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ARSENAL BEAT WEST HAM IN PL CLASH 15 SPORT

CAB fury engulfs N-E

Protesters clash with police at many places; market set on fire; 48-hr Net ban in Tripura



Demonstrators burn tyres during a strike called by All Assam Students' Union and the North East Students' Organisation in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, in Guwahati, on Tuesday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in the Lok Sabha, the North-East on Tuesday erupted over the proposed law. Police and protesters clashed at several places and the Government enforced a 48-hour Internet ban in Tripura. A day before the Bill is tabled in the Rajya Sabha, normal life was paralysed in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley during the shutdown, led by the All Assam Students' Union and the North East Students' Organisation (NESO). The strike by AASU and NESO coincided with the bandh called by Leftist outfits, including the SFI, DYFI, AIDWA, AISF and AISA. Protesters took out huge processions in different areas of

Guwahati against the proposed legislation.

Agitators engaged in scuffle with security forces near the Secretariat and Assembly buildings in Assam when they were prevented from moving forward, according to the police.

In Dibrugarh district, bandh supporters clashed with CISF personnel and three protesters sustained injuries as they tried to prevent workers of Oil India Ltd (OIL) from entering their offices in Dulaijan.

The protesters also blocked railway tracks leading train services across Assam getting affected. The bandh also forced

the universities to shelve and reschedule examinations. The strike, however, had little impact in Bengali-dominated Barak Valley.

In Tripura, agitators participating in a bandh called by the NESO, set a market, mostly owned by non-tribals, on fire in Dhalai district, according to the police.

However, no one sustained injuries in the incident and the blaze at Manughat market was doused.

While security forces have been deployed in the market, the incident has triggered fear among the non-tribals who owned most of the shops,

JD(U), Sena in two minds over Citizenship Bill

Sena sets condition: Clarify concerns for our support; JD(U)'s Prashant, Verma ask party to oppose Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day before the Rajya Sabha is scheduled to take up the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), the Shiv Sena and the Janata Dal(U) appeared to be caught in a dilemma over supporting the Bill in the Upper House.

While Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the Shiv Sena won't back the CAB in the Rajya Sabha till there is clarity on the party's queries posed in the Lok Sabha, JD(U) leaders Prashant Kishor and Pawan Varma have asked Nitish to rethink the party's support to the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, which has set aside 6 hours for a debate on it.

"Disappointed to see JD(U) supporting CAB that discriminates right of citizenship on

the basis of religion. It's incongruous with the party's constitution that carries the word secular thrice on the very first page and the leadership that is supposedly guided by Gandhian ideals", said JD(U) vice president Prashant Kishor.

Another senior JD(U) leader and former diplomat Pawan Varma echoed similar views saying,

according to police officials. The bandh threw normal life out of gear in Dhalai, West Tripura and Khowai districts with residents remaining indoors while attendance in offices remained thin, accord-



ing to reports. Train services in the entire State of Tripura came to a complete halt and vehicular movement was also hit.

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Related reports on P6

Convicts to hang on same date they raped Nirbhaya?

Shifting of convict to Tihar jail fuels speculation about Dec 16 execution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The shifting of Pawan Kumar Gupta — one of the convicts in the December 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case in a moving bus in Delhi — from Mandoli Jail in North east Delhi to Tihar jail has fueled speculation that the four convicts will be hanged on December 16, the seventh anniversary of the ghastly incident.

Sources said preparations are going on to hang the convicts once President Ram Nath Kovind turns down the mercy plea. Earlier Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is also the Minister for Department of Justice, is reported to have rejected the mercy petition of one of the accused Vinay Sharma. However, officials were tight lipped whether the convicts would be hanged on the death anniversary of Nirbhaya to send a strong message.

Gupta, who was lodged in the Mandoli Jail, was shifted to Tihar recently, Director General (Prison) Sandeep Goel said. Gupta is lodged in Jail No. 2 of Tihar, where two other convicts in the case — Mukesh Singh and Akshay — are also lodged, while Vinay Sharma is in Jail No. 4 of Tihar, another jail official said. Vinay Sharma, a former assistant at Sirifort gymnasium is in Jail No. 4 of Tihar, a jail official said.

A minor who was said to have tortured Nirbhaya the most was however, left off after he served his sentence in a juvenile remand home.

Ram Singh the leader of the gang, who had raped and



pulled out the organs of the hapless girl, was found dead in his cell.

"Nirbhaya", meaning fearless, is the changed name of the 23-year-old physiotherapy intern, who was raped and brutalised in a moving bus in south Delhi by six persons, including the bus driver, conductors and helpers, on December 16, 2012.

After receiving treatment in New Delhi for a few days, she was transferred to the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, where she succumbed to her injuries on December 29, 2012.

All the accused in the case, including a juvenile, were arrested and charged with sexual assault and murder. One of them, Singh, died in police custody. The rest went on trial in a fast-track court. The juvenile was convicted of rape and murder and given the maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment in a reform facility.

On September 10, 2013, the four remaining adult

accused were found guilty of rape and murder and three days later, sentenced to death by hanging. On March 13, 2014, the Delhi High Court upheld the guilty verdict and the death sentences.

Sengar's fate to be decided on Dec 16 as rape verdict reserved

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday reserved verdict for next week in the case of alleged kidnapping and rape of a woman by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in Unnao in 2017.

During in-camera proceedings, District Judge Dharmesh Sharma reserved the judgment for December 16 after hearing final arguments by the CBI and the accused in the case. The judge heard the case on a day-to-day basis from August 5 after it was transferred to Delhi from a court in Lucknow on Supreme Court's directions.

The woman was allegedly kidnapped and raped by Sengar in 2017 when she was a minor. The court has also framed charges against co-accused Shashi Singh in the case. Sengar was expelled from the BJP in August 2019.

The court had on August 9 framed charges against the MLA and Singh under Sections 120 b (criminal conspiracy), 363 (kidnapping), 366 (kidnapping or inducing a woman to compel for marriage), 376 (rape) and other sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

On July 28 this year, the car in which the victim was travelling was hit by a truck and she was severely injured. The woman's two aunts were killed in the accident and her family had alleged foul play.

Her father was allegedly framed in an illegal arms case and arrested on April 3, 2018. He died in judicial custody a few days later, on April 9.

Continued on Page 4

US panel seeks ban on Shah; India asks who're you

US body asks Trump Admin to slap sanction on India's HM for Citizenship Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The US Government panel on religious freedom has slammed the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), inviting strong protest from India. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said the CAB is a dangerous turn in the wrong direction and asked the US administration to consider imposing sanctions against Home Minister Amit Shah and other principal Indian leadership if the Bill with the "religious criterion" is enacted into a law.

The USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan federal Government entity established by the US Congress to analyse and report on threats to religious freedom abroad. The USCIRF on its website says it makes foreign policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and Congress intended to deter religious persecution and promote freedom of religion and belief.

Taking exception to



USCIRF statement, India on Tuesday said it was "regrettable" that the entity, which has no locus standi on the issue, has chosen to be guided by its "prejudices and biases" on the matter.

Rejecting comments by the USCIRF, Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said here the position articulated by the commission was not surprising given its past record.

"It is, however, regrettable that the body has chosen to be guided only by its prejudices and biases on a matter on which it clearly has little knowledge and no locus standi," he asserted. Around a decade

back, the USCIRF had also favoured denying of tourist visa to Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat. In its statement, the USCIRF said, "CAB is a dangerous turn in the wrong direction; it runs counter to India's rich history of secular pluralism and the Indian Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law regardless of faith," adding that it was deeply troubled over the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Kumar asserted that every nation, including the US, has the right to enumerate and validate its citizenry, and to exer-

cise the prerogative through various policies.

He said the statement on the Bill is "neither accurate nor warranted," adding the Bill provides expedited consideration for Indian citizenship to persecuted religious minorities already in India from certain contiguous countries.

He said the proposed legislation seeks to address their current difficulties and meet their basic human rights and that such an initiative should not be criticised by those who are genuinely committed to religious freedom.

"The CAB does not affect the existing avenues available to all communities interested in seeking citizenship from doing so. The recent record of granting such citizenship would bear out the Government of India's objectivity in that regard," Kumar said.

"Neither the CAB nor the National Register of Citizens (NRC) process seeks to strip citizenship from any Indian citizen of any faith. Suggestions to that effect are motivated and unjustified," Kumar said.

Anglo-Indians' nomination to LS, Assemblies done away with

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the SC and ST community will enjoy the benefit of reservation in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies for another 10 years, though the Government decided not to extend the same existing privilege to the Anglo-Indian community.

The Lok Sabha passed a Constitution amendment bill in on Tuesday. The Opposition slammed the Government for not extending the benefit to the Anglo-Indian community.

Replying to the concerns of the MPs, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said as per the correct definition and latest Census, as of now, there are only 296 members of the Anglo-Indian community, with a maximum of 124 in Kerala.

Continued on Page 4

BHU Prof Firoz transferred from faculty of SVDV to Sanskrit Dept

PTI ■ VARANASI

BHU professor Feroze Khan, whose appointment as a teacher in the faculty of Sanskrit Vidya Dharam Vignyan (SVDV) led to protests by some university students, resigned from his post and joined the Sanskrit department of Faculty of Arts in BHU, sources said on Tuesday. SVDV Faculty Dean Bindeswari Prasad Mishra confirmed the news.

This comes amid protest by students against his appointment at SVDV last month. The students had boycotted his classes and staged a dharna outside the vice-chancellor's office, claiming that only a Hindu can train them in religious rituals. They had said that Feroz is free to teach Sanskrit elsewhere.

Continued on Page 4

TMC-Governor feud spreads from Bengal to RS

SAUGAR SENGUPTA/PNS ■ KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

The sharp differences between West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee echoed in Parliament on Tuesday, deepening the bitter conflict that has brought the State Raj Bhavan and Writers' Building face-to-face on day-to-day basis.

The Trinamool Congress MPs on Tuesday raised slogans against the Governor and staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha complaining against the Governor's conduct.

On his part, Dhankhar again slammed the ruling outfit and accused it of implicating the Governor's office in

"dirty State politics." "I am greatly pained at the behaviour and conduct of the Government," the Governor said referring to his alleged delay in signing the SC/ST Commission Bill passed by the State Assembly.

A "dirty politics is being played by them ... as if the Governor is sitting on the Bill ... which is not so," said Dhankhar, adding that before giving his assent to a Bill he had every right to know about it.

"They are taking mileage out of this issue by involving my name ... but what can I do if they move at the pace of a bullock cart," said the Governor, adding "my only request is don't make me a political tool."



Earlier the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her displeasure over the delay on part of the Governor in giving clearance to the Bill. She reportedly told her confidants how the Governor is making inordinate delay in giving his assent to the Bill.

"Already SC-ST laws are in place in 12 States," said Mamata, asking "why is he stopping the Bill is not clear to me? Why the Bill is not being signed? Why it has been left like that though all requisite information has been provided to the Governor?"

Slamming Dhankhar, TMC MP Derek O'Brien said, "The WB Governor has withheld the legislation that was cleared by the West Bengal

Assembly. This is an insult to the Constitution, West Bengal Assembly, both Dalit and tribal communities and the people of West Bengal."

The TMC is now demanding that the Narendra Modi Government should call back the Governor, he said adding, "The Governor's house has turned into a local shakha of the RSS."

TMC Rajya Sabha member Sukhendu Shekhar Roy said, "Everyday he is attacking the State Government on one pretext or the other ... while he has taken an oath to abide by the Constitution he is not doing so. Rather he is acting like a BJP agent and working in that interest. We want this Governor to be withdrawn from Bengal."

In the Assembly too, the TMC MLAs on Tuesday staged a protest against the delay the Governor's sign to the Bill. Party MLA Seuli Saha said, "I being a member of the SC community feel humiliated and so I am protesting here at the Assembly House."

In the meantime taking the conflict between the Raj Bhavan and Secretariat to a new height, the State Government is bringing another Bill that would further clip the wings of the Governor. Accordingly, the Chancellor, who is also the Governor of the State, will no longer decide on who will represent him in the universities.

Continued on Page 4

Mandi Samiti sets up stalls to sell onion at lower price

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

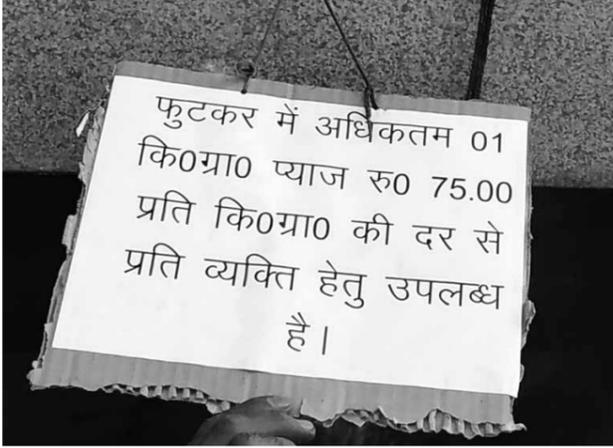
With the price of onions soaring with each passing day, the Mandi Samiti has come forward to provide some relief to the people in the State's provisional capital. The Samiti has opened two counters in Niranjanpur Mandi where the onions will be sold at Rs 75 per kilogramme. From past several days, the rates have been Rs 100 per kilogramme in the market.

The two counters are placed at PL Chaddha Traders C-42 and Gulshan Trading Company C-15. The stalls sell onions at lesser rates from 10 am till 2 pm. According to Mandi Samiti inspector Ajay Dabral, the onions in Dehradun are sourced from Nasik.

He said that the price of onions have risen because the supply has stopped from Nasik. "Nasik is like the heart which is the most important organ, Alwar and other places from where the onions are brought are like the supporting organs of a human body," he said.

"The rates will come down once the supply from Nasik resumes," he added. He informed that 678.80 quintal onions alone have been supplied from Alwar. Another variety of onion which is bigger than the normal one is being imported from Turkey.

"Mostly the restaurant and hotel owners buy the imported onion as it is cheap-



er. Although, these are cheaper and bigger than the ones which come from Nasik or Alwar, it has not made a place in people's kitchens," he said.

