together through the streets of Pyongyang Tuesday past thousands of cheering citizens before opening a summit where Moon Jae-in will seek to reboot stalled denuclearisation talks between his hosts and the United States. Kim and Moon embraced at Pyongyang's international airport — where the North Korean leader had supervised missile launches last year as tensions mounted. The North's unique brand of choreographed mass adulation was on full display as hundreds of people waved North Korean flags and another depicting an undivided peninsula — while the South's own emblem was only visible on Moon's Boeing 747 aircraft. Thousands of residents, holding bouquets and chanting in unison "Reunification of the country!", lined the streets as Kim and Moon rode through the city in an open-topped vehicle, passing the Kumsusan Palace where Kim's predecessors — his father and grandfather — lie in state.



A huge screen shows South Korean President Moon Jae-in, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at a press center for the inter-Korean summit in Seoul, South Korea on Tuesday. AP

ing the Korean War that left the peninsula divided by the impenetrable Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and technically in a state of conflict.

Addressing his visitor in respectful terms, Kim praised him for brokering his historic Singapore summit with US President Donald Trump in June, adding: "This has led to stability in the region and I expect more progress. At the time, the North Korean leader declared his backing for the denuclearisation of the peninsula. But no details were agreed and Washington and Pyongyang have since sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved. The US is press-

ing for the North's "final, fully verified denuclearisation", while Pyongyang wants a formal declaration that the 1950-53 Korean War is over and has condemned "gangster-like" demands for it to give up its weapons unilaterally.

A commentary in the Rodong Sinmun, the mouthpiece of the North's ruling party, repeated the criticism Tuesday, saying Washington was "totally to blame" for the deadlock and adding: "The US is stubbornly insisting on the theory of 'dismantlement of nukes first'. Moon will hold another round of formal talks with Kim on Wednesday as he tries to convince him to make substantive steps towards disar-

mament that he can present to Trump, whom Moon is due to meet later this month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. "I wish this will be a summit that produces abundant results as a gift to the 80 million people of this nation for Chuseok," the South Korean leader said, referring to the traditional holiday that falls on Monday. The dovish South Korean president is looking to tie the inter-Korean process and the US-Northern talks closer together to reduce the threat of a devastating conflict on the peninsula. At the same time Kim will look to secure closer inter-Korean cooperation as Seoul and Washington move at increasingly different speeds in their approaches to Pyongyang. The meeting "will probably generate rosy headlines but do little to accelerate efforts to denuclearise North Korea", Eurasia Group said in a note. Kim would focus on "areas that promise economic benefits for the North", it added. "Progressives inside and outside Moon's government will have strong incentives to inflate the summit's accomplishments, initially obscuring what will likely be a lack of major deliverables."

There have been many previous rounds of negotiations with the North, but deals have subsequently fallen apart — Wednesday will mark 13 years to the day that Pyongyang agreed to abandon all of its nuclear weapons and return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Russia blames Israel for shooting down of plane off Syria

AP ■ MOSCOW

A Russian reconnaissance aircraft was brought down by a Syrian missile over the Mediterranean, killing all 15 people on board, the Russian defense ministry said Tuesday. It blamed Israel for the crash, saying the plane was caught in the crossfire as four Israeli fighters attacked targets in northwestern Syria.

The Russian military said that the Il-20 reconnaissance aircraft was hit 35 kilometers off the coast late Monday as it was returning to its home base nearby. "The Israeli pilots were using the Russian aircraft as a shield and pushed it into the line of fire of the Syrian defense," Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

Russian state television quoted a Defense Ministry statement as saying that Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told his Israeli counterpart, Avigdor Lieberman, that Israel is "fully to blame" for the deaths. The military said Israel did not warn it of its operation over Latakia province until one minute before the strike, which did not give the Russian plane enough time to escape.

A recovery operation in the Mediterranean Sea is underway, Konashenkov said. Russian news agencies



later in the day quoted the ministry as saying that a rescue team has located the wreckage in the sea and has retrieved some bodies and some fragments of the wreckage. Both the Israeli military and Israel's Foreign Ministry declined comment on the Russian claim.

For several years, Israel and Russia have maintained a special hotline to prevent their air forces from clashing in the skies over Syria. Israeli military officials have previously praised its effectiveness. Russia has been a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad and it has two military bases in the country, including one close to the Mediterranean coast.

Russia's dramatic entry into the Syrian civil war in 2015 in support of the Syrian government, after a year of airstrikes by the U.S. and its coalition partners against the Islamic State group, increased the specter of dangerous con-

frontations in the skies over Syria.

Turkey's troops are also on the ground in northern Syria and are patrolling the skies over the region as Ankara seeks to ramp up its influence there and curb the expansion of Syrian Kurdish-controlled territory.

Israel has refrained from taking sides in the Syrian civil war. But it has acknowledged carrying out scores of airstrikes against arch-enemy Iran and its Shiite proxy Hezbollah. Israel has also acknowledged attacking Iranian targets some 200 times. Israel has warned that it will not allow Iran to establish a permanent military presence in postwar Syria. Throughout the fighting, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has maintained continuous contact with Russia. Netanyahu frequently travels to Russia for talks with President Vladimir Putin to discuss the Syria issue.

Sima Shine, a former senior Mossad official and ex-deputy director-general at the Strategic Affairs Ministry, told Israel's Army Radio station that the shooting down is problematic both militarily and internally from a Russian perspective. "I think it will impose very serious restriction on Israel's freedom of activity," she said.

'Iran still very important as US sanctions loom'

Fujairah (UAE): The head of OPEC said Tuesday that Iran remains "a very important member" of the oil cartel, as Tehran braces for a new round of US sanctions partially targeting its crude exports. "Iran is a very important member of OPEC... and we have no choice but to continue working with all parties," Mohammad Barkindo said at the Gulf Intelligence Energy Forum in the emirate of Fujairah.

Iran remains "a very important exporter of oil," said the chief of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. He did not specify



how crude producers would compensate for declining exports from Iran, with new US sanctions due to hit the Islamic republic's oil industry on November 4.

Iran's OPEC governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili said Saturday that OPEC had "not much credit left" and slammed Gulf powerhouses Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for turning it into a "tool for the US". Output from Iran has now hit its lowest level since July 2016, according to the International Energy Agency, as top buyers India and China have distance themselves from Tehran.