Dabral informed that the bigger onions which are imported from Turkey reach Doon valley via Afghanistan and Punjab. Although the Mandi Samiti has taken this initiative to help the public, the sellers at

the two stalls are not that happy with the decision. According to a seller, Shrawan Kumar Garg, they are bearing a loss of around Rs 10 per kilogramme and are not happy with the move.

"We are just following the orders of the secretary of the Mandi Samiti otherwise one wouldn't like to bear such losses," said Garg.

Traffic lights anomalies affecting traffic management

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Anomalies in traffic lights are causing problem in the management of traffic in Dehradun.

The traffic light situated at Doon Hospital Chowk is partially hidden by a tree branch whereas there is an intersection point at Nehru Colony which leads to Lakshmi Road where absence of both street lights and traffic lights have caused several small scale accidents.

Superintendent of Police (traffic) Prakash Chandra Arya said, "The traffic light at Doon Hospital Chowk since the starting has been never put to use, it was always inactive so the visibility is not an issue there.

In any case under the Smart City projects all the traffic lights will be converted into smart traffic lights, after which this issue will automatically get resolved."

He further said, "About the absence of traffic lights at several points we have already sent proposal for six traffic lights needed at such points including the intersection near income tax, Kaulagarh Chowk, Bindal and Chhe Number Puliya.

On the other hand about the problem of proper electricity supply at the intersection point we will coordinate with the departments con-



cerned." It is pertinent to mention here that at several points the absence or inactiveness of traffic lights lead to disorderly traffic and other issues. Dehradun Senior

Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan Joshi has directed SP Traffic to take cognisance of such issues and then take actions accordingly.

Police to coordinate with private guards for night security in residential areas

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In order to ensure more security in the colonies, especially in areas where it is difficult for police patrolling units to conduct thorough security checks, Dehradun police is planning to hire private security through independent agencies.

These private guards are proposed to get their pay from the residential colonies but will work as the support of the patrolling unit.

Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan Joshi said that the picket checking in the city is at its best during the night time, but it is difficult for the patrolling units to cover such a vast area at all times.

According to the information provided by the local police, the idea for hiring is still in the planning stage. The colonies which are more likely to be targeted will be among the first with whom district police will coordinate.

If the residents agree to the plan regarding hiring a private security guard and for paying his salary from their own pockets then the plan will be carried forward.

If not, the district police will continue to do their work and likely find another way to eradicate the chances of any night time burglaries.

MCD improves Swachchhta App ranking

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) has succeeded in improving the city's ranking in the Swachchhta Application. The MCD's ranking last year was 1401 which has now reached to 80th position. According to deputy municipal commissioner Rohitash Sharma, it has been noticed that the MCD was continuously working but because of delay in filling the city file, the city's ranking went low in the past.

"Now what has changed is that we are continuously filling the details in city profile. With every action the MCD takes, we fill in the details that very moment," said Sharma.

He said that this is the main reason for the ranking in Swachchhta app improving. A nodal officer has been appointed to check if the details are being filled consistently or not. "Our ranking in the app has improved because of our campaign against the single-use plastic too."

Spreading awareness is the most important criteria to improve the ranking which has been very well initiated by the plastic-ban campaign," he said. According to the nodal officer, Sanjay Kumar, the Swachchhta application is a part of the Swachchh Survekshan. "This is just the ranking in application; we are working to increase our ranking in Swachchh Survekshan, 2020," said Kumar.

Kumar informed that the ranking in the application is completely based on awareness about the application and problem solving. "First step is to make the people aware about the app so that they can register themselves

MCD collects ₹52,500 fine, seizes 3 trolleys with materials



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

On the fifth day of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun's (MCD) drive to remove debris and construction material from the main roads, the MCD took action against a total of 24 people.

Out of 24, fine was imposed on eight people and an amount of Rs 52,500 was collected from these persons. Actions were taken against 16 people/institutions in which the MCD seized three trolley loads of construction material and debris which were placed on the roads. The seized

material was then placed in the campus of MCD. The drive on Tuesday started from Saharanpur Chowk via Bhandaribagh to Kargi Chowk.

According to the deputy municipal commissioner Rohitash Sharma, the MCD also undertook the task of dressing the areas from where the construction material was collected.

"People had placed the debris and construction material like bricks and gravel on the roads without permission.

Major problem faced because of this is the disruption of traffic. By placing

the construction material on the roads, they had illegally occupied these spots. The MCD is working on removing the same and making the roads free of such obstructions," he added. Sharma informed that the debris has been removed completely from EC Road, Canal Road, Subhash Road, Sahasthradhara Road and Race Course.

"People must feel free to inform the MCD if they see any kind of construction material and debris placed on the roads. They can complain via Swachchhta App or by directly calling us," he added.

4 students held by police for creating ruckus

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Another argument between two student organisations in DAV PG College on Tuesday escalated to violence. So much so that the police force present there had to detain few students.

Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan Joshi said that such behaviour inside any educational institution is totally unacceptable and they will be taking proper actions in this matter.

Dalanwala police then arrested four students under the sections 147, 323 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), whereas 15-20 unidentified persons fled the incident scene.

According to sources, the two student organisations involved in the altercation are the Aryan group and the group of students who had left Akhil

Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad (ABVP) few days before the student body elections. Sources further stated that the disagreement has been going on since the elections about one of organisations not supporting the other in elections. The rebel group of ABVP won the president's seat breaking the 10 years record of ABVP bagging the seat.

According to the information provided by the local police, they received information that two student organi-



sations were fighting at DAV PG College gate. Upon reaching there it was found that the students were abusing and hitting each other violently. Police had to use light force to pull them apart after which four of them were arrested from the

spot while others scattered in view of the actions being taken by police. The arrested students have been identified as two Uttarkashi natives Deepak Rana and Hem Bahadur along with two Raipur residents Aman and Gaurav.

Uttarakhand Police Headquarters 12 Subash Road Marg, Dehradun

E-TENDER NOTICE						
S. No	Name of the equipments	Bids Number	Last Date & Time for receipt of tender	Date & Time for opening technical offer	of	
01	Cell Graber	DG-2/3-70(45)2019	16-12-2019 17:00 Hrs	17-12-2019 11:00 Hrs		
02	Deep Freezer	DG-2/3-70(45)2019	16-12-2019 17:00 Hrs	17-12-2019 11:00 Hrs		

For more information of Re-E-tender Please login <http://uktenders.gov.in>

AIG, PM
Police HQ, Uttarakhand, Dehradun

RO. 10078

कार्यालय नगर निगम देहरादून

पत्रांक संख्या 1735 / AMRUT ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक 10/12/2019

नगर निगम देहरादून द्वारा राज्य अथवा केन्द्र सरकार के शासकीय/अर्द्धशासकीय विभागों/निगमों में वर्ष 2019-20 हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदार/फर्मों को नगर निगम देहरादून क्षेत्रांतर्गत निम्नांकित निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा दू-बिड सिस्टम के तहत ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन वेबसाइट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 27.12.2019 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। सम्बन्धित कार्यों में दस फर्मों को इस हेतु प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। निम्नलिखित कार्यों की तकनीकी बिड में अर्ह पाये गये निविदादाताओं की वित्तीय बिड खोली जायेगी। उक्त कार्य की निविदा दिनांक 11.12.2019 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 27.12.2019 को अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन डाउनलोडिंग/अपलोडिंग के लिए उक्त वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध होगी।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	आंगणन घनराशि (लाख में)	घरोहर घनराशि (लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य+(18% जी.एस.टी.सहित)रु० में	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा की वैधता
1.	इन्दिरा नगर में ग्रीन बेल्ट का निर्माण	94.46	2.00	5900	09 माह	03 माह
2.	भण्डारी बाग में पार्क का निर्माण	62.78	1.25	5900	06 माह	03 माह

निविदा घनराशि तथा घरोहर घनराशि की एफ०डी०आर० वरिष्ठ पित अधिकारी नगर निगम देहरादून के नाम से जमा करनी होगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तें तथा तत्सम्बन्धित जानकारी नगर निगम देहरादून की वेबसाइट www.nagarnigamdehradun.com में अवलोकन एवं प्राप्त की जा सकती है। किसी एक अथवा समस्त निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम देहरादून के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम देहरादून

Religious & business fraternities look forward to Kumbh Mela

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

About one year is left for the Kumbh Mela to be held in Haridwar during 2021. With the state government focused on ensuring that the Kumbh Mela is grander than past such events, the officials concerned are busy with various works while members of the religious and business fraternity along with the locals are also keeping a watch over the Kumbh Mela works. The various works are being supervised by the Kumbh Mela officer Deepak Rawat, who has earlier served as the Haridwar district magistrate for three years. It is expected that his experience as the district magistrate of Haridwar will enable him to do the needful efficiently for the Kumbh Mela.

In the meanwhile, various organisations and bodies including the Shri Ganga Sabha, Akhada Parishad and Prantiya Udhog Vyapar Pratinidhi Mandal among others are confident that the various works which are currently under construction will be completed before the 2021 Kumbh Mela. Talking to The



Pioneer, representatives of various fraternities expressed their views on the ongoing works and their expectations. The Shri Ganga Sabha conducts the Ganga Arti at Har ki Paudi and undertakes various other activities here. Its general secretary Tanmay Vashishth says that the State Government and Kumbh Mela administration have assured that all the works will be completed on time.

"In addition to the Kumbh Mela works, underground wiring, solar lights, LED, Ganga gate, shoe stall, transfer of police post, Kangra Ghat widening and other works at Har ki Paudi are also to be undertaken with Rs 34 crore contributed earlier by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited to the Clean Ganga fund." Mahamandaleshwar



Kailashanand Brahmachari said that the Akhada Parishad wants the Kumbh Mela of Haridwar to be a very grand occasion. He said, "In all the meetings with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, he has assured that the Kumbh Mela works will be completed on time." The Prantiya Udhog Vyapar Pratinidhi Mandal district head Suresh Gulati said that the traders want the highway construction work to be expedited. Further, the parking facility should



be maximized. He further said that the traders' fraternity will also coordinate with the administration to ensure a smooth Kumbh Mela.

छावनी परिषद, क्लेमेन्ट टाउन

निविदा सूचना

छावनी परिषद, क्लेमेन्ट टाउन 72 वॉट की 350 एन०ई०डी० स्टील लार्ज फिक्चर्स की आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करती है। निविदायें केवल बजाज, फिलिप्स, क्रॉम्टन एवं सूर्या कम्पनियों के मॉडल हेतु अधिकृत डीलरों से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदाओं की शर्तें एवं विवरण छावनी परिषद क्लेमेन्ट टाउन की वेबसाइट www.cbcllementtown.org.in एवं www.eprocure.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

पत्रांक - 239 / सी०डी०सी० दिनांक - 10.12.2019

मुख्य अधिसूचारी अधिकारी, छावनी परिषद, क्लेमेन्ट टाउन

U'khand Assembly Winter Session adjourned sine die

Contentious Char Dham Devsthanam Management Bill 2019 passed amid walk out by Congress



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Winter Session of Uttarakhand Assembly was adjourned sine die by the Speaker Prem Chand Agarwal on Tuesday. The Assembly passed the contentious Char Dham Devsthanam Management Bill-2019 on the day amid walk out by the Congress members. The Congress was demanding that the contentious bill should be placed in the select committee of the assembly for further discussion.

Informing about the need to bring the bill for management of the Char Dhams, the Tourism and Religious Affairs minister, Satpal Maharaj said that this year 32.40 lakh pilgrims visited the Char Dhams of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri which is 25.15 per cent more

than the previous year. He said that for the management of the Badrinath and Kedarnath shrines a separate act is there but no such provision is there for the Yamunotri and Gangotri.

The minister said that a report of law commission suggested that a shrine board on the lines of similar boards of Tirupati, Shirdi and Vaishnavevi should be set in Uttarakhand. He added that the definition of stakeholder is given in the bill and interests of all stakeholders would be protected.

The Leader of Opposition (LoP) Indira Hridayesh said that since the bill was brought in haste it should be handed over to the select committee of the house for further discussions. She said that more than 30,000 families are directly linked with these shrines and

all of them are apprehensive and are on streets in protest.

The Kedarnath MLA Manoj Rawat objected to the many provisions of the bill. He also pointed out many spelling mistakes and objected to the use of shrine and Char Dham in the bill. Rawat said that as per the Hindu beliefs only Badrinath is the Dham while Kedarnath is a Jyotirlinga and the temples of Gangotri and Yamunotri are Teerths.

He said that the government is saying that the interests of all stakeholders would be protected but questioned the presence of only three representatives of stakeholders in the 26 member board.

Jageshwar MLA Govind Singh Kunjwal said that the Teerth Purohitis are on the path of agitation on the bill and the draft of the bill has many flaws. He said that the

Five-fold increase in revenue deficit

Fiscal deficit at 3.65% of GSDP, above normative target of 3.25% of GSDP recommended by 15th Finance Commission

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Presenting a bleak picture of the financial health of Uttarakhand, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its report on State finances and audit tabled in Uttarakhand assembly on Tuesday has said that the revenue deficit has witnessed a five-fold increase in the year 2017-18 as compared to the year 2016-17.

Incidentally Uttarakhand was a revenue surplus state in the year 2013-14. The revenue deficit of the State in the year 2016-17 was Rs 383 crore which increased to Rs 1978 crore in the year 2017-18. The fiscal deficit also increased from Rs 5467 crore in the year 2016-17 to Rs 7935 crore in the year 2017-18.

In its report, the CAG mentions that the fiscal deficit at 3.65 per cent of GSDP was above the normative target of 3.25 per cent of GSDP as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. The CAG also indicted the Government departments for non submission of 102 Utilisation Certificates (UC) due

for submission by March 2018 to the Accountant General. It suggested that the government should ensure the timely submission of UCs by the departments. The CAG indicted the medical health and family welfare department for failing to realise compensation of Rs 18 crore from doctors for breach of contracts.

When contacted, the parliamentary affairs minister and State Government spokesperson Madan Kaushik said that all the financial parameters are within the permissible limit. He attributed increase in fiscal deficit to the infrastructural projects.