US President Donald Trump has called for OPEC members, primarily US ally Saudi Arabia, to raise their production, and warned importers to stop buying oil from Iran or face American sanctions.

In 2016, major producers both within and outside OPEC agreed to slash production in an attempt to boost prices following the 2014 oil market crash.

India provides relief supplies to Bangladesh for Rohingyas

Dhaka (PTI): India has handed over its third consignment of relief supplies to Bangladesh, including over 1 million litres of kerosene oil and 20,000 stoves, for the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees in the country, who fled an army crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar.

Bangladesh, which faced a big influx of Rohingyas from Myanmar, has called on the international community to intervene and put pressure on Myanmar to address the issue. Over 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled Myanmar's vio-

lence-hit Rakhine state to neighbouring Bangladesh since August last year when the military intensified crackdown against alleged militant outfits of Rohingya Muslims.

India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Monday handed over 1.1 million litres of super kerosene oil and 20,000 kerosene multi wick stoves to Minister of Disaster Management and Relief Mofazzel Hussain Chowdhury at Cox's Bazar. The kerosene oil and stoves will address the energy needs of the displaced

persons and contribute to environmental conservation in Bangladesh by reducing demand for locally sourced firewood.

This is as per the requirement of assistance expressed by Bangladesh, the High Commission of India said in a statement. The relief supplies were then distributed to displaced persons at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar.

Vikram Doraiswami, Joint Secretary (Bangladesh, Myanmar) of the Ministry of External Affairs was also present on the occasion.

Sleep-deprived drivers more likely to have crashes

Washington: Insufficient sleep can dramatically increase a driver's risk of being involved in car crashes, a study has found. The study, published in the journal SLEEP, showed that those who have slept for less than seven of the past 24 hours have higher odds of being in an accident.

The risk is greatest for drivers who have slept fewer than four hours, researchers said. While the dangers of driving drowsy were already well known, the study is the first to quantify the relationship between how much a driver has slept and his or her risk of being responsible for a crash. Researchers from AAA Foundation for Traffic



Safety, a US-based non profit, analysed data from in-depth investigations of a sample of 5,470 crashes, including interviews with the drivers involved. They found that drivers who reported fewer than four hours of sleep had 15.1 times the odds

of responsibility for car crashes, compared with drivers who slept for the recommended seven to nine hours in the preceding 24-hour period. This is comparable to the crash risk of a driver with a blood alcohol concentration roughly 1.5 times the legal limit. Researchers involved in the study also discovered that drivers who reported six, five, and four hours of sleep in the past 24 hours had 1.3, 1.9 and 2.9 times the odds of responsibility for a crash, respectively, compared with a driver who slept for seven to nine hours. Drivers who reported less than four hours of sleep had particularly elevated risk of single-vehicle crashes,

which are more likely to result in injury or death. Drivers who had changed their sleep or work schedule in the past week and drivers who had been driving for 3 hours or longer without a break were also found to be at increased risk.

"Being awake isn't the same as being alert. Falling asleep isn't the only risk," said Brian Tefft, from AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "Even if they manage to stay awake, sleep-deprived drivers are still at increased risk of making mistakes — like failing to notice something important, or misjudging a gap in traffic — which can have tragic consequences," Tefft said. PTI

JUVE START DREAM CHASE

Eyeing first European glory in 22 years, The Old Lady face Valencia challenge, defending champions Real Madrid play host to Roma

Juventus vs Valencia
Live from 12:30am IST
SONY TEN 1

AFP ■ MESTALLA

No player owns as many Champions League titles as Cristiano Ronaldo but a sixth with Juventus would surely be his best of the lot.

Ronaldo played the lead role in all of those five previous triumphs, from his towering header for Manchester United against Chelsea in 2008 to the tie-clinching, 97th-minute penalty against Juventus last season in the quarters.

In between, there were the 17 goals he scored in every game but one en route to the trophy in 2014, the title-winning penalty against Atletico Madrid in 2016 and the hat-trick against the same opposition, this time in the last four, a year later. He would also score twice against Juventus in the final.

It was to become the beneficiaries, rather than victims, of these match-winning moments, that Juve seemingly decided last summer the only way to win the Champions League before Ronaldo retires is to have Ronaldo on your team.

They begin that assault on Wednesday, when the 33-year-old will kick a ball competitively in Spain for the first time since his dizzying 100 million-euro move from Madrid.

Valencia are the obstacle at the Mestalla, where he scored twice, both penalties, for his former team last term.

Many were shocked when Ronaldo drew a line under his time in the Spanish capital, with most believing his complaints to be the latest round of posturing aimed at those higher at the club. They were, but this time he meant it.

There is merit and romance in Messi sticking with his boyhood Barcelona but even he must find it hard not to admire Ronaldo's gumption.

More trophies and records would inevitably have followed at Madrid but instead he started again, risking his reputa-



tion for somewhere new.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EDGE

There is risk too for Juventus, who have shelled out the first three-figure sum ever paid for a player in their thirties, and one that represents a very different model to the free-flowing forward that used to terrorise defences left, right and centre.

The Ronaldo who Real Madrid decided could be sold is a predator, a throw-back number nine, that limits his exertions to the penalty box, with the caveat he can still run fast, jump high and shoot with both feet.

His first Juve goal against Sassuolo on Sunday was a tap-in from a yard out, his second a driven left-footed shot into the corner. After three games without finding the net, even Ronaldo had been feeling the pressure.

"I was a little tense with all the talk after my move from Real Madrid and not scoring," he said afterwards. "I'm happy, I'm working hard and my teammates are really helping me to adapt to this league."

The real pressure, however, will come in Europe where Juventus' investment will be judged. The club's pursuit of a first Champions League success since 1996 has become an obsession and Ronaldo is sup-

posed to be the last piece in the puzzle.

Real Madrid may claim to be more of a team without him but so, perhaps, were Juve and it was only enough to reach two finals in four years, and lose them both.

There is also perhaps a psychological edge to be gained. Madrid made a habit of prevailing last season without dominating games, owning the decisive moments rather than matches as a whole. A player like Ronaldo can quickly spread a winning mentality.

Messi is in no doubt about the direction of credit. "Real Madrid are one of the best teams in the world and they have a great squad but it's obvious the departure of Ronaldo makes them less strong while Juve have become a clear favourite for the Champions League," he said.

"They already had a good team and now they have Cristiano."



Manchester United players celebrate after scoring against Watford in PL AP

Euro woes add pressure on Manchester Utd

AFP ■ LONDON

Man Utd vs BSC YB
Live from 12:30am IST
SONY ESPN

Jose Mourinho is facing an unsettling new reality in the Champions League as Manchester United launch their campaign at Young Boys of Bern on Wednesday.

Mourinho was once the Champions League's pre-eminent force, winning the tournament twice and making the latter stages virtually every year.

But it is four years since the Portuguese coach last managed a victory in the knockout stages of Europe's elite club competition.

In that time, the 55-year-old has been surpassed by Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp, Atletico Madrid's Diego Simeone and former Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane as the tournament's most innovative and successful coaches.

In Mourinho's past 10 knockout games with United and Chelsea in the Champions League he has just two wins and five draws — his last away victory in the knockout stages came at United's expense in 2013 when he was still at Real Madrid.

Mourinho's decline as a Champions League force mirrors the fading challenge of United, who reached three finals in four seasons from 2008 but have struggled to make an impact since.

The club are preparing for the match against the Swiss champions in Bern after an unsettling start to the season but might feel they have turned a corner after a hard-fought 2-1 win against Watford in the Premier League.

Mourinho, in an upbeat mood after Saturday's second straight win, will be desperate to erase the memory of United's spineless last-16 exit against Sevilla last season, during which frustrated United fans chanted "attack, attack, attack" at their own players.

The limp defeat was a far cry from the days when free-flowing United sides won two European Cups under Alex Ferguson and regularly reached the sharp end of the tournament.

The desperate message from the stands that night left Mourinho looking a forlorn figure on the same turf where he had announced his arrival on the Champions League stage with a jubilant touchline jig during Porto's shock win 14 years previously.

Back then, Mourinho had the world at his feet and he would go on to win the competition for the first time as Porto demolished Monaco in the 2004 final.

Mourinho found the magic again at Inter Milan, knocking out Chelsea and Barcelona and beating Bayern Munich 2-0 in the final to deliver the club's first European Cup for 45 years.

The Portuguese was just the third manager to win the competition with two clubs and, joining Real Madrid just days later, he appeared to be in the ideal place to add to his personal collection. But a semi-final loss to Pep Guardiola's Barcelona in 2011 was followed by a painful penalty shootout defeat at the same stage against Bayern Munich 12 months later.

And now with memories of that Sevilla capitulation still fresh, Mourinho will head to Bern looking for a positive start to his redemption tour.



U-16 GIRLS GEAR UP FOR PAKISTAN

PTI ■ ULAN BATOR

The "extreme" weather conditions are proving to be a tougher challenge than their opponents, as India geared up to take on Pakistan in the AFC U-16 Women's Qualifiers here on Wednesday.

The Indian girls started their campaign on a winning note, breezing past Hong Kong 6-1 and as the team looked forward to the next game, coach Firmin D'Souza said, "We are ready for the test."

Firmin guided India to the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship title in Bhutan last month. Pakistan lost to hosts Mongolia 0-8 in their opening encounter before going down 0-3 against Laos.

Although the Girls in Blue are leading the group at the moment, the coach said that the extreme weather condition is taking a toll on the players.

"With temperature averaging at close to 2-degree centigrade and constant chilling winds hovering around, it's a heavy challenge for the girls



caption

to come up with their best. But we are trying our best to get accustomed with that," he said.

"However, the girls have fared well so far and they're putting in 100 percent in every training session."

Incidentally, a heavy rain and snowfall are expected on Wednesday.

Barring the inaugural edition which was hosted by the Korea Republic in 2005, India haven't

COLTS LOSE 1-3 TO SERBIA IN 2ND FRIENDLY

NEW DELHI: The India U-19 team suffered yet another defeat to hosts Serbia, going down 1-3 in the second match during its exposure tour to Europe to prepare for next year's U-19 Asian Championship. Coach Floyd Pinto's boys had earlier lost 0-2 in five of the two friendly matches. India started off on the positive foot, putting some early pressure on the Serbians. But despite that, it was the Serbians who broke the deadlock via a brilliant solo effort from Bojic Bojan, who intercepted the ball in the attacking third, dribbled past three defenders and slotted it past India goalkeeper Prabhukhan Gill.

Gill was in action again in the 30th-minute when he carefully smothered a corner but his pass to Jeakson was intercepted by Ognjenovic Marko, who coolly proceeded to slot the ball into the net. This was followed by a third Serbian goal, following yet another defensive lapse by India. After a couple of failed attempts, the Indians finally managed to get on the scoresheet via a Rahim Ali strike on the stroke of half-time. Advancing down the right wing, Aman played Abhijit through, in between the Serbian defenders. Abhijit then crossed it into the box, where Rahim Ali was lurking. The latter grabbed the opportunity and slotted it into the net. PTI

been able to qualify for the finals until now.

The legendary Bembem Devi, currently the assistant coach of the team warned that "complacency must not creep in".

"We have kicked-off well but that's the most

dangerous thing in football. Complacency must

not creep in and we should continue our job in our next few games. Only one team will qualify and we are eyeing nothing but the top spot to seal

a berth in the finals next year," she quipped.



Mirabai Chanu in action during Commonwealth Games PTI

Mirabai to miss World C'ship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior weightlifters including defending champion Mirabai Chanu, Sathish Sivalingam and Venkat Rahul Ragala will miss this year's World Championship opting to continue their rehabilitation program instead.

The World Championship is one of the ten qualifying events for the 2020 Japan Olympics. India will be fielding its B team, consisting of junior lifters, in the event scheduled to be held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from November 1.

"Senior players have not had the time to rest since the Commonwealth Games in April. After the CWG, they were supposed to attend a rehabilitation camp but things didn't go as per plan," National coach Vijay Sharma said.

"We need to focus on qualifying for the Olympics. It is important to set the team well. The lifters need to go through proper rehab before participating in any event," Sharma said.

The senior players will be seen in action at the Asian C'ship in China in April next year.