Singh Rawat said that the interests of the shopkeepers around the Gangotri temple should be protected. The Yamunotri MLA Kedar Singh Rawat also participated in the discussion.

In his response, Satpal Maharaj assured that the positive suggestions of the members would be accepted. Incidentally after the opposition raised by the MLAs on

provides for only one vice president (VP), another post of VP should be created and the appointment to it should be from among the stakeholders.

He added that the jobs of all the employees of the BKTC should be protected and the number of the members from among the stakeholders should be increased in the board. Gangotri MLA, Gopal

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Interests of THDC employees will be protected: Kaushik

Indira Hridayesh es in sine chind dis in es en r i carmin any

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister Madan Kaushik said that the State Government would protect the interests of the employees and locals if the Union Government decides to disinvest THDC India limited.

The minister was responding to the question raised by the Congress members on the issue under rule 58 on Tuesday. Initiating the discussion, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Indira Hridayesh questioned the motive of union Government behind disinvesting a profit making organisation like THDC India limited. She said the merger cre-

ates apprehension among employees and these apprehensions should be removed. She added that rehabilitation of many families affected by the construction of Tehri dam is still pending and sought to know the status of these families post merger.

The Congress MLA, Pritam Singh said that the THDC is a Mini Ratna company and its disinvestment raises questions. Singh also raised the issue of alleged corruption in award of tenders in the UJVNL. He alleged corruption in the award of tender as tender amount was increased arbitrarily from Rs six crore to Rs nine crore.

Singh said that the work was completed in only 21 days and for that purpose a JCB machine was shown working for 657 hours which is impossible as 21 days have only 504 hours.

He demanded constitution of SIT on the issue. In his response the minister gave a detailed account of the tender process adopted and denied that any corruption has occurred in the tender process.

assembly, the speaker said that a total 19 bills were passed by the assembly in the winter session.

Similarly six ordinances were placed in the assembly during the session. He said that he received 29 petitions of members and all of them were accepted. Similarly 125 notices were received under rule 300 out of which 28 were accepted.

Ministers cornered by BJP MLAs

Satpal Maharaj, Yashpal Arya grilled during Question Hour

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The members of the treasury benches made the Ministers uncomfortable with their questions in the state assembly on Tuesday. The BJP MLA from Lohaghat, Puran Singh Fartyal cornered the Tourism and Irrigation minister Satpal Maharaj when he said that the irrigation department has registered a contractor who has a dubious record. He said that an FIR was lodged against the said contractor in the irregularities in the Tanakpur-Jauljibi road project.

He said the contractor in collusion with the officials of irrigation department is applying for tenders in the irrigation department. In his response the minister informed that an inquiry would be conducted and the contractor would be

blacklisted if found guilty. On it Fartyal said that the said contractor has already been found guilty in one inquiry regarding a major project.

The Transport and Social Welfare minister, Yashpal Arya also faced uneasy moments in the assembly while answering questions related to his department. In a question regarding increase in substance abuse in the State the minister while accepting it said the department is engaged in extensive campaign to educate masses on the ill effects of substance abuse.

When the members who included senior BJP MLAs like Harbans Kapoor and Munna Singh Chauhan asked about the government's plan to tackle the problem, the minister replied that his department has limited powers on the subject. Chauhan said that since the problem of substance abuse in an area like Dehradun is related to factors concerning to neighbouring States also, coordination with other States is needed.

High Court stays Government's order on deemed forests

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The High Court of Uttarakhand has stayed a recent government order on definition of deemed forests wherein it had been stated that tracts of less than 10 hectares or with less than 60 per cent tree density would not be considered forests.

The high court has also directed the state government to submit its reply in the court by January 2, 2020. The case was taken up for hearing by the division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice Alok Kumar Verma. Nainital resident environmentalist Ajay Rawat had filed a public interest litigation in the high court. He stated in the PIL that the order issued by the State's Forest and Environment section on November 21, 2019 had stated that tracts less than 10 hectare in area of with less than 60 per cent tree density would not be considered forest. The petitioner had stated that this was an office order which cannot be



implemented since it was neither a government order nor was it approved by the cabinet. He also contended that the government had taken this decision to provide ulterior benefit to some people.

About 71 per cent of the state's area is declared forest under the Forest Conservation Act. There are various categories of forest but there are some areas which have not been kept under any category. Such areas should also be brought under a forest category so as to prevent indiscriminate exploitation or felling of trees, the petitioner stated. Taking serious cognisance of the issue, the high court has stayed the government's order and sought its response.

Snowfall forecast from Dec 13, admin prepares in advance

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State meteorological centre has forecast snowfall in the mountainous regions of Dehradun, Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Pauri, Tehri, Nainital and Pithoragarh districts from December 13 onward. Taking cognisance of

this warning Dehradun in-charge of disaster management Bir Singh Budhiyal has issued orders to all the officers concerned and department heads to prepare in advance for any emergency situation.

As per the information provided by district information office, Budhiyal has asked the officials concerned to ensure

ration in food warehouses. Also, to protect themselves from cold wave he has instructed to prepare woodstoves as per the requirement at all public places, Dharmshala, Rain Basera, intersection point, rail and bus stations.

He also mentioned in his letter that it is expected that warm blankets are distributed

among the homeless and destitute people so that they can protect themselves from the cold.

At the places where snowfall usually takes place, there the officers have been asked to ensure that the electricity lines and water lines which get damaged during hailstorms or snowfall should be fixed immediately.



Members of the dwindling Van Raji tribe protest in support of their rights in Dehradun on Tuesday

Pioneer photo

Registration deadline for IndiaSkills 2020 extended to Dec 31

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Online registrations for IndiaSkills 2020, the biennial competition to scout talent from the country, organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been extended till December 31. The competition is aimed at encouraging the country's youth to aspire to attain world class skills and compete at the global stage.

The IndiaSkills competition will provide India's skilled youth with a platform to showcase their abilities at regional and national level competitions across over 50 skills. Regional legs of the competitions are organised across the four zones, culminating at the national competition in Delhi. Winners of IndiaSkills will then get a chance to represent the country at the WorldSkills International Competition to be held in China in 2021.

According to Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Mahendra Nath Pandey, "In line with our commitment to make India the skill capital of the World, IndiaSkills aims at helping

youth in India leverage the immense opportunities that this platform offers to showcase their talent in the best possible way. IndiaSkills 2018 witnessed incredible success and I am positive, we will witness more participation in IndiaSkills 2020 and will have a power packed team."

Interested candidates can register online- www.worldskillsindia.co.in. The age limit for the competition is anyone born on or after January 1, 1999. The youth can choose participation in over 50 skill

trades such as mechatronics, manufacturing team challenge, aeronautical engineering, cloud computing, cyber security, baking, beauty therapy, hairdressing, carpentry, water technology and IT network cabling among others. Post the skill competitions held at district, state and regional levels, IndiaSkills National Competition will be organised in 2020. The competitions will be organised by states and will be supported by National Skill Development Corporation, in partnership

with sector skill councils, industry partners, corporates and academic organisations. Alongside IndiaSkills Competitions, Abilympics, Olympics of Abilities will also be organised, specifically designed for specially-abled individuals to express their talents. The last IndiaSkills competition was organized in 2018, wherein 22 states and more than 100 corporates participated, that gave 355 competitors a chance to display their skills across various skill competitions.

CM seeks ₹38.99 cr approval under PMKVY 2.0

Govt of India has released ₹35 crore

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat requested the Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Mahendra Nath Pandey to approve ₹38.99 crore for Uttarakhand under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2.0. Rawat informed Pandey that the Government of India had set a target of skilling 48,000 youth in Uttarakhand. A sum of ₹74 crore was proposed to be provided for this purpose. The Government of



India has released ₹35 crore while the requirement for the remaining ₹38.99 crore has been submitted to the Centre. He further informed that under the PMKVY 2.0 short term vocational training programmes of 300 to 900 hours in 62 job roles are

being conducted for unemployed youth. So far, 23,615 youth have been trained under this scheme.

Out of these, 18,395 youth have also been certified. In addition to this, the Uttarakhand Skill Development Mission has

set a target of training 35,000 youth in various sectors and job roles. Training programmes have been started for this purpose. The target will be achieved by March 31, 2020, when the scheme is slated to end, said the Chief Minister.

Leopardess killed by vehicle on NH 74

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

A leopardess died in a road accident on the national highway 74 in Haridwar on Tuesday. This is the fifth leopard death in an accident on this highway this year.

National Highway 74 adjoins Shyampur and Chidiyapur ranges, due to which the movement of wild animals including elephants, leopards and deer among others is common on the highway.

Haridwar divisional forest officer Akash Verma confirmed that a leopardess died after being hit by a vehicle on NH 74 on Tuesday morning.



BJP snubs Rahul Gandhi for corruption remark

PNS ■ RANCHI

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra has condemned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for accusing Chief Minister Raghubar Das as most corrupt person. Patra said that remark of Congress scion is not against Raghubar Das but on entire State. The BJP leader demanded apology from Rahul Gandhi in this connection.

The BJP leader said that Rahul Gandhi should introspect before uttering such remarks. Patra said, "Rahul Gandhi and his mother Sonia Gandhi are out on bail in connection with the ₹5,000 crore embezzlement case involving the National Herald."

Coming out on a bond from jail, these leaders are reaching out to Jharkhand celebrating their bail. Recently, Congress leader P. Chidambaram too Ranchi after coming out of jail reached Jharkhand to celebrate his bail. Rahul Gandhi has the habit of first issuing fact less charges and later apologies in court, which is proven track record."

Patra said that it has been 19 years since Jharkhand became a separate State. First the Congress along with RJD and JMM used Jharkhand as a pasture. "This State was used as an ATM machine. An independent Madhu Koda was made the Chief Minister and carried scams with a gun in the form of corruption on his shoulder. This is the character of the Congress," added Patra. Patra said that there was a Government of five years development. The BJP gave an impeccable Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Raghubar Das. It was a Government of public participation. Referring to the



BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra, Ranchi Mayor Asha Lakra and Prem Mitral during a press conference at BJP media centre in Ranchi on Tuesday

Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

results of the Karnataka by-election, Patra said that the results came in Karnataka and the tremors of the earthquake reached the Maha Milwati alliance in Jharkhand.

The people have rejected the Mahamilavati alliance. Stability will win and the Grand Alliance will lose. Patra described the passage of Citizen Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha as historic moment.

He said that this historic decision was hanging. "We had promised that this time we will bring this Bill and the BJP has fulfilled its promise," added Patra. He taunted those opposing this bill and said that this Bill is not against any religion. Home

Minister Amit Shah said that the right of no one has been taken away but the right has been given. Patra said that Congress and Pakistan speak the same language. "After the passage of this bill in the Lok Sabha this morning, a statement came from Pakistan that it would be a blow to India's secularism. This was also the language of the Congress," added Patra.

He asked why the Congress and Pakistan speak each other's language. "When there is an air strike, Pakistan says that nothing has happened and the Congress asks for evidence. CAB is neither against constitution nor the acrimony on secularism," he said.

CM Kejriwal reviews preparations for poll

Discusses the feedback received during party's ongoing 'Mega Jan Samvad' campaign across the city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to discuss the road map for the upcoming Assembly election in the national Capital, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday called a meeting of party's MPs, MLAs and seniors leaders and reviewed the preparedness. The leadership also discussed the feedback received during party's ongoing "Mega Jan Samvad" campaign across the city.

The meeting called by the Chief Minister was attended by party's MPs, MLAs, Councillors and district in-charge. Kejriwal discussed about the feedback, the party received during its mega 'Jan Samvad' campaign. He was informed that people are happy with the party due to remarkable work done in sectors in education, health, power, water and others. They also said the people praised the AAP leaders who visited in various segments of Assembly constituency as it has fulfilled all

the elections manifesto promises even before the completion of its five year term.

The party is running fourth phase of Jan Samvad campaign and under this mega mass-contact campaign, booth level meetings are being organised in all the 14,000 booths of Delhi which will continue till December 24.

AAP Delhi Convener Gopal Rai said, "Today all the MPs, MLAs, councillors and district in-charges of AAP met Arvind Kejriwal. In the meeting, we have discussed the road map for the upcoming Assembly election and also discussed the feedback regarding the ongoing Mega Jan Samvad campaign at booth level. The party also discussed how given the unprecedented work done by this Government, the party should go directly to the people and ask them for funds for the election campaign."

Party's MLAs apprised the Chief Minister that the people are happy with the party due to



revolutionary initiatives take by the AAP Government to revive various sectors. Inducting mohalla clinics, providing free electricity till 200 units, free water connection, free Wi-Fi, free rides for women in buses being run by 'Delhi Transport Corporation' (DTC), installing CCTV cameras and street lights.

The Aam Aadmi Party launched its mega campaign from 18th November keeping in mind the upcoming Vidhan Sabha elections. This mega campaign will continue till December 24. During this campaign, Jan Samvads are being held at all the 14,000 booths of 70 Vidhan Sabha constituencies under the leadership of respective MLAs. The party has completed

three phases of campaigns in the run-up to the Vidhan Sabha elections. In the first phase which started on 1st September and lasted till 3rd October, the party held Jan Samvad Yatra at each of the 70 Vidhan Sabha constituencies. In the second phase, the party held 14 Zila Sammelans or district meetings where the AAP National Convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal directly addressed all the volunteers of the party. In the third phase, the party held a large-scale grassroots-level campaign through its frontal organisations which have touched various sections of the society in Delhi. Rai said that the party has decided to launch this mega mass-contact campaign covering all the 14,000 booths of Delhi.

Anglo-Indians' nomination to LS, Assemblies...

From page 1 However, he said the doors are not shut and the matter to grant Anglo-Indians nomination would be considered later.

The reservation for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians given for the past 70 years in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was due to end on January 25, 2020.

The reservation for Anglo-Indians in the form of "nomination" is set to expire on January 25 next year as the Bill does not extend the facility to the community. The Bill was passed with 352 members voting in favour and none against it. Since it was a Constitution Amendment Bill, the voting took place through division. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in the House when members voted for the measure.