"We are required to participate in any six of the 10 qualifying events. World C'ship is just one of them. After the World C'ship, the next event will be the Asian C'ship in China next year. We are targeting that event now."

Didn't expect Arjuna this year: Hima Das

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's newest sprint sensation Hima Das on Tuesday said she didn't expect to be nominated for the Arjuna award this year, despite her stunning season in international athletics.

The 18-year-old from Assam was among the 20 sportspersons recommended for the Arjuna Award on Monday.

"I didn't expect to win the Arjuna this year. I was thinking may be next year, I will be considered," said Hima, who clinched the Gold medal at the U-20 World Championship in Finland, on the sidelines of a promotional event organised by Adidas.

Hima was also announced as the brand ambassador of the sports manufacturing giant.

Nicknamed the "Dhing Express", after her school, Hima has been a sensation this year as she added three medals — a Gold and two Silvers from the 18th Asian Games — to her World Championship Gold.

The star sprinter won yellow metal in Women's 4x400m and Silver medals in mixed 4x400m and 400m individual event.

Asked when she will start training, Hima said: "The season is over now. Next year, there is South Asian Games, Asian Championship and World



Hima Das during the event on Tuesday

Championship, so how to approach the different events and how to prepare I will do it during training."

Asked which race she holds close to her heart, Hima said: "The Finland (World Junior Championship) race remains one of my favourites and also the semifinal at Asian Games when it had started raining."

Hima had produced her personal best timing of 50.79 secs to win Silver at the 400m race.

"There are few targets in my mind. I will do that one by one. People expects a lot for me now and I will achieve that. I scored 50.79 at Asian Games, so even 50.78 is a step ahead," she said.

"I thrive in competition, it feels good to improve timings and create records."

Sindhu in pre-quarters, Saina out

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Olympic and world champion Silver-medallist P V Sindhu Tuesday progressed to the pre-quarters but Saina Nehwal bowed out after a narrow loss at the \$ one million China Open World Tour Super 1000 tournament here.

The third-seeded Sindhu, who had clinched the China Open title in 2016, defeated World No 39 Saena Kawakami of Japan 21-15, 21-13 in the opening round at the Olympic Sports Center Xincheng Gymnasium.

However, two-time Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Saina, who was the first Indian to win the China title in 2014, lost 22-20, 8-21, 14-21 to Korea's Sung Ji Hyun in a 48-minute opener.

Men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy, the national champions, defeated Chinese Taipei's Liao Min Chun and Su Ching Heng 13-21, 21-13, 21-12 in 39 minutes to enter the second round.

The women's singles match between Sindhu and Saena started out as a close contest before the Indian broke off to grab a 13-7 lead at one stage.

Sad day for Lucknow chess



Kuldeep Shankar making amove against Skand Tripathi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

It was a sad day for chess players in Lucknow as the Senior Open district tournament was interrupted for three hours.

As per reports, Lucknow District Chess Sports Association is organising a senior open selection district tournament at Shivani Public School. After the completion of round one, Devendra Bajpai, who was said to be linked with Chess Association of India, a body banned by FIDE, came with a lawyer and few officials of CAI and interrupted the tournament saying that he has the orders of Competition Commission of India and will also play in the tournament.

Meanwhile, LDSCA president Sudhir Dubey and secretary AK Raizada conveyed to them that All India Chess Federation has banned him from the tournament. They even showed the AICF's letter regarding the

particular case. Both sides kept on arguing and things took an ugly turn as the organisers called the police in order to continue the tournament. With the intervention of police the tournament began again but only after a halt of three hours.

SK Tiwari, who was accompanying Bajpai, said that as per CCI ruling AICF could not bar any player from any tournament. "We have given them a day's time to provide us the valid reason to bar Devendra, otherwise we will lodge a police complaint," he added.

KULDEEP SHANKAR LEADING

Kuldeep Shankar (2 points) is leading the 13th Lucknow District Open Chess Tournament underway at Shivani Public School on Tuesday. He was closely followed by David Yung, Arjun Singh, Pawan Batham and Kuldeep Srivastava with 1.5 points each.

India survive Hong Kong scare

PTI ■ DUBAI

India edged past Hong Kong by 26 runs in Asia Cup group league opener on Tuesday. Shikhar Dhawan struck a hundred in familiar surroundings of white ball cricket on a flat deck as India scored 285 for seven. In reply, Hong Kong openers Nizakat Khan (92) and skipper Anshuman Rath (73) added 174 for the first wicket in 34.1 overs to give India some scare. But with the departure of Rath and Nizakat in quick succession, India got the hold of the match.

Shikhar Dhawan struck a hundred in familiar surroundings of white ball cricket on a flat deck as India scored 285 for seven against Hong Kong in their Asia Cup group league opener on Tuesday.

Left-handed Dhawan, who had a horrendous tour to England due to serious technical deficiency on seaming tracks, cashed in on the chance against a weaker opposition on a low and slow continental pitch, smashing 127 off 120 balls. Dhawan hit as many as 15 boundaries and two sixes en route his 14th ODI century but the slowness of the track meant that India failed to cross the 300-run mark against the minnows.

Together with comeback man Ambati Rayudu (60), Dhawan stitched 116 runs for the second wicket off 130 deliveries, to lay the foundation for India's total after the early dismissal of skipper Rohit Sharma (23). Sent into bat India lost Rohit with the scoreboard reading 45 in 7.4 overs but then Dhawan and Rayudu joined hands and shared a century stand during their chanceless knocks. Returning to the side after clearing the YoYo test, Rayudu grabbed the opportunity with both hands and hit three boundaries and two sixes during his 70-ball knock.

But just when it seemed the duo would smash the opposition to cleaners, Rayudu edged a Ehsan Nawaz bouncer to Scott McKechnie behind the stumps, trying an upper cut.

After the end of Dhawan-Rayudu partnership, the Indian batsmen found the going tough against slow bowlers of Hong Kong, especially in a relatively slow pitch, where shot making is not easy for a new batsman.

Dhawan and next man Dinesh Karthik (33) then shared 79 runs for the third wicket to take the side forward before Hong Kong picked up three quick wickets to put brakes on India's scoring rate. Dhawan himself wasted a golden opportunity to score a big hundred, holding out to Tanwir Afzal off off-spinner Kinchit Shah's (3/39) bowling in the 41st over.