Though Congress and TMC MPs said there are lakhs of Anglo-Indian members living in India, BJP MPs pointed out that those who have paternal lineage of British people who lived here before

Independence are only come under this category. Hibi Eden (Cong) claimed that Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was "misleading" the House that the country was left with 296 Anglo Indians and demanded that the reservation for them should continue. "In my constituency (Ernakulam) there are 20,000 people of this community (Anglo Indian)," he said, adding that the entire community contributed a lot to the progress of the country.

There are 84 members from the Scheduled Caste and 47 from the Scheduled Tribe communities in Parliament. In State assemblies across India, there are 614 SC members and 554 ST members.

"Although the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have made considerable progress in the last 70 years, the reasons which weighed with the Constituent Assembly in making provisions with regard to the aforesaid reservation of seats have not yet ceased to exist," said the statement of objects of the Bill.

JD(U), Sena in two minds...

From page 1 "I urge Shri Nitish Kumar to reconsider support to the CAB in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill is unconstitutional, discriminatory, and against the unity and harmony of the country, apart from being against the secular principles of the JDU. Gandhiji would have strongly disapproved it," he said.

The Congress welcomed the Shiv Sena's decision to reconsider its stand on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha after voting in favour in the Lok Sabha, and stated that as an alliance partner, it could not ask the Maharashtra party to alter its position on the issue.

The Opposition party slammed the Government after the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha, with former party chief Rahul Gandhi saying the proposed legislation is an attack on the Constitution and anyone who supports it is attempting to destroy the foundation of the country, while Priyanka Gandhi said, "India's trust with bigotry and narrow-minded exclusion" was confirmed as the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha at midnight. The BJP is confident that the proposed legislation

will be passed by the House with a comfortable majority as sources in the BJP-led NDA said they would get near 124-130 votes in the Upper House which has an effective strength of 240 members. Opposition ranks have been boosted by the decision of the six-member Telangana Rashtra Samithi, which has often backed the Modi Government on its key legislative agenda, to oppose the Bill. Opposition is set to give a good fight to the BJP if the Shiv Sena does a turn around and back out after putting its weight behind the Government in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The Maharashtra party with a history of pursuing 'hard Hindutva' has three members in the Rajya Sabha. BJP's allies AIADMK, JD(U) and Akali Dal has 11, six and three members respectively in the Upper House, besides regional parties like the BJD with seven MPs, and YSR Congress and the TDP with 2 each are backing the Bill.

The BJP has 83 members in Rajya Sabha. Seven independents and nominated members besides a number of regional parties with one member each will back the Bill, BJP floor managers said.

TMC-Governor feud spreads from Bengal...

From page 1 Furthermore, the Chancellor will have to pass the recommendation of Search Committee (for the appointment of the Vice Chancellor) report in its first tabling.

The Governor and Chief Minister have been at loggerheads ever since the former defied the State Government's advice and personally went to Jadavpur University on September 19 to rescue Union Minister Babul Supriyo who was gheraoed by the students for more than five hours.

The State Government has also been protesting the Governor's repeated "interference" in administrative affairs by suo motu organising administrative meetings in districts. The Chief Minister has gone on record alleging "the Centre and through him the Governor is running a parallel administration in Bengal." In an unprecedented sight indicating the intensity of the conflict between the two top personalities in the State, Mamata and Dhankar came face to face at the State Assembly but refused to greet each other or acknowledge each other's presence.

A few days later the Governor on his own visited the State Assembly after intimidating Speaker Biman Banerjee only to find the VVIP gate closed. Not a single functionary, including

the Speaker or Parliamentary Affairs Minister, was present to receive him. Similarly, the Governor was not received either by the Vice Chancellor or the Registrar at the Calcutta University where he visited as the Chancellor of the institution a few days ago. The Governor reacted by alleging that the educational institutions of the State were being polluted by politics.

The incidents were taken up by the Governor in Delhi where he recently alleged that "democracy in Bengal is in peril," reminding how the Ministers of the State were continuously making derogatory statements against his office.

In the Rajya Sabha, when TMC members rushed into the well and shouted slogans against the Governor, an agitated Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said Parliament's image was "going down" due to such conduct.

The question of delay by the Governor in giving assent to the Bill concerning the formation of SC and ST Commission in West Bengal was raised by TMC MP Saugata Roy in the Lok Sabha during the debate on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2019 related to extending the quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in legislatures for 10 years.

CAB fury engulfs N-E...

From page 1

Educational institutions, banks, commercial establishments and markets were closed while public and private vehicles were off the roads in most places of Arunachal Pradesh as part of the strike call by the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU).

Attendance in Government offices was almost nil during the bandh which began at 5 am.

The All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) observed a total shutdown in Arunachal Pradesh from 3 am to 6 pm, with the outfit warning that it would intensify its agitation if the Bill was not withdrawn.

Incidents of tyre burning and vandalisation of vehicles were reported in Meghalaya capital Shillong and additional police and CRPF forces have been deployed in sensitive areas. The Citizenship Amendment Bill piloted by Home Minister Amit Shah was passed by the Lok Sabha with an overwhelming majority on Monday night.

According to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, non-Muslim minorities, who fled religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and moved to the

country before December 31, 2014, will be accorded Indian citizenship.

However, the Bill has exempted tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura, as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, and areas covered under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, notified under Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.

The ILP is an official travel document issued by the Centre to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.

It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside the protected States to obtain a permit for entering into the protected State. He said that the ILP will also be invoked in Manipur and similar protection will be given in other N-E States, implying that those granted citizenship under CAB will not be allowed to settle there.

Shah has asserted that the Modi Government was committed to protecting the customs and culture of the Northeastern States in an effort to assuage concerns that the proposed law will hurt their distinct identity and alter regional demography.

BHU Prof Firoz transferred from faculty of SVDV to Sanskrit Dep

From page 1

The BHU administration had come out in Khan's support, saying his appointment was made in accordance with the BHU Act and the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission. The university had in a public statement even said that Khan was the "best" among all candidates.

A frustrated Khan had even appeared for an interview on Friday in the university's Ayurveda department. The interview was held in secrecy in a guest house in view of the fear of protests by students. Ten candidates, including Khan, were to appear for the interview but only eight turned up. Ayurveda department dean Prof Yamini Bhushan told reporters that Khan had ranked at the top of the merit list.

Khan had earlier applied for the job in the Ayurveda and Arts faculties, along with the Sanskrit faculty.

Ranchi has highest number of third gender voters

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi Assembly seat has highest number of registered third gender voters. In Ranchi Assembly seat, the third gender voters are 33, which is much more than four other Assembly constituencies under Ranchi district. Followed by Hatia, the highest number of third gender voters is in Hatia Assembly seat where third gender voters' number is 23. In Kanke there are five third gender voters, two each in Khijri and Silli Assembly segment respectively.

Though the Ranchi has highest number of third gender voters, the number of third gender voters has come down to 86 from 90 in 17 Assembly constituencies going to poll in third phase of election scheduled on December 12.

The total electorates in 17 constituencies is 56, 18, 267 which has gone up to 1,16,938 from 55,01,329 after new names were added in the new voter list prepared after October 12. Gender wise, the male voters is 29,37,976 while number of female voters is 26,02,638.

Assembly wise the highest number of voters is in Hatia Assembly seat where total number of voters is 4,46,372, followed by Kanke where total electorates number is 4,14,012. In Ranchi Assembly seat the number of electorates is 3,46,765. Khijri 3,34,640 voters. The least number of electorates is in Silli where number of electorates is 2,05,648.

Ranchi Deputy Commissioner Rai Mahimapal



Ranchi DC Rai Mahimapal alongwith SSP Anish Gupta, during a press conference at Collectorate in Ranchi on Tuesday

Ratan Lal | Pioneer

Ray has asked voters to exercise their franchise in large numbers. Ray said, "As per Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines all commercial institutions have been asked to grant leave to their employees so that they can participate in the biggest festival of democracy."

Rai further said, "Those commercial institutions who fail to give leave to their employees on Election Day action will be initiated against the owners or proprietors of the commercial institutions."

The DC claimed that all arrangement has been made for fair and peaceful election will be 90 per cent polling slips have been dispatched.

"Those voters who have not received their polling slips they can collect their slips from the polling booths," added Rai. In five Assembly constituencies under Ranchi district, voting will be held from 7 am to 5 pm in Ranchi, Hatia and Kanke while in Khijri and Silli the voting will be from 7

am to 3 pm. The DC claimed that after the conclusion of election all EVM machines will be dispatched to strong room in Pandra where it will be kept under three layer security cover. Rai said, "Security personnel from CRPF, JAP and District Police will be deployed at strong rooms. Also the strong will be under the CCTV surveillance."

Meanwhile, Ranchi SSP, Anish Gupta said that as part of security arrangement the Ranchi police are well prepared. Gupta said, "Security personnel including CRPF, JAP, district police and home guard jawans will be deployed at all polling booths."

The district police are also keeping a close watch on the movement and activities of person having criminal background." 107 hardcore criminals have been asked to file bond and several others have been expelled from district so as to check their movements.

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Sengar's fate to be decided on Dec 16 as rape verdict reserved

From page 1

The local court here has framed murder and other charges against the MLA, his brother Atul and nine others in the case. The apex court had on August 1 transferred all five cases registered in connection with the Unnao rape incident from a Lucknow court in Uttar

Pradesh to the court in Delhi with directions to hold trial on daily basis and completing it within 45-days. During the trial in the rape case which was held in-camera, thirteen prosecution witnesses and nine defence witnesses were examined. A special court was also held at AIIMS hospital here to record the statement of the rape

survivor, who was admitted there after she was air-lifted from a hospital in Lucknow.

The woman and her family is provided CRPF security as per the apex court's orders. They have now been shifted to a rented accommodation in the national capital with the assistance of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW).

DETENTION OF J&K LEADERS

UT admn to take call: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that the Centre has no intention to keep any leader in Kashmir under custody even for one more day but it was for the local administration of Jammu & Kashmir to take a call on their release, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday pointed out that the Government doesn't want to emulate the Congress that had kept Ferooz Abdullah's father in jail for 11 years. He asserted that the Centre would not interfere in the process.

He said all leaders should be concerned about political leaders in the Valley, he is also concerned but if leaders are more worried about people of Kashmir it will send a better message.

Responding to the question by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir and detention of political leaders, Shah underlined that the situation is completely normal in the Valley. "99.5 per cent students of Class XI class sat for exams there, but for Adhir Ranjan ji this is not normalcy, seven lakh people availed OPD services in Srinagar, Section 144 removed from everywhere. But for Adhir ji only parameter for normalcy is political activity."



Earlier, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy, responding to a supplementary question by Sridhar Kotagiri, said stone pelting incidents have decreased substantially in 2019

Taking on the Congress, Shah said, Ferooz Abdullah is in custody for six months but the Congress had kept his father in custody for 11 years.

"Ferooz Abdullah's father was kept in jail for 11 years by the Congress. We don't want to follow them and as soon as the administration decides, they will be released," he said.

"..It is for local adminis-

tration to decide when political leaders will be released. We don't want to keep anyone (leaders) in jail even for a day more than that is required. As and when the local administration feels the time is appropriate, they will be released. There will be no interference from our side," Shah said.

Earlier, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy, responding to a supplementary question by Sridhar Kotagiri, said stone pelting incidents have decreased substantially in 2019.

In 2018, 802 such incidents were reported which reduced to 544 in 2019, while only 190 stone pelting incidents were reported since August 5, Reddy said, adding all leading English, Urdu newspapers and TV channels are working in the Valley.

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Cong welcomes Sena's stand on CAB Bill in RS

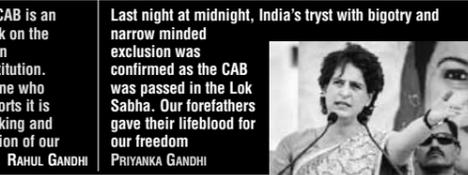
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said it welcomed the Shiv Sena's decision to reconsider its stand on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha after voting in favour in the Lok Sabha, and stated that as an alliance partner, it could not ask the Maharashtra party to alter its position on the issue. Earlier, in the day, Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said he would not back the Bill in the Rajya Sabha till there was clarity on questions raised by his party in the Lok Sabha.

"We are cognisant of the fact that ideologically we are different and we respect that diversity. Therefore, the alliance in Maharashtra is premised on a specific situation. I don't think that the Shiv Sena has asked us to give up our ideological position and we do not expect them to do so, and these are the realities of real politics. To tell them not to stray true to their ideology is not correct. If the Shiv Sena is thinking of changing its stand on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha based on the fact that it is against the Constitution and is hurting its



The CAB is an attack on the Indian constitution. Anyone who supports it is attacking and attempting to destroy the foundation of our nation



Last night at midnight, India's tryst with bigotry and narrow minded exclusion was confirmed as the CAB was passed in the Lok Sabha. Our forefathers gave their lifeblood for our freedom

basic tenets, then we welcome it," Congress spokesperson Manish Tiwari said.

He also said not only the Congress, but all the nationalistic forces in the country will support the Shiv Sena. Tewari clarified that while the Congress had no problems with giving shelter to those being discriminated against in the neighbouring countries, but said the party demands a comprehensive and inclusive refugee law. He also asked the Government to come clean on its border policy.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi slammed the Government over the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, saying it was an "attack on the Indian Constitution". "The CAB is an attack on the Indian constitution. Anyone who supports it is attacking and attempting to destroy the foundation of our

nation," said Rahul. Priyanka said, "India's tryst with bigotry and narrow minded exclusion" was confirmed as the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha. Our forefathers gave their lifeblood for our freedom," she said in a tweet, recalling her great-grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru's speech on the midnight of August 14-15, 1947, when India rang in its Independence.

In that hard fought freedom is enshrined the right to equality, and the right to freedom of religion, Priyanka Gandhi said. "Our constitution, our citizenship, our dreams of a strong and unified India belongs to all of us," she said in another tweet.

"We will fight against this Government's agenda to systematically destroy our constitution and undo the fundamental premise on which our country was built with all our might," she added. The sharp criticism of the opposition party came after the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on Monday with 311 members favouring it and 80 voting against it. The bill will now be tabled in the Rajya Sabha for its nod on Wednesday.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the Bill was an anathema to India's constitutional democracy. "It's an attack on soul of India. 72 years earlier, India was partitioned by the British, Savarkar's and Jinnah's sinister thought and approach. Descendants of the philosophy seek to partition our foundational values once again," he said in a tweet.

Concerned over 'fundamental freedom' of people, says EU

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The European Union (EU) on Tuesday said it was concerned over restrictions on "fundamental freedom" of people in Kashmir and called for steps like restoration of communication network and essential services to bring back normalcy in the Valley.

European Union's Ambassador to India Ugo Astuto also said Pakistan must take action against terror groups operating from its soil, including by choking their financial support, and ensuring compliance of steps recommended by anti-terror watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Astuto, at a media brief-

ing, said the European Union's position has been that India and Pakistan should resolve all issues through dialogue.

"Pakistan must take action against militants and terrorists, including against those involved in financing and supporting the terror groups," he said. On Kashmir, he said the European Union understands India's security concerns, but insisted that steps should be taken to restore normalcy in the Valley, adding the bloc's views on the matter remained unchanged since August.

Abrogation of Article 370 unconstitutional, people of J&K bypassed: Petitioners to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 was "unconstitutional" since people of Jammu & Kashmir were "bypassed" and any proposal for altering the constitutional status of the erstwhile State should emanate from the citizens there, one of the petitioners said in the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Justice NV Ramana, which commenced hearing on batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision, was told by the petitioner that it was violative of the Constitution as orders were passed in "disregard of consent" of people of J&K. Provisions of Article 370,

which gave special status to the erstwhile State of J&K, was abrogated by Centre on August 5.

A number of petitions have been filed in the matter, including that of private individuals, lawyers, activists and political parties and they have also challenged the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, which splits J&K into two Union Territories — J&K and Ladakh.

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, appearing for bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal, Shehla Rashid and other petitioners, said Jammu & Kashmir was under President's Rule from December 19, 2018, till October 31 this year and "will of the people" was not there in the concurrence given

by state for abrogation of provisions of Article 370.

He told the Bench, also comprising justices SK Kaul, R Subhash Reddy, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, that powers of the President and Parliament during period of proclamation under Article 356 is in its very nature "temporary" and it cannot be used to bring "irreversible" constitutional changes.

"The record indicates that neither the President nor the Governor held any consultations on the issue either with the public at large or with members of the legislative council," Ramachandran said in his outline of submissions which was handed over to the Bench. PTI

LS passes Arms Amendment Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Arms Amendment Bill providing maximum punishment of life imprisonment for manufacturing and carrying illegal arms. Piloted by Home Minister Amit Shah, the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 also ensures that those using firearms in a rash or negligent manner in celebratory gunfire, endangering human life or personal safety of others, shall be punishable with an imprisonment to two years or with fine which may extend to ₹1 lakh or with both.

Replying to a nearly three-hour-long debate, Shah said the Bill has been brought as a requirement to significantly impose weapons control in the country. The Home Minister said that the bill has accorded special status to sportsperson who need firearms and ammunition for practice and participating in tournaments. The Lok Sabha rejected many amendments brought by Opposition MPs, mainly on the number of arms to be kept with license holders. "They (sportspersons) will be entitled to get licences for different types of firearms," Shah added, clarifying to the concerns raised by MPs.

Under the proposed provision, a person can have a maximum of two firearms, as against the present norm of three, he added. "Many suggestions came including keeping two firearms by an individual."

I have moved official amendment in this regard also," he said. As per the bill, those who own more than two firearms will have to deposit the third one with authorities or authorised gun dealers within 90 days for de-licensing once the amendment is approved by Parliament.

"There were many discrepancies in the six-decade-old law making crime control difficult," he said. Home Minister said that there is a provision for life imprisonment for those who snatch or loot arms and ammunition from police or defence forces. The Bill seeks to enhance punishment for illegally possessing and making prohibited arms, besides other changes in the six-decade-old Arms Act.

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- Under the proposed provision, a person can have a maximum of two firearms, as against the present norm of three, he added



As per the Bill, the Government proposes to amend Section 25 (1AA) of the Arms Act, 1959, to give punishment from the usual life term of 14 years to "imprisonment for the remainder of that person's life" for manufacturing, selling, repairing and possessing "prohibited" arms. The minimum punishment under this section will be 14 years.

Under the present law, the offence invites imprisonment of not less than seven years but may extend to life imprisonment — mostly up to 14 years. According to an estimate, India has a total of around 35 lakh gun licences. Thirteen lakh people have licences to carry weapons in Uttar Pradesh, followed by militancy-hit Jammu & Kashmir, where 3.7 lakh people possess arms licences, most of which were taken in the name of personal security. Punjab, which witnessed terrorism in 1980s and 1990s, has around 3.6 lakh active gun licences, most of which were issued during the two decades of strife.

INSHORT

2 LOK SABHA MEMBERS DEMAND BAN ON PANIPAT

New Delhi: Two Lok Sabha members from Rajasthan demanded a ban on Bollywood film Panipat, claiming it shows Bharatpur's Maharaja Surajmal in poor light by twisting historical facts. Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the House, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party's Hamman Beniwal said sentiments of people in Rajasthan and Haryana have been hurt by the movie.

₹15.13 GRORE RAISED FROM AUCTION: MIN

New Delhi: The Culture Ministry informed Parliament that ₹15.13 crore were raised from the auction of mementos and gifts presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last five years. In an answer to a query in the Rajya Sabha, Culture Minister Prahlad Patel said the money had been raised during three auctions — February 18-20, 2015, January 27-April 1, 2019 and September 14-October 24, 2019. The proceeds were given to the Namami Gange project of the Union Government, he said.

WITHDRAWAL OF ₹2,000: MIN SAYS DON'T WORRY

New Delhi: Dismissing reports that Government is set to withdraw ₹2,000 note, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said there was no need to worry about it. "This is real worry (about demonetisation) which has surfaced now. I think you should not worry about it," Thakur told RS replying to a question on Government's plan to withdraw ₹2,000 note in future.

PREZ FLAGS CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday flagged the recent incidents of violence against women in the country, saying such heinous crimes force people to think whether the society has lived up to the cherished universal vision of equal rights for all.

NIRBHAYA GANGRAPE-MURDER CASE

Convict moves SC seeking review of death penalty

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

One of the four convicts, Akshya Kumar Singh, moved the Supreme Court on Tuesday seeking review of its 2017 judgement handing down death penalty to all of them in the sensational Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case.

Strangely, among others he not only talked about the health risks such as rising pollution level in Delhi but also about the life span of human beings in present age saying there was no reason to continue with the death penalty. His plea also maintained "executions only kill criminal, not the crime."

"Life is going short to short, then why death penalty? When age is reducing, it is mentioned in our 'Ved', 'Purans' and 'Upanishads' that in the age of 'Satyug' people lived the life of thousand years. In the age of

Executions only kill criminal, not the crime, he said in plea

"Dwapar" they used to live for hundreds of the years, but not in 'Kalyug', in this era, age of human beings have reduced much. It has now come to 50 to 60 years, and rarely do we listen of a person who is the age of 100 years.

"Very few people reach up to the age of 80-90 years. This is almost a very true analysis. When we look around us then we come to the conclusion, more or less this analysis is true when a person faces the stark realities of life and passes through the adverse situation, then he is no better than a dead body," it said.

The 23-year-old paramedic student was brutally gangraped

on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, inside a running bus in South Delhi by six persons and severely assaulted before being thrown out on the road. She succumbed to injuries on December 29, 2012, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore.

"The state must not simply execute people to prove that it is attacking terror or violence against women. It must persistently work towards systematic reforms to bring about change. Executions only kill the criminal, not the crime..." the review plea said.

The top court, in July 9 last year, had dismissed the review pleas by Mukesh (30), Pawan Gupta (23) and Vinay Sharma (24) in the case, saying no grounds have been made out by them for review of the 2017 verdict. Akshya had not filed his review plea.

For 2nd week, onion still above ₹100/kg

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the second week in a row, onion prices on Tuesday stayed above the ₹100 per kg mark, as Government efforts to cool the rates seem to be taking more time than expected. The rates were as high as ₹165 a kg in Panaji, while the average of 114 major cities in the country came to over ₹100.

As per the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, onion prices started to climb from September and have averaged over ₹100 per kg since November 25. Onion, which is an essential ingredient in many food preparations, is a politically sensitive item and its high prices have been a cause of defeat for many Governments in the past.

According to the data, onion prices are ruling at ₹96 per kg in the national capital, ₹102 per kg in Mumbai, ₹100

in Chennai and ₹140 per kg in Kolkata. Onions are being sold at ₹160 per kg in Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Mayabunder, and at ₹150 per kg in Tirupati, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Palakkad.

In Bengaluru, Wayanad, Ramanathapuram and Port Blair, the rates stood at ₹140 per kg. Onion prices prevailed at ₹120 per kg in Gurugram, Jagdalpur, Behrampur, Purulia, Maldah, Itanagar, Agartala, Puducherry, Dindigul, Tirunelveli and Dharmapuri. In Amritsar, Surat, Jabalpur, Darbhanga, Sambalpur, Balasore and Gangtok, onion prices were Rs 110 per kg.

Onion rates are

₹100 per kg in Chandigarh, Shimla, Mandi, Srinagar, Jammu, Ludhiana, Gorakhpur, Haridwar, Ahmedabad, Patna, Cuttack, Jeypore, Kharagpur, Raiganj, Shillong and Tiruchirappalli.

Last month, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister attributed the rise in prices to a 26 per cent decline in domestic production during kharif and late-kharif seasons because of late monsoon followed by excess rains in major producing States such as

Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Minister has been maintaining that the Government has taken all possible steps to rein in prices such as imposing a ban on exports and allowing imports of 1.2 lakh tonnes to boost supply.

The Centre has also put restrictions on quantities of onions to be stocked by retailers and wholesalers. On Monday, the Centre further reduced the stock holding limit for onion to 2 tonnes from 5 tonnes for retail traders.



PM-Kisan dues to be transferred only to Aadhaar-linked bank ac/s

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The fourth instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-Kisan) due this month will be transferred only to Aadhaar-authenticated bank accounts of eligible farmers. This will be the first time since the launch of this scheme in February that the Government insists on the mandatory condition of Aadhaar seeding.

In a reply to the Lok Sabha,

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the mandatory requirement of Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries' data continues to be applicable for release of all instalments falling due with effect from December 1, 2019, onward. The instalment for the December 2019 to March 2020 will be transferred to Aadhaar-authenticated bank accounts at one goes from this month.

Under the PM Kisan Samman Yojna, the

Government is providing income support of ₹6,000 per year to all farmer families in the country, paid in instalments of ₹2,000 every four months. The amount is directly transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. As per the Agriculture Ministry's data, the total numbers of beneficiaries are more than 7.6 crore farmer families.

Aadhaar was made optional for availing the first instalment (December 2018-March 2019)

Under PM Kisan Samman Yojna, Government is providing income support of ₹6,000 per year to all farmer families in the country, paid in instalments of ₹2,000 every four months

except for farmers of Assam, Meghalaya and Jammu & Kashmir who have been exempted till March 2020. However, Aadhaar number was mandated for getting the second tranche of money. Due to delay in Aadhaar seeding, the condition was relaxed for till November 30 for availing both second and third instalments.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

Sonowal welcomes passage of Bill

Guwahati: Amid widespread protest over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Assam, State Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday welcomed its passage in the Lok Sabha describing it as a "historic moment". Himanta Biswa Sarma, the convenor of the North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), the NDA's version in the region, complimented Union Home Minister Amit Shah saying it "shall be inscribed in gold as a day of bold reform to correct a fallacy of many decades". The Bill was passed by the Lower House of Parliament on Monday night as the ruling BJP enjoys a majority there. It will be introduced in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. "The passage of the Bill in Lok Sabha is a historic moment for us all. It will not only give relief to six persecuted minority communities from three neighbouring countries but will also pave the way for constitutional safeguards to the indigenous people of Assam,"



Sonowal tweeted. The Bill seeks to give Indian citizenship to members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, till December 31, 2014, facing religious persecution there. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah "for fulfilling a long-standing commitment of India and for taking everyone along and ensuring protection for all indigenous people". Sarma who is also the finance, health and PWD min-

ister of the State, tweeted that the Bill will go down in "history as a glorious historical correction of a blunder committed by the Nehru-Liaquat Pact! Posterity will owe it to PM Sri @narendramodi for this giant step". The then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his Pakistani counterpart Liaquat Ali Khan signed an agreement, known as the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, in 1950 to protect the minority communities in their respective countries. Sarma thanked the Union Home Minister for tearing "into the opposition as he made an inspired speech while replying on the CAB in the Lok Sabha". The Chief Minister had also tweeted on Monday that the CAB is not only for Assam but for the entire country and a section is "maligning the image of the state by spreading misinformation that only Assam will have to again bear the burden of illegal immigrants". Sonowal had urged BJP workers to stay vigilant and check the spread of misinformation, engage in discussions and deliberations with the public to remove any doubts regarding the Bill so that they are not misled. Protests against the Bill have erupted across Assam - barring the three districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi in Barak Valley where the majority of the people are Hindu Bengalis hailing from Bangladesh and are expected to benefit from the CAB. The North East Students' Organisation (NESO), backed by various other bodies and political parties, has called an 11-hour bandh from 5 am against the Bill on Tuesday. Indigenous people of the Northeastern states are scared that the entry of these people will endanger their identity and livelihood. PTI