Talismanic Mahendra Singh Dhoni's stay at the crease was limited to three deliveries as he failed to gauge the slowness of the pitch and edged one to McKechnie off off-spinner Ehsan Khan (2/65) in the next over.

As if that was not enough, Karthik too gave away his wicket while trying to go for a big shot on a slow wicket, caught at deep mid-wicket to Babar Hayat off Shah. Towards the end, Kedar Jadhav made a 27-ball 28 but he too found shot-making difficult because of the the slow nature of the pitch.



IND-PAK SHOWDOWN

Indian will face tough challenge from arch rivals Pakistan in high voltage Asia Cup clash

AFF ■ DUBAI

Rival captains Sarfraz Ahmed and Rohit Sharma played down the hype surrounding the much-awaited India-Pakistan clash in Dubai on Wednesday, insisting that the Asia Cup is much more than a contest between the arch-rivals.

But despite their claims, millions of fans across the border and elsewhere in the world will be watching the Group A clash, with a sold out 25,000-crowd expected at Dubai Stadium.

The game is the first between the sub-continent rivals since Pakistan thumped India by 180 runs in the final of the Champions Trophy at The Oval in June last year.

The two teams are facing each other for the first time in the United Arab Emirates since 2006, the last of their regular matches which were also held in Sharjah between 1984-2000.

Sarfraz, who led Pakistan in that memorable Champions Trophy triumph, denied that his team will have a psychological advantage.

"We will not take that Champions Trophy win in our minds," said Sarfraz on Monday, a day after his team thumped qualifiers Hong Kong in their first match of the tournament.

"That was a different atmosphere (in London) and conditions. It was a year ago so that's history so we will enter the ground with a new strategy and passion."

- India without Kohli -

India's regular captain and world-class batsman Virat Kohli has been rested for the competition to help his aching back after a gruelling tour of England.

But Sarfraz refused to accept Kohli's absence will make much difference.

"No doubt he (Kohli) is their captain and a world-class batsman but I think they (India) have a good team even without Kohli."

"They have good players who have done well for India. So I don't think it will make much difference to India. Their batting is very strong so I can say that it will be a good match."

Sarfraz has told his players just to enjoy the occasion.

"My message to the players is not to bother about the result and do (their) best and when you do that you get a positive result in all matches because there are five other teams as well," he said.

Five-time Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan



India vs Pakistan
Live from 5:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

are in Group B.

India have won the event — which started in 1984 — six times, while Pakistan have been champions twice.

Two teams from each group will qualify for the Super Four stage, with the top two to reach the September 28 final.

So barring any upsets against Hong Kong, India and Pakistan will also face off again in the Super Four on September 23.

India skipper Sharma said his team will be looking beyond Pakistan.

"It's always exciting to play Pakistan, but it's not about one team as well. There are other teams also eyeing the title," said Sharma, who has the rare record of scoring three one-day international double hundreds.

All six teams have to endure extreme hot conditions in the UAE, with the tem-



Pak PM Imran Khan to watch clash

Karachi: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to watch his country's Asia Cup group league encounter against India Wednesday, according to media reports here.

Imran, a legendary former Pakistan cricket captain, is also the patron-in-chief of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

"Prime Minister Imran Khan will watch the Pakistan-India Asia Cup clash in Dubai on Wednesday, diplomatic sources said," GEO TV reported.

The Pakistan PM left for his first foreign visit to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The arch rivals are facing each other for the first time in the United Arab Emirates since 2006.

Incidentally, Imran was the captain of Pakistan for the better part of the Indo-Pak duels in Sharjah from the mid 80's to early 90s. PTI

perature scaling to over 40 degrees Celsius and expected to rise further in the coming days.

Sharma said his side will get a chance to assess the conditions in their match against Hong Kong.

"Once we finish the first game we will look at Pakistan, what their strengths and weaknesses are. Looking at the pitch, I think we have the perfect combination and the guys to do the job."

"We have been here for the last four days so I can probably say we are very much used to the conditions."

"It's game time, so we have to focus on the game rather than the conditions."

SQUADS

India: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Lokesh Rahul, Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni, Dinesh Karthik, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shardul Thakur, K Khaleel Ahmed.

Pakistan: Sarfraz Ahmed (Captain), Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam, Shan Masood, Shoaib Malik, Haris Sohail, Shadab Khan, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Junaid Khan, Usman Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, i, Asif Ali, Mohammad Amir, Shaheen Afridi.

Pant aims to work harder behind wkts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Brimming with confidence after his maiden Test hundred in England, young Rishabh Pant is now aiming to fine-tune his wicket-keeping skills at the NCA ahead of the two-Test series against the West Indies, starting October 4.

Pant is likely to do simulation training in Bengaluru by keeping on tracks that offer turn in order to get ready for the decks that will be on offer in Rajkot and Hyderabad.

"In India, the wickets are expected to be different from England or may be like the one at the Oval. I plan to visit NCA before the series and keep on tracks where there will be roughs," Pant said during an interaction on the sidelines of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Chairman of selectors MSK Prasad, in a recent interview, said that they are trying to arrange for an exclusive keeping session for the youngster.

"I am very happy that he (MSK Prasad) wants to help me out with my keeping. As a youngster, it is my duty to keep learning, improve at every given opportunity. That should be my endeavour," he said.

Having kept against Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja in the last three Test matches, Pant has got an idea as to what he needs to do while keeping up to spinners. "I have kept up to senior spinners (Ashwin and Jadeja) in the nets apart from the Tests in England. Like Oval strip, where Jaddu bhui was bowling, it felt like an India pitch. The ball was turning and on fourth and fifth day, there were spots," the 20-

year-old recalled.

Keeping in England wasn't easy but Pant said that he can't fight the perceptions that a scorecard can create by showing 76 byes against his name. To be fair to Pant, some of those deliveries bowled by the Indian pacers were way off target and no keeper in the world could have stopped those.

"Obviously, you can get frustrated as a wicketkeeper. May be (all those byes) was not my fault but if someone is not watching the match, he would look only at the scorecard. Only those who saw the match would know that some of those were out of my reach."