Kerala CM slams CAB

Thiruvananthapuram: The Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) passed by Parliament in 'unusual haste' was an 'attack' on the secular and democratic character of the country, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Tuesday. The Constitution of India guarantees the right to citizenship for all Indians, irrespective of their religion, caste, language, culture, gender or profession and this very right is being made void by the CAB, Vijayan said in a statement here. The move to decide citizenship on the basis of religion amounts to rejection of the Constitution, he said. This was an exercise to divide people on communal lines, he said. "The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with unusual haste and tenacity," he said. "Muslims, who have immigrated from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan are being excluded. The discrimination on the basis of religion

and preferential granting of rights is a denial of natural justice," Vijayan said. The bill mentions that people belonging to six religious groups from three neighbouring countries can be granted citizenship. These two clauses must be withdrawn, the Chief Minister said. It is not unknown to the Sangh Parivar that India houses refugees from Sri Lanka in addition to the three aforementioned countries, he said. "The CAB serves the communal policies of the sangh parivar and their devious plans to establish a non-secular state. The articles of the Constitution that relate to citizenship and fundamental rights are being violated here. India belongs to Indians of all kinds. Efforts to undermine this fact will only take our country backward," he said. "It will destroy our hard-fought freedom and we must not let that happen", he said. PTI

Politics behind Govt's decision to introduce it: Pilot

Jaipur: Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot on Tuesday alleged that politics is behind the Government's decision to introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. He claimed that the bill is an attempt to divert people's attention from issues like unemployment and slow economic growth. The bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, in order to grant Indian nationality to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who come to India after facing religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan even if they don't possess proper documents. It was passed in the Lok Sabha a little past midnight on Monday after a heated debate that lasted over seven hours. It will now be tabled in the Rajya

Sabha on Wednesday. "There is politics somewhere behind introducing the bill. It is not written in the Constitution that there should be discrimination on the basis of religion. The Congress has opposed the bill in principle and the party's stand is clear that religion should not be the ground for (granting) citizenship," Pilot, who is also the Rajasthan Congress chief, told reporters here. "Amendments to the Citizenship Act have been made in the past as well but it is the first time that it is being opposed in parts of the country," he said. The government's decision to introduce the bill was met with protests in northeastern States with most student unions and regional political parties opposing it. PTI

It will dilute Art 371F in long run: Bhaichung

PTI ■ GANGTOK Footballer-turned-politician Bhaichung Bhutia on Tuesday expressed disappointment that Sikkim was not excluded from the ambit of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, unlike several other northeastern States. Bhutia, also working president of Hamro Sikkim Party, expressed his fears that the legislation will dilute special provisions of the Himalayan state that it enjoys under Article 371F of the Constitution. He also urged the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha-led government to press for implementing Inner Line Permit in the state and quit the NDA in protest against the passage of the Bill. The legislation, that seeks to grant Indian citizenship to religious minorities of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who are fleeing persecution there, was passed in the Lok Sabha with 311-80

votes. "We are deeply disappointed with the CAB. The Bill has not excluded Sikkim compared to other North-East states like Nagaland, Meghalaya and a few others. "We wanted Sikkim also be mentioned in writing on the Bill like other North-East states," Bhutia, said in a Facebook post. He said though Home Minister Amit Shah had mentioned in the House that the legislation will not have any effect on states enjoying special status under Article 371, the legal provision is different from Article 371F. "This Bill is surely a way of diluting Article 371F in long run," the former Indian football team captain said. Bhutia said apparent efforts by Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang and the state's lone Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba failed in keeping Sikkim out of the CAB's ambit.



Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu along with party workers burn copies of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) during a protest at GPO in Lucknow on Tuesday. PTI

Same view not always possible: NCP on Sena backing CAB

Mumbai: With its Maharashtra alliance partner Shiv Sena backing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha, the NCP on Tuesday said the two are different parties and it is not possible always for them to hold the same view on all issues. NCP chief spokesperson Navab Malik, however, said the parties are committed to ensure that no injustice is meted to anyone on the grounds of religion, caste, language and region in Maharashtra. Maharashtra Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant also said that though the Shiv Sena has backed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) in the Lok Sabha, it was hopeful the Uddhav Thackeray-led party will stick to the common minimum programme (CMP) while governing the state. The Sharad Pawar-led party earlier said the CAB is "anti-constitutional" and the



decide on its position. According to the CAB, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, till December 31, 2014 facing religious persecution there, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship. "We are two different parties. We reached an agreement on certain issues when it comes to governance in the state. Two allies from Bihar too have taken a different stance on some issues," Malik said. He was apparently referring to the ruling JD(U) and BJP in Bihar holding different views on the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir. The BJP supported it, while the JD(U) was against its scrapping. PTI

decide on its position. According to the CAB, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, till December 31, 2014 facing religious persecution there, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship. "We are two different parties. We reached an agreement on certain issues when it comes to governance in the state. Two allies from Bihar too have taken a different stance on some issues," Malik said. He was apparently referring to the ruling JD(U) and BJP in Bihar holding different views on the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir. The BJP supported it, while the JD(U) was against its scrapping. PTI

It is aimed at pushing Hindutva: Guj activists

Ahmedabad: Some activists from Gujarat have criticised the passage of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha, saying the proposed law will sharpen a communal divide while its real objective is to take forward the agenda of Hindutva. The bill seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Afghanistan facing religious persecution in those countries. "While the Citizenship Amendment Bill's stated purpose is to offer refuge to persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries, it only applies to a small, very specific group of minorities and countries. It conveniently omits Ahmadis from Pakistan, Rohingya from Myanmar, and Tamils from Sri Lanka," stated

a letter signed by Dev Desai and 230 other activists cum citizens of NGO ANHAD. "This bill is not about protecting refugees, but is instead intended simply to advance the agenda of Hindutva. In turn, the law will inflame passions, and sharpen communal divisions all over the country, particularly in Bengal, Assam, and other States of the North East," it said. PTI

TRIPLE MURDER CASE — Calcutta HC rejects Mukul Roy bail plea

PNS ■ KOLKATA Senior BJP leader from Bengal Mukul Roy on Tuesday suffered a major blow after the Calcutta High Court rejected his plea for anticipatory bail in a triple-murder case in which his name has figured in a supplementary charge-sheet. The case refers to the murder of three brothers Dhanu Sheikh, KatunSheikh and Turuk Sheikh — all CPI(M) members — from Luvpur in Birbhum district at the house of former TMC MLA Manirul Islam. In the original charge-sheet of the 9-year-old case Roy's name had however not figured. The Court while rejecting the plea said it was doing so on technical grounds as the bail applica-

tion was erroneous. "This means that the bail has not been rejected on merit," sources close to Roy said adding the BJP would consider further steps. The original case implicates Islam a former Forward Bloc leader who joined the TMC post 2011 when the party came to power and subsequently he joined the BJP early this year. The CPI(M) alleges that the murders were orchestrated at Islam's house who had called five brothers for a compromise but got three of them hacked to death. The remaining two brothers fled with their lives and later lodged FIRs. But sustained torture of the family forced it to flee the village and take shelter in the neighboring district of Murshidabad.

Tough task ahead for BSY as he works on Cabinet expansion

Bengaluru: As Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa prepares for Cabinet expansion after his four month old Government retained a majority in the Karnataka assembly by sweeping the bypolls, developments on Tuesday indicated that he has a tough task ahead. The ruling BJP on Monday had swept the by-elections, winning 12 of the total of 15 seats. Yediyurappa on Tuesday said he would soon hold discussions with the central leadership on cabinet expansion. "In another three to four days I will go to Delhi to meet Amit Shah (BJP National President) and Prime Minister (Narendra Modi), when they decide we will do it (Cabinet expansion)," Yediyurappa said here. "As I had given an assurance that those who had resigned and came out of (Congress and JD(S)) and won the bypolls, making them Ministers is our responsibility, I have accepted it and will execute it hundred per cent," he told reporters. Eleven of the 13 disqualified legislators, who successfully contested the bypolls on BJP tickets,

are expected to become Ministers soon. However, Cabinet expansion will not be an easy task as Yediyurappa will have to strike a balance by accommodating the victorious disqualified legislators as he had promised and also make place for old guards, upset at being "neglected" in the first round of the induction exercise. He also has to give adequate representation to various castes and regions in his cabinet that already has eight Lingayats, including the CM, three Vokkaligas, three from Scheduled Caste, two OBCs, one Scheduled Tribe and a Brahmin. Region-wise, Bengaluru Urban, with four Ministers and Belagavi and Shivamogga, with two each, have a larger share in the Ministry. Including the Chief Minister, there are currently 18 ministers in the cabinet, whose sanctioned strength is 34. With indications about cabinet expansions on the cards, several ministerial aspirants, both old and newly-elected, have met Chief Minister to push their case, party sources said. PTI



A police officer distributes pamphlets among the college students during the launch of Kavaian SOS (Police SOS) smartphone application by Chennai police on Tuesday. PTI

Countdown begins for launch of RISAT-2BR1

PTI ■ CHENNAI The countdown began on Tuesday for the launch of India's radar imaging earth observation satellite RISAT-2BR1 on board PLSV-C48 from its spaceport at Sriharikota, ISRO said. The workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, on its 50th mission, PSLV-C48, is scheduled to lift off from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, about 130 km from here at 3.25 PM on Wednesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation said. Wednesday's launch will mark a significant milestone for the space agency as it would be the 50th flight of the PSLV and also the 75th vehicle mission from Sriharikota. The 628 kg satellite, meant for applications in various fields like agriculture, forestry and disaster management support, will carry nine customer satellites, including one each from Israel, Italy, Japan and six from the United States. ISRO said the countdown for RISAT-2BR1 began at 4.40 PM on Tuesday. The space agency said the satellites are being launched under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Ltd. The mission life of RISAT-2BR1 is five years, ISRO said. RISAT-2BR1 follows the successful launch of RISAT-2B in May 22.



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C48) ahead of its launch tomorrow, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. The launch vehicle will be carrying radar imaging earth observation satellite RISAT-2BR1 along with nine foreign satellites. PTI

Somalia, Yemen beckon Indian fishermen

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI: Indian Ocean, a battleground between the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka over the rights to fish in region marked as International Maritime Boundary Line has the solution to the decades old political problem. The 'unexplored' sea shores of Somalia and Yemen could be the solution India and Sri Lanka are waiting for, according to marine specialists and diplomats. Prof A Ramachandran, vice chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) and an internationally respected industrial marine specialist says that the coastlines of Somalia and Yemen remain underutilised. "Because of the lack of interest among Somalian fishermen to take the initiative to venture out to the exclusive economic zone of this country,

what is happening is that the region is experiencing large scale poaching in the form of unauthorised fishing. Fisheries resources in Somalia remain untapped due to a host of reasons," Prof Ramachandran told The Pioneer. He also pointed out that coastlines of Somalia and Yemen and virgin areas. "Fish is not very much relished in these countries," said Prof Ramachandran. Since these countries were not very much into fishing, the untapped marine wealth in the form of fish products could be harnessed by entrepreneurs from India. "Our fishermen, especially those from Tamil Nadu and Kerala, are skilled in fishing in these regions. The area offers immense potential for our fishermen," he said. What makes the Somalian and Yemen coast unique is the presence of large stock of tuna, lobster, sardine, mackerel, cuttle fish and several other species

which enjoy big demand in global market, said the vice-chancellor. Since both Somalia and Yemen are not fully equipped for deep sea fishing and do not have modern infrastructure for storing and processing the catch, there is a big potential for Indian entrepreneurs as well as fishermen, pointed out Prof Ramachandran and Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, secretary general, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), an inter-governmental organisation engaged in strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 22 member States and nine dialogue partners. Dr Nokwe, a medical doctor-turned-career diplomat said there was big scope for a win-win situation for all the stake holders viz India, Yemen, Somalia the entrepreneurs and the fishermen if such a cooperation materialises. "We in

IORA are willing to play a major role in facilitating such a cooperation between these three countries to develop such an international venture. Indian entrepreneurs have the technology while the fishermen are skilled. This would go a long way in the economic development of all stake holders," said Dr Nokwe. Jaya Palayan, founder, South Indian Fishermen Federation, said the suggestion sounded fine. "But we need to ensure the safety of our fishermen from the marauding pirates of Somalia, who made that country an infamous entity because of hijacking of ships and other marine vessels," said Palayan, a marine engineer turned fisherman activist. A representative from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI), an industry body involved in the Blue Economy also expressed his apprehension over the threats posed by the Somalian pirates.

Honour killing not rape-murder

Bihar woman, whose charred body was found in Buxar, was victim of honour killing

Patna: The recent recovery of a young woman's charred body in Buxar district of Bihar, which had triggered speculation of murder after rape, turned out to be a case of honour killing and the main accused the father of the victim has been arrested, a top police official claimed on Tuesday.



nobody was coming forward with a missing report which could give us a clue", Rathi told PTI over phone.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Shahabad Range, Rakesh Rathi said that Mahendra Gupta, a retired Army man and resident of Dinara in Bhabhua the headquarter of Kaimur district was arrested Tuesday afternoon, a day after the victim was identified by her mother and brother.

"After the recovery of the woman's body in Itarhi police station area of Buxar last week, we were facing the problem of ascertaining her identity since the corpse was charred and

belonged to their elder daughter. They also said that her father had been seething with rage since her elopement, his fury getting worse by taunts of neighbours and he had been vowing that once caught, he will not spare her", the DIG said.

He also said Gupta, who had been hiding since he killed his daughter on the night of December 2, had confessed that the cartridge found close to the body was fired from his weapon and that he had set the body ablaze after pulling the trigger on his child.

The body was found in the fields in a village under Itarhi police station on December 3 and, coming close on the heels of the rape and murder of a young veterinary doctor in Hyderabad, had fueled speculation that it was a case of a similar nature. **PTI**

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Unnao rape victim's dying declaration strong evidence to nail killers: UP DGP

Lucknow: The dying declaration of the 23-year-old Unnao rape victim, who was set ablaze last week by five men, including the two accused of raping her earlier, is a "strong evidence" and will be used to nail her killers, Uttar Pradesh police chief O P Singh said on Tuesday.

The police will go in for the prosecution of the five accused in a fast-track court, the director general of police said a day after the Uttar Pradesh Government took a Cabinet decision to set up 218 new fast-track courts — 144 to try rape cases and 74 for sexual offences against children.

"Dying declaration is a very strong evidence, and certainly, it will be used. Before dying, the girl deposed before a sub-divisional magistrate that these five persons attacked her," DGP Singh told PTI.

"When she was taken to Delhi and admitted to the hospital, she also had a chat with doctors. We will try to get the statement of the doctor also in this regard. These will be strong evidence to chargesheet these five criminals," he added.

Explaining the rationale behind going in for the DNA test of the accused, the police chief said the victim also had a mobile phone and a purse, which have already been sent for the forensic test to ascertain if those

items came in contact with the accused and carry their fingerprints or traces of their sweat or hair etc from which the DNA sample of the accused could possibly be lifted.

"We would then match the DNA samples of the accused to those found on the victim's items," said Singh. "We also have several strong pieces of circumstantial evidence in the case," said the DGP. In her statement to Sub Divisional Magistrate Dayashankar Pathak, the woman had said she was attacked when she reached Gaura turn near her home on her way to the court to attend hearing in her rape case.

She had specifically named Harishankar Trivedi, Ram Kishore Trivedi, Umesh Bajpai, Shivam Trivedi and Shubham Trivedi as the persons who set her on fire. **PTI**

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Pro-Maratha outfit seeks speedy justice in Kopardi rape case

Pune: The Maratha Kranti Morcha has demanded speedy justice in the 2016 case of rape and killing of a 15-year-girl in Maharashtra's Kopardi village.

The pro-Maratha outfit sent a letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday, seeking his intervention into the matter and their other pending demands.

"A sessions court awarded death sentence to three accused in the Kopardi rape case. The case is now pending before the Bombay High Court. The Government should intervene and ensure speedy justice to the victim," Maratha Kranti Morcha member Rajendra Kondhare told reporters here on Monday.

The victim, a Class IX student belonging to the Maratha community, was found brutally killed after being raped on July 13, 2016 at Kopardi village in Ahmednagar district. According to police, the accused also inflicted injuries all over her body and broke her limbs before throttling her. **PTI**

Over 1,500 rape cases in Kerala till Sept this year

Thiruvananthapuram: Over 1,500 rape cases have been registered in Kerala so far this year, according to police statistics.

The numbers have been revealed at a time when there is a Nationwide uproar over increasing crimes against women after the recent killing of two young women in Hyderabad and Unnao in Uttar Pradesh respectively.

In Hyderabad, a young veterinarian was gang-raped, killed and set on fire by four men, while in Unnao a rape victim died after being set

ablaze by her attackers.

According to the police's crime records bureau, a total of 10,516 cases of atrocities against women have been reported up to September this year, of which 1,537 were rapes.

Though there is a slight dip in the number of rape cases this year compared to the 2,015 last year (provisional figures), it could go up when the cases in the rest of the months are taken into consideration.

Besides the rape cases, a total of 3,351 molestation, 167 kidnapping and abduction, 309 eve-teasing cases, four dowry



deaths and 2,019 cases of cruelty by husbands and relatives have also been reported in the first nine months this year, it said.

A total of 2,003 and 1,656 rape cases had been reported in Kerala in 2017 and 2016 respectively, it added. **Kerala Women's**

Commission Chairperson M C Josephine said fast-track courts, speedy trial and women-friendly police stations besides grassroots level awareness drives are the solutions to address the increasing atrocities against women.

However, she said compared to many other northern states, cases are registered in the state fast and it was a positive sign in a way.

"Delayed justice is a cause of worry in the cases of atrocities against women. Justice delayed amounts to justice being denied to the victims,"

Josephine told PTI.

"It prompts people to think and act emotionally. That's what we saw in Telangana recently," she said.

So, fast-track courts should be set up. Trials should be expedited and stringent punishment should be ensured to the culprits, the Women's Commission chairperson said.

Despite stringent laws, women are facing new forms of crimes and atrocities nowadays, she pointed out. "Five women have died in petrol attacks in Kerala in the last six months," she said. **PTI**

Capital punishment only way to curb rapes: Cong

PTI ■ PANAJI

The Goa Congress women's wing on Tuesday said capital punishment was the only way to curb crimes like rape in the country.

It supported Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark that India was now known as "rape capital" of the world.

The recent trend of rapes and killings of innocent victims clearly reflects what Gandhi has

stated, Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee president Pratima Coutinho said.

"We should not live in a state of denial. There are cases of minor girls being raped and killed. Women are not feeling safe on streets in several parts of the country. This is the actual situation and not a political statement," she said.

Coutinho said time has come to amend the existing law and ensure that those convicted

for raping and killing are "hanged to death in public".

"There is a need to instill fear in the minds of perverts that if they commit such crimes, they would face severe consequences," she said, adding that countries all over the world are adopting a zero-tolerance attitude towards such crimes.

Such crimes can be controlled only by capital punishment, she asserted.

New year gift: Mumbai to get first AC local on Jan 1

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Suburban railway commuters await a New Year gift, as the Central Railway prepares to operate the first-ever Air-conditioned suburban local on January 1, 2020.

"The first Air-conditioned EMU (Electrical Multiple Unit) local train has arrived in our yard. It will be a New Year gift for our commuters. This AC EMU train has 12 cars fully air-conditioned including driving cabs," a Central Railway spokesperson said here on Tuesday.

"A motor woman will in all likelihood operate the AC local on its maiden run," the spokesperson added.

The AC local has been manufactured by ICF (Integral Coach Factory) Chennai, which has made a new breed of indigenous air-conditioned EMU train set.

The salient features of the new local include: AC system for passengers comprising 2 X



15 ton capacity roof mounted package units (RMPU) for air conditioning in each coach, provision of an EMU rake with secondary air suspension with two air bellows, provided on each bogie, availability of a Passenger Address & Passenger Information system (PAPIS), a GPS based information system for passenger with intercom facility and LED Based Coach

identification system for Alarm chain pulling & Door malfunctioning. Among the safety features for commuters, the local has an electrically-operated automatic door closure system, Emergency Talk Back (ETU) system which is a part of PAPIS and a manual door opening system in each coach that can be accessed.

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Uddhav directs admin to prepare guidelines for swift usage of Nirbhaya funds

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Taking serious cognisance of non-utilisation of funds by the previous Government under the Nirbhaya Fund, Maharashtra's new Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday directed the State administration to prepare guidelines for utilising the money allocated to the State under the Nirbhaya Fund.

Speaking at a meeting of senior State police officers at the office of Director General of Police (DGP) here, Uddhav said: "It is a serious matter that the State has not utilised the funds allotted to it under the Nirbhaya Fund during the last few years. We have to look at ways to utilise the funds quickly. For the purpose, there is a need for preparing guidelines to utilise the funds allocated under the Nirbhaya fund."

At the meeting, the chief minister directed the senior State police officers to initiate action against the culprits behind the sexual atrocities on women. "Sternest action needs to be

taken against the accused perpetrating sexual crimes on women... We will provide whatever facilities needed for making the police force efficient.

The police force in its khaki dress should contribute to strengthening the Government. You should work in such a manner that people should respect the police force," Uddhav said, adding that the State Government would look into the issues like housing, health issues and duty hours of the police force.

At the meeting, the chief minister interacted with the Police Commissioners of Pune, Thane, Aurgangad, Nagpur, Nashik and Navi Mumbai and Special Inspectors General of police, through video-conferencing.

Uddhav's remarks about Maharashtra having not utilised any money allocated to it under Nirbhaya fund should be seen in the light of the fact that though the State had been allocated ₹ 128.46 crore Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) of the Nirbhaya

fund during 2017-18, it has not utilised any money under this fund.

Similarly, the Centre allocated ₹ 176.6 crore to Maharashtra during 2015-17 under the Central Victim Compensation Fund of the Nirbhaya Fund, but the state has not so far utilised any money, according to a note released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) on July 19, 2019.

While Maharashtra was allocated ₹ 45.84 crore Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC) ₹ 45.84 crore during 2017-18, it was allocated a total of ₹ 144.65 crore for a period from 2015-16 to 2019-20 under One Stop Centre Scheme. Similarly, it was allocated ₹ 6.27 crore under Universalisation of Women Helpline during 2015-

16. Maharashtra has not utilised any money under any of these heads of the Nirbhaya Fund. Under two other heads -

safety city projects in eight cities and strengthening of forensic science laboratories, Maharashtra was allocated ₹ 874.7 crore and ₹ 268.5 crore during 2018-19 respectively. However, according to the MWCD note, the Centre has not yet received utilisation certificates from Maharashtra.

The Nirbhaya Fund Framework provides for a non-lapsable corpus fund for safety and security of women to be administered by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Government of India. Further, it provides for an Empowered

Committee (EC) of officers chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) to appraise and recommend proposals to be funded under this framework.

Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) has been funded under the Framework of Nirbhaya Fund to support States and Union Territories (UTs) for their Victim Compensation Scheme. The CVCF is a one-time grant of top-up funds to the States/UTs subsequent to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Funds were released to States/UTs in 2016-17.

Shops closed in J&K districts due to shutdown called by separatists

Srinagar: Most of the shops were shut in Srinagar on Tuesday due to a shutdown called by the separatists on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, officials said.

Shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut in several areas of the city, they added.

The shutdown was intense in the Downtown (old city) areas, the officials said.

Public transport was less, but private cars and auto-rick-



shaws were plying, unhindered they added.

There were reports of shutdown in certain areas of the other districts of the valley, the officials said. The schools in Kashmir were shut after the Government announced the winter vacations from

Tuesday till February 22, 2020.

The headline Hurriyat Conference, led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, had reportedly called for the shutdown on Monday and asked people to observe a "black day" on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. **PTI**

Dozens detained at panchayat members' rally in Jammu

Jammu: Dozens of All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) members were detained here on Tuesday after they tried to take out a march in support of their various demands, including clearance of ₹ 1,000 crore liabilities under the Centre's flagship MGNREGS scheme.

The AJKPC, a frontline body of elected panchayat members, went on a week-long hunger strike on December 3 to press for their demands. It ended the hunger strike on Tuesday but tried to take out a rally when its members were

detained by police.

"We are ending the hunger strike as per already chalked out programme today (Tuesday)... We have already conveyed all our genuine demands to the director rural development department who visited us during the hunger strike and are hopeful of resolution of our issues," AJKPC president Anil Sharma told reporters before leading the protest march.

However, he threatened to intensify the agitation if the administration failed to resolve their issues. **PTI**

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the Work: "Allotment of 05 (Five) nos. of Manual Iron Ore Pellet Pits."
License Fees: Rs. 2,29,08,402/-, Wharfrage Fees: Rs. 6,02,276/-, Last date & time of submission of bid: 24.12.2019 upto 15.00 hrs., Date & time of opening (technical bid): 26.12.2019 upto 16.00 hrs.
Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Traffic Manager
PPT/PR/534/19-20, D109/12/2019

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No.: 10/19-20 dated 06.12.2019 1. Name of work with its location: Repair & maintenance work in NRCH Complex near new OPD Block Gynecology, Pharmacy Block Kitchen area and 2nd entry of Hospital in the S/o SSE/Hort/NDLS under AdEN/Hort/NDLS 2. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 27,29,09,63. Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note - FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Statutory letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) ₹ 55,00,00 4. Completion period of Work: 12 Months 5. Cost of tender on cash/bid post: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note - FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Statutory letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) 3540 6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs on 31.12.2019 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 31.12.2019 7. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT 10 Dated: 06.12.2019. 3940/19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 11.12.2019
BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., Delhi intends to invite tenders from all bidders in two envelope system for following job:-
NIT No. Brief Item Description Estimated Cost (₹) Cost of EMD (₹) Due Date & Time of Submission Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/19-20/SVRS/PG/829 SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 11 KV/IT DISTRIBUTION NETWORK INCLUDING PACKAGE SUBSTATION, RMU CABLE AND ACCESSORIES ON SINGLE POINT RESPONSIBILITY BASIS IN CONNECTION WITH PROVIDING SMVA SUPPLY FROM 66KV JAFFERPUR GRID TO DTC DEPOT MUNDHELA KALAN 5.9 Crores 5,90,000/- 01.01.2020 1530 HRS 01/01/2020 1600 HRS
CMC/BR/19-20/RS/MS/631 ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF NETWORKING ITEMS (LAN) IN BRPL. 98 Lacs 1,96,000/- 01.01.2020 1530 HRS 01.01.2020 1600 HRS
Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc, please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC11527 Telephone No.: +91 11 3999 7235 | E-mail: brpl.eduction@rajdhanipower.com | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
NIT No. 93168647B
Name of work and its location: Winter Jacket Functional Specification: Jacket with inner lining with/without hood/cap, Orange Colour Superior Quality as per Specification of winter jacket for track Maintainers attached as Annexure-1
Approx. Cost of work: With Approximately cost is Rs. 10000000/-
Earnest Money: Rs. 200000/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only.)
Quantity: 4000 Nos.
Date and Time for Submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 11.00 hrs on 30.12.2019, Opening of Tender at 11.00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DMM/NS/PL/93168647B/2019 Dated: - 09.12.2019 3943/19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
SR. NO. LETTER / MEMO NO. & DATE NAME OF DEPARTMENT / BOARD / CORP. / AUTH OLD REFERENCE CE / INT / TENDER NO. NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM WEBSITE OF THE DEPT. / BOARD / CORP. / AUTH NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1 Ch-18/CE/HPPC/SE/C&R-I/LTP-III/30 MW SOLAR dated 14-11-2019 Haryana Power Purchase Centre UTR/100 MW SOLAR Date extension www.uhvvn.org.in www.ubard-electronidender.com CE/HPPC Shakti Bhawan Sedor -6 Panchkula cehppc@gmail.com 0172-258636
RO NO. 79554N Dt. 10-12-2019