"Now on this issue, I can't debate or even reason with people whether I conceded those byes or not. It was part of the game," he said.

Sarfraz concerned over Aamir's form

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed on Tuesday said he is concerned at the wicket-less spell of his strike bowler Mohammad Aamir, as his side geared up to take on arch-rivals India in the Asia Cup.

Left-arm pacer Aamir has not been amongst the wickets in recent times and his skipper was asked about it in the pre-match press conference.

"I am concerned but I don't think wickets itself are a reflection of performance. Take for example, India pacer (Mohammad) Shami's case in England. He bowled well but couldn't get wickets. I have spoken to him (Aamir) and told him that he is our strike bowler and has to pick wickets too. Hope he does that tomorrow," Sarfraz told reporters.

When asked about the challenge of playing in the extreme weather conditions, he said, "It is difficult in this weather and it should have been even for all the teams. I don't know what the ACC thought behind the schedule. I have not spoken to anyone about it."

Pakistan kicked off their campaign with a comprehensive win over Hong Kong, but India are going to be a different ball game altogether.

"Pressure is always there but we deal with it by telling ourselves that we should have the same intensity for every match. We take these matches normally but there is hype everywhere else, it does affect but we play it as just any other match."

Sarfraz refused to call the game India's batting versus Pakistan's bowling. "India might have prepared for our bowling, we have planned for their bowling



too. We are prepared and will execute our plans in match. I don't think it's India's batting versus our bowling, we have good batting too.

"They have got back-to-back matches but their schedule has started later than others. They would be under pressure because their performance coming into this tournament was not good."

Pakistan defeated Hong Kong by eight wickets to make a positive start to their campaign. Pakistan have played a lot in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in recent years. "People say it's our home ground but conditions are even for all the teams, the whether is like that of the sub-continent. It's a home ground for everyone. We are very clear about the team, I have discussed with the coach. We will field our best team."

India B stun India A to lift trophy

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

All-round performance by AS Sandhu, 36 runs and four wickets, helped India B upset India A by 10 runs, lifting Quadrangular U-19 One-Day Series at Ekana International Stadium on Tuesday.

Batting first, India B were bowled out for 141 runs in 42.2 overs with AS Sandhu (36) and Vamsi Krishna (37) being the main contributors. In reply, India A were bundled out for 131 runs in the 39.3 overs. Sandhu claimed four scalps.

BRIEF SCORES:
India B: 141 (Vamsi Krishna 37, AS Sandhu 36, Sameer Rizvi 18; Rajesh Mohanty 36/3, SA Desai 17/3)
India A: 131 (Sameer Chodhary 22, Ajay Dev Goud 18; AS Sandhu 35/4, Sabir Khan 32/3)



DHONI SHOULD BAT AT 4: ZAHEER

PTI ■ MUMBAI

On the eve of India-Pakistan clash in the ongoing Asia Cup, former pacer Zaheer Khan has said veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni should bat at the crucial No 4 position given his vast experience.

The former left-arm speedster also felt that the hundred struck by K L Rahul in the last and the fifth

Test against England last week will bolster his confidence in the continental showpiece being held in the UAE.

"At No 4, I do feel someone like MS Dhoni needs to give a go ahead because keeping the World Cup in mind, it's a very crucial position to soak in pressure and play according to the situation," Zaheer, a Star Sports Select Dugout expert, said in a statement Tuesday.

"So far, the Indian team has been winning matches when they have had a great start, but in situations where they do not have a good start, experience is required to control the situation," noted the 39-year-old, a veteran of 92 Tests and 200 one day internationals.

India, who started their Asia Cup campaign against minnows Hong Kong Tuesday, will take on arch rivals Pakistan Wednesday.

Captaincy is about 60% off field homework, Ponting's advice to Kohli

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Regarded as one of the most successful Australian skippers, Ricky Ponting said captaincy is about 60 per cent off the field preparation and 40 per cent on the pitch.

Ponting made the comment in reference to India captain Virat Kohli's leadership skills in the context of India's recently-concluded Test tour of England, which the visitors lost 1-4.

"I didn't watch every sin-

gle ball of the Test series. For me what happens off the field is more important," the former Australian said.

"On the field part like bowling changes or field placement is highly overrated. It is only about 30 or 40 per cent and the rest of the preparations takes place behind close doors before a match," he added.

In the aftermath of the disastrous England series, the focus now has shifted to India's upcoming tour of Australia and Ponting said the visitor's

success would largely depend on how well they adapt to the conditions Down Under.

"It's about adapting to the conditions here. Most of the visiting teams find it difficult to win here and that's the way Test cricket has been for long time in Australia. South Africa experienced the same. Similarly we find it difficult to win in India and South Africa," Ponting said.

"We know in last 50 years India have struggled to win Test series away from home.



For any team travelling to UK playing against a team as good as England, it is going to be difficult."

India will tour Australia from November 2018 to January 2019 to play four Tests, three ODIs and three T20 matches.

"For the upcoming series as far as India is concerned a lot will depend upon the wickets. If the ball seams a lot they will find it difficult in Australia. But if the wickets are flat like we saw some last year then it

can bring India right into the contest," Ponting said.

Meanwhile, Ponting refused to compare Kohli with Tendulkar and said the India captain still has a long way to go in his career.

"Comparisons are hard to make at this stage of Kohli's career. You are being compared with someone who has played 200 Tests. What you remember about Sachin is when he was finishing off. You don't remember when he was in mid 20s," he said.

'Australian cricket needs Smith back'

AFF ■ SYDNEY

Australian cricket needs disgraced ex-captain Steve Smith and he is likely to be welcomed back with open arms, former skipper Steve Waugh forecast on Tuesday, although it might be tougher for David Warner.

The pair are serving one-year suspensions from international and state cricket over their part in the ball-tampering scandal against South Africa in March, while opener Cameron Bancroft was banned for nine months.

"We need him back in Australian cricket," Waugh told Fox Sports Australia of 29-year-old Smith, who has played 64 Tests.

"You can't lose someone of his quality overnight and expect to replace it and he's still only relatively young." All three players accepted responsibility for the scandal that rocked the sport, with Smith's tearful apology on his arrival back in Australia tugging at the heartstrings.

"Waugh said fans 'still adore him'. "The Australian public, they are forgiving," he said. "He (Smith) made a mistake and he's paid a heavy price for it."

"But if he gets back out there and plays with the same enthusiasm and passion, he loves playing cricket, he loves scoring runs, he wants to get back playing for Australia, I think Australians will move past what happened before."

"They obviously remember it, but they're big enough to realise you can make a mistake and grow from that and be stronger." Warner, a dynamic batsman but a divisive figure in the game, may find it harder to earn acceptance again.

He was charged by Cricket Australia with developing the plot to use sandpaper to alter the ball. Despite this, Waugh said he hoped Warner would also get a second chance.

"I hope so, you have to give guys an opportunity to redeem themselves. They've apologised and paid a heavy price," he said, but warned it would not be easy for any of them to bounce back to the top.

"It's going to be a challenge for all of them to come back, it's not going to be as easy as people think," he said.





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China, ASEAN committed to advancing trade



Visitors are interacting with high-tech products during China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, China (Photo by Lu Boan/Xinhua)

On September 12, 15th China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Expo opened in the south China city of Nanning, putting fresh impetus into regional trade at a time when the anti-globalization sentiment in many parts of the world has imposed threats to regional economic integration.

Over the past 14 years, the expo has boosted China-ASEAN trade. China has expanded its exports of electronic products, construction materials, power equipment, con-

struction machines, as well as technology in new energy, high-speed trains, and agriculture, to ASEAN member states. The bloc's food, daily goods, and bulk commodities are favored by Chinese buyers.

At this year's expo, officials, executives, and businesspeople from China and Southeast Asia voiced their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the multilateral trade regime as well as opposition to unilateral protectionist measures taken by some countries.

"Relations between China and ASEAN have

stood the test of time and become the most successful and dynamic example of Asia-Pacific regional cooperation," Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng said at the opening ceremony of the expo.

China has been the largest trading partner of ASEAN for 9 consecutive years and ASEAN has been the 3rd largest trade partner of China for 7 consecutive years, according to Han.

Han said China is willing to make full use of platforms such as the upcoming China International Import Expo and

China-ASEAN Expo to expand imports from ASEAN member states and encourage bilateral investment.

"China is willing to promote the implementation of the upgraded China-ASEAN FTA and accelerate the negotiation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on the basis of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes," Han said.

Han's proposal to promote trade and investment was echoed by senior officials from the ASEAN member states. (Xinhua)

BRI will lead to global economic boom



One of the most impressive parts of the BRI is that it aspires to be a peaceful expansion between nations of open trade

Trade between all the countries proposed in the BRI (Belt Road Initiative) is possible today. But the BRI will make trade more efficient through newly built roads, railways, and shipping ports. The proposed infrastructure is through mutual agreement, not through threats of military intervention. If a country does not want to participate, they can simply refuse. It is their decision.

Having been born in the US (in 1954) and having lived there all but the past year, the BRI reminds me of the Interstate Highway System that was instigated by President Eisenhower in the 1950s.

It's true the Interstate Highway System only connected states that constitute the US and not a multitude of sovereign countries, but it greatly expanded trade between the states. It also provided tens of thousands of jobs during the decades it took to build it and opened up the country for more tourism and exploring by the common man.

Could the BRI eventually become sort of an Interstate Highway System

for the continents and countries of Europe, Africa, and Asia? Nobody can predict the future but it seems like a possibility. In the near term the BRI seems to consist primarily of railways and shipping lanes but there appears to be highways being built alongside in many cases. In the expansion of the US railways were often built before highways were built alongside them. Besides, railways can be more efficient ways for people to travel than by motor car. Either way, the BRI would open up more travel and tourism as a result of its primary purpose of trade in the near term.

One of the most impressive parts of the BRI, is that it aspires to be a peaceful expansion between nations of open trade. China is spearheading the project with the assistance of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The AIIB is also an economic endeavor of financial cooperation among most, if not all, the countries involved with the planning of the BRI.

Opening cooperative trade routes could not have come at a better time for China and the rest of Asia, Europe, and Africa. The result will be a massive infrastructure program that will span most of Asia, parts of Europe and parts of Africa to will enable free trade across these three continents.

(Robert McCkymond, who has retired as electrical engineer in the US, is now living in China. Abridged from China Daily)

Successful commissioning of Kunming branch line of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline

On August 30, diesel oil from Anning Initial Station of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline arrived at Kunming Terminal Station after a 32-hour extraordinary journey, marking the successful commissioning of Kunming Branch Line of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline. It also signifies the completion of the "three trunks & one branch" pipe-

line network of Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline Project, enabling transportation of multiple oil products such as gasoline, diesel and aviation kerosene, greatly improving the assured capacity of product oil supply in Yunnan Province.

Yunnan Product Oil Pipeline, one of the supporting facilities of China-Myanmar Crude Oil Pipeline

Project and Yunnan Refinery, is a pipeline network consisting of three trunk lines. With a total length of about 1,000km and annual transmission capacity of 7.21 million tons, it is expected to transmit the product oil of imported crude oil after being processed in Yunnan Petrochemical Co., Ltd.

(Zhu Dan and Huang Zhechun)



Photo shows China's first domestically-built polar research vessel and icebreaker "Xuelong 2" in Shanghai, east China, Sept. 10, 2018. "Xuelong 2" was launched on Monday in Shanghai. (Xinhua/Liu Shipping)

Intangible cultural heritage brings visiting foreigners closer to Yunnan



Expats are showing their artworks of Yunnan intangible cultural heritages (Online Photo)

Recently, a group of 44 foreigners from the US, Malaysia, Indonesia and so on came into closer contact with Yunnan intangible cultural heritages.

They gathered at a demonstration base of Yun-

nan intangible cultural heritages and spent the whole day learning and experiencing cultural protection projects such as tie-dyeing, bamboo weaving, handmade paper and pottery making.

Yunnan is a province blessed with diverse ethnic cultures. Up to now, Yunnan has 105 state-level intangible cultural heritage programs and 450 provincial-level ones. Following the explanation of the staff members in the base, all of the group members discovered the process of handmade papers, geometric principles in tie-dyeing and craftsmanship of potteries.

Yunnan is also known as the "hometown of tea in China". And during the visit to the base, the expats enjoyed different kinds of tea planted in various areas of Yunnan. Some of them said that they felt great as they can discover the beauty of traditional art forms of Yunnan and they had understand more about Yunnan in a special and intimate way. (Yunnan Gateway)

Diqing inheritor (2): Lobsang Tashi sees bright future for his metal handicrafts



Lobsang Tashi is making a hammer (Photo by Li Wenjun)

Three hammers, with hand imprints on the handles, have been kept at the house of Lobsang Tashi for more than 600 years.

"This imprint here is the evidence of the development of the traditional technique from generation to generation." Lobsang Tashi said proudly while stroking the hammers in the showcase. Lobsang Tashi, 55, is the 14th-generation inher-

itor of traditional metal casting technique. He was among the first batch of provincial inheritors of intangible cultural heritage and also a provincial master of art and crafts in Yunnan.

Lobsang Tashi specializes in metal manufacturing: 5 of his works have been collected by Chinese National Museum of Ethnology; To get a Tibetan knife forged by him, you

have to order in advance and wait for years; Silver ornaments he made are favored by numerous tourists.

Based on fine Tibetan casting craftsmanship passed down for generations, Lobsang Tashi has promoted overseas the unique intangible cultural heritage.

Lobsang Tashi's factory lies in Deqin County, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province. There, workers are processing accessories, while Lobsang was finalizing the design of tags for 12 zodiac signs.

When it comes to appraising events on Tibetan culture, he will surely be invited to. "Tiring indeed, but such businesses are all worth my efforts," said Lobsang.

The most worthy doing, for Lobsang Tashi, is to pass down the fine craftsmanship in Tibetan culture. With the support from local cultural authorities and institutions, he has set up a protection and study center for Tibetan metal techniques in the Deqin county seat.

His works are well-accepted and loved by many. (Xiong Yan, Chu Donghua, Zhang Ruoguo)

Kunming connects Guangzhou-Shenzhen to Hong Kong HSR

The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed railway will be put into operation on September 23, according to news released by the China Railway Guangzhou Group. And Kunming, as one of the stations on the line, will be connected to Hongkong.

The 141-km Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Railway, including 26-km in Hong Kong, with more than 40 stations, is a key part of the national high-speed railway network.

The sale of tickets began at 8 a.m. on September 10. According to the news released, the travel time from Kunming(Kunmingnan Railway Station) to Hong Kong(West Kowloon Station) will be 7.5 hours and the price of the second-class seat is 750.5RMB.



Passenger showing the ticket for the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed railway (Photo from Xinhua)

Tips: For advance ticketing arrangement, travelers can go to www.12306.cn (mainland China) or www.mtr.com.hk/high-speed (Hong Kong, China)

Tel: 86-12306 (mainland China) or 852-21200888 (Kong Kong, China)

The ticket information can be seen in the stations as well.

(Li Hengqiang)

China's Haier inks pact to set up second industrial park in India

Chinese leading home appliances brand Haier announced signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of India's northern state Uttar Pradesh, to set up its second industrial park.

Under the agreement, Haier will set up its industrial park in the state over the next 4 years in 2 phases.

The new industrial park, to come up nearly 30 miles away from New Delhi in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida area, is expected to begin operations by 2020.

This new investment is expected to create almost 4,000 new direct employment opportunities and over 10,000 indirect jobs.

The investment is aimed at scaling up the production capacity of Haier products across categories like refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners and LED panels.

The expansion will serve as an opportunity



for vendors and original equipment manufacturers, bringing about an expanded business with increased local production and lesser imports of products.

With this Haier has strengthened its commitment towards the Indian government's "Make in India" initiative to boost local manufacturing.

The MoU was signed between Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and Haier vice-president (global appliances) Song Yujun.

The new plant will have an annual production capacity of 2 million refrigerators, 1 million air conditioners, 1 million washing machines and 1

million LED TVs.

Speaking on the occasion, Song said that he was optimistic about Haier's growth in India.

"India is a dynamic and important market for the Haier Group. Setting up the new manufacturing unit will not only help us build a better presence in the country, but will also enable us to innovate more for our Indian customers with solutions that complement their evolving lifestyles," he said.

Eric Braganza, president of Haier India, said, "in line with our commitment to the central government's 'Make in India' initiative, we are delighted to announce the second industrial park in the country."

Haier India initiated manufacturing of refrigerators in India in 2007 at its factory in Ranjangaon in south-western city of Pune, which was further expanded into the company's first industrial park in India. (Xinhua)

Yunnan receives more tourists this summer

With the summer vacation coming to an end, the faculties and students set off back to school. And Yunnan witnessed a growth in the number of tourists during the vacation.

According to statistics, Kunming Changshui International airport handled 8.34 million passengers and 75,503 tons of cargo from July to August, up by 8 percent and 6 percent respectively on a year-over-year basis.

In terms of the railway, the Kunming Bureau of China Railway Corporation

(CRC) said that during the summer vacation about 12 million trips were made by railway passengers, up by 28.8 percent year-on-year. And about 5.9 million trips were made by high speed railway passengers.

Due to the convenient transportation, pleasant weather and picturesque scenery, many tourist destinations across Yunnan, especially those in the western part of the province like Dali and Chuxiong, receives far more visitors than before. (Yunnan Gateway)

Story of Xichou (3): Land of lucid waters and lush mountains



Clean and beautiful scenery of Xichou, southeast Yunnan (Photo by Lei Tongsu)

Faced with severe stony desertification, the people in Xichou have deep understandings of the philosophy of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets".

Starting from the first attempt in Muzhe Village in 1990, they have never stopped fighting against the difficult living conditions. They have created a successful model in the comprehensive treatment of rocky desertification, turning the land into a green ecological home.

Entering the demonstration area of the Improvement Project of Medium- and Low-yielding Farmlands

in Banggu Township, we were surprised by the eye-catching views. The roads are linked as nets and the pools are connected.

8 years ago, this rocky desertification area began to revive. Local people picked up electric drills, drove excavators and shouldered carrying poles, turning the 897.8 acres dry land into fertile land.

According to statistics, Xichou has treated more than 140 square kilometers of rocky desertification and built more than 16,474 acres of terraced fields.

(Xu Tiyi and Zhang Denghai)