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD / CORP. / AUTH OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO. NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM WEBSITE OF THE BOARD / CORP. / AUTH NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1 HSANI, KARNAL HERO NO.4485 DT 28.11.2019: REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL WORKS IN ROOM UP TO SCHOOL IN SHIKHARPUR (ROAD ID 4015)CH PLAN: 2004A AT THE RISK & COST OF M/S KARTIK BUILDERS - 1 OTHER WORK late date of tender/bid submission will be 23.12.2019 (11:00 AM) https://tenders.hry.nic.in 0184-2202964
2 THE ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED, ROHTAK 2019_HCL_10888A_1 Re-Scheduled for dated 19.12.2019 at 4.00 P.M. / Opening 20.12.2019 at 12.00 Noon https://tenders.hry.nic.in 01262-276302_277464 vitarohk@gmail.com
3 HVNPL PANCHKULA 06/CCD-168/8/2019-20 DATED: 20.09.2019 The last date of online bid submission is extended up to 20.12.2019 https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in https://www.besdelhi.com 0172-2583789 0122-2583789 0122-2583789 pro@hvnp.org.in
4 HVNPL PANCHKULA NIT No. 5 /ANBU/CIVIL WORKS/2019-20 DATED: 19.11.2019/NOV EXTENDED NO.2019_HBC_109381_3 DT: 09.12.19 No change in the tender, only date of opening is extended upto 24.12.2019 due to non turning up of minimum bidders i.e minimum 3 bidders. www.hvnp.org.in 0172-2583789 0122-2583789 pro@hvnp.org.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.e-tenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 79515

Anxiety in the N-E

The sub-nationalism of ethnic groups and the fear of influx may just deflate Hindu-dominant nationalism



The problem with identity politics is that it thrives on resentment and insecurities of social groups, fragmenting them further instead of galvanising them into a cohesive social structure. The manipulative politics of extremism feeds off mutual anxieties, creating an entirely different context of relevance that does not depend on governance. So the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), 2019, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on the strength of the numbers of the ruling dispensation, is a deeply unsettling piece of

legislation as it pits all kinds of otherness versus each other. This is the reason why there's a huge unrest in the North-east with indigenous groups fearing the influx of Hindu refugees from neighbouring Islamic countries that the Bill enables would swamp their culture and economy as it has historically. There have been torchlight vigils, students have taken to the streets in massive numbers and the 12-hour bandh has stalled all North-eastern States. This despite assurances that the Bill would not be applicable to Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system exists and those tribal regions of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura which are governed under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The Bill proposes to grant Indian citizenship to fleeing Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Christians and Parsis, who are residents of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh and are persecuted there. It does not reference other neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Myanmar or China from where refugees could come in but predicated it solely on the championship of the post-Partition Hindus, namely those left in Pakistan and Bangladesh. So it excludes persecuted Muslim sects from the same countries, the Shias and Ahmadiyas. In other words, non-Muslim immigrants would not face deportation and Muslims would, making religion a key criterion for asylum. It also proposes to reduce the mandated 11 years of residence in India for eligibility to six years, thereby hastening the cooption of Hindu refugees into the mainstream. The BJP wants to neutralise the Muslim infiltration in border States, encouraged by votebank politics of past years, with a Hindu influx and effect a demographic change. But this nationalist spiel, in turn, threatens locals, particularly in Assam.

Ethnic Assamese groups have consistently raised concerns about the Bill being contradictory to the spirit of the Assam Accord and the just-released National Register of Citizens (NRC) list. They argue that the Bill granting citizenship to Hindu refugees from across the border till the cutoff year of 2014 would swamp Ahom identity and the right of indigenous people over their land, opportunities and resources. Truth be told, the BJP has been pushing the citizenship Bill so that lakhs of Hindu families left out of the NRC would automatically be rehabilitated here. For the Assamese, any facilitation of Bengali Hindu immigrants is a remnant of the colonial legacy that saw Bengali civil servants and businesses take over the socio-economic matrix. For a long time, till 1876, Bengali was the operable language in the State. By virtue of territorial contiguity, the Bengali-dominance meant a continuous infusion of Bengalis, exacerbated by the Partition and then the 1971 Bangladesh war. So even if their tribal pockets are protected, the Assamese fear that if Bengali-speaking illegal immigrants, especially those in the Barak Valley, are granted citizenship, they would outnumber the locals, as it has happened in Tripura where Hindu Bengalis have edged out indigenous people from even claiming the political space. The royal scion of Tripura, Pradyot Manikya Debbarma, has been spearheading the cause of the tribals. In fact, the BJP may be playing down the dissent in Assam but language and cultural pride of the Assamese have led to emotion-driven mass movements. Let not anyone forget the *Bongal Kheda* or the organised ethnic cleansing of Bengali Hindus that originated in the late 1940s and continued into the 1960s. The turbulence saw significant property damage, ethnic policing, street violence, conversion of Bengali-medium schools into Assamese and attacks on Bengali students in educational institutions. Similarly, the Mizos, who have struggled to establish their supremacy in power structures, are fearing a massive influx by Buddhist Chakmas. In turn, the Chakmas fear they could be denied citizenship under NRC and with Mizoram exempted from the CAB, protectionist permits would mean that they would be displaced despite being settlers for decades and have to move to other States. With discriminatory attacks, there will be large-scale internal displacement of people for which nobody has any answers. The sub-nationalism of ethnic groups may just take the wind off the sails of Hindu-dominant nationalism.

Shut out Russia

Is the World Anti-Doping Agency's decision to ban its athletes from international competition justified?



Vladimir Putin is not a happy man. In fact, the Russian President is extremely angry. This because the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has decided to ban all athletes competing under the Russian flag for four years. This is an unprecedented punishment as the ban will cover all major competitions, including the Olympics and the football World Cup. In the case of the latter, even if Russia qualifies for the 2022 World Cup, the athletes will not be allowed to represent their nation. And while Russian athletes, who can

prove that they did not submit to what WADA called a systematic State-sponsored doping regime, can represent themselves at global competitions, they cannot do so under the Russian tricolour. President Putin described this as proof of a global anti-Russian campaign. But was WADA justified? Yes, thanks to Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of the Moscow anti-doping laboratory, who called out how Russian spies were tampering with results and even managing to break open and reseal apparently "untamperable" urine sample bottles. So the case was strong. This systematic tampering has been going on for years and was apparently part of an attempt by the Russian authorities to paint the nation as a sporting superpower, much like it was done in the days of the Soviet Union. Some Western analysts say that the ban doesn't go far enough with some athletes, who apparently gained from the doping regime but were never caught and were still able to compete, albeit under the Olympic flag. If the Russian team qualifies for the World Cup in Qatar, a workaround will be found. Incidentally, this ban does not apply to tournaments not classified as "major" like the Euro 2020 football championship, where the Russian city of St Petersburg will host some matches and the team has qualified.

All said and done, the sports world has to continue to crack down on drug cheats. The drugs that some athletes use are getting more and more advanced and is easy to hide. Moreover, in a technological arms race between drugs and detection, the latter is losing. Was Russia just a bit stupid that it got caught? Would such a punishment ever be imposed on a Western nation? These are questions that need some answering. But for now, this is not final as Russia has said that it will appeal against this decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Unfulfilled goals

The best tribute to Gujral, who appreciated the need for India to blend development efforts with environmental protection, will be to revisit the findings of the GREEN India 2047 project



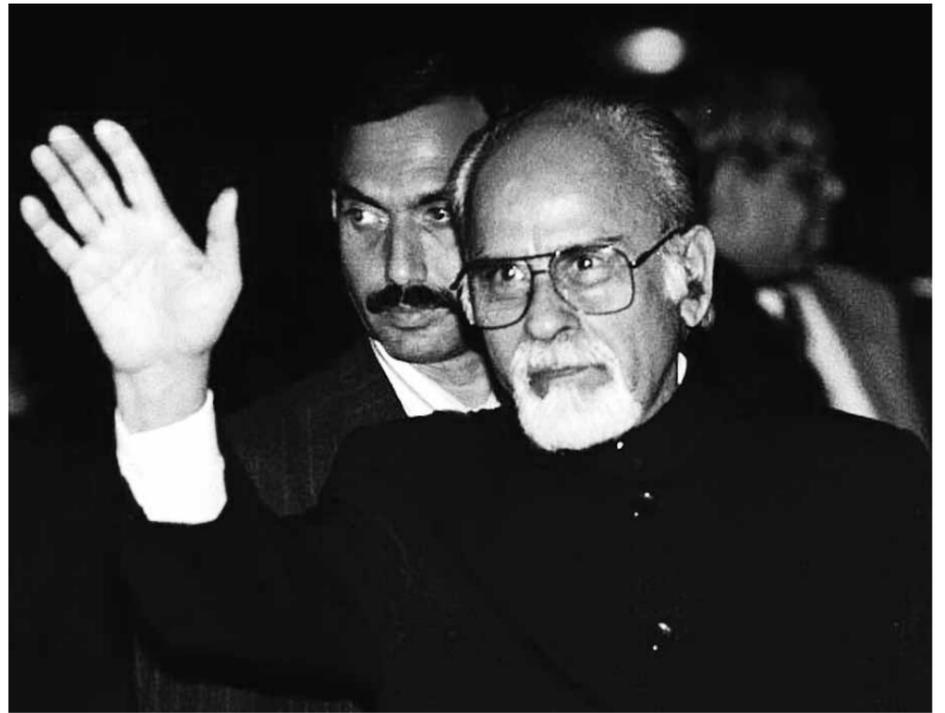
RK PACHAURI

It was last week that some events and television programmes were organised to mark the 100th birth anniversary of IK Gujral, who served as the 12th Prime Minister of India from April 1997 to March 1998. Those who have voiced their tributes and eulogies for this humane and gentlemanly leader have highlighted not only Gujral's vision in the field of international affairs but also his qualities as a steadfast friend to those who got to know him. Gujral was not only an intellectual who knew a great deal about subjects that political leaders generally do not read about, but he was also a person who expressed his opinions without fear or favour. It is not well-known that Gujral *saheb* was a person who held environmental issues close to his heart and fully appreciated the need for this country to blend development efforts with environmental protection.

It was in 1995 that The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched a major project called GREEN India 2047 in preparation for the celebration of 50 years of India's independence in 1997. This project, which was the effort of almost three dozen researchers working for almost two years, estimated and documented the damage that Indian society had imposed on the country's natural resources and its environmental quality. It further projected what could happen with business as usual 50 years into the future, that is when India reaches 100 years of independence in 2047. A brief presentation on this project was made before Gujral early in August 1997 at Vigyan Bhavan, during which he also assembled a number of members of his Council of Ministers. At the end of the presentation, which provided startling facts and figures, Gujral *saheb* stated that this presentation "should jolt us into action."

At that stage, the media, too, reported on the stark facts and the disturbing trends which had been in evidence during the first 50 years of India's independence. One particular editorial in a leading newspaper carried the title as "Filthy at Fifty." Much of the media coverage, which undoubtedly supported efforts to inform the Indian public, was clearly the result of the attention provided by the then Prime Minister to the analysis and realities presented to him.

Today it would be useful to revisit some of the findings of the GREEN India 2047 project, perhaps as a salute to Gujral's appreciation of the fact that India cannot develop without due attention to its natural resources and ecosystems, which not only support human life but a range of biodiversity that this country is blessed with. The truth is that in a range of vital resources, there has been rapid degradation as a result of so-called development. Some important facts need reflection even as 1997 is now 22 years



behind us. Even today, almost two-third of India's population lives in rural areas and while several leaders have highlighted the growth of India's population as one factor which imposes a larger and larger footprint on the country's natural resources, we have really not come to grips with what would constitute a sustainable level of population growth and consumption. India's population, which was 336 million in 1947, was estimated as 953 million in 1997. And today, we are 1.3 billion mindlessly pursuing Western consumption patterns, which impose a heavy burden on the country's natural resources.

In this respect, the provision of infrastructure and wherewithal for universal literacy and education have been lacking. So, too, the provision of adequate healthcare facilities in several parts of the country, which would have promoted different fertility decisions. At the same time, the consumerist culture, which Gandhiji was totally against, has not only afflicted the growing urban population but has also percolated to our rural areas.

Besides, as it happens, historically, industrial development has been centered around chemicals and fertilisers, paper, cement, power generation and aluminium, which are resource-

intensive and polluting. If we look at specific elements of natural resources, water, as is universally accepted, would be heavily stressed in several parts of the country because of the impacts of climate change. It is now clear that with increased warming of temperatures, we would not only see persistent and more serious droughts but also the effects of extreme precipitation events in different parts of the country. In several cases even those areas, which are drought-prone during most of the year, would see heavy precipitation events in some seasons. These would lead to recurrent floods with loss of lives and property. During Gujral's intervention, after the presentation that was made before him, he stated, "Thus, we have come to a stage when there are two lifestyles. The elite in the country can drink water out of a bottle; the common man can drink municipal water; and the worst, the slum dwellers can drink untreated river water. This is the picture that is emerging. Therefore, when we look at the coming 50 years — we are now at the golden jubilee of our independence — we must ask: Is this the lifestyle we are thinking of? Is this the life that we are offering to our people? Is this the future of our

children? And when I say children, I do not mean children only of the elite. The child living in the slum, the child who is walking and sleeping on the street, what future are we offering him?" Sadly, many of the projections that were made in this project and presented to the then Prime Minister have only become more threatening. Whether it is the air quality, chemical and toxic pollution of our groundwater, dumping of waste in our rivers, thinning of forests and the huge mountains of solid waste being generated not only by our cities but by our rural areas as well, the outlook for 2047 looks grim and frightening. While we have widespread opportunities, the inertia in our system is pushing us in the direction of business as usual. There is, therefore, a dire need for Indian society to shift gears and move towards a path of sustainable development. That would not only be a fitting tribute to Gujral but a reassurance for our children living a secure existence devoid of the growing risks from human-induced climate change and the catastrophic destruction of our natural resources. (The writer is former chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

SOUNDBITE

The last thing he (Dhoni) will want is to impose himself on an Indian team, having known him. He is wanting to take a break but he is going to play the IPL.



India coach —Ravi Shastri

I wasn't a household name. I was known by my character's name or the guy who spoke very fast. I was also known as the 'monologue guy.'



Actor —Kartik Aaryan

Citizenship Bill is a part of the RSS's Hindu Rashtra design of expansionism propagated by the fascist Modi Government.



Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan

It is regrettable that the USCIRF has chosen to be guided only by its prejudices on a matter (Citizenship Amendment Bill) on which it has no *locus standi*.



MEA Spokesperson —Raveesh Kumar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Task cut out

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Yediyurappa again" (December 10). With the BJP winning 12 of the 15 seats in the Karnataka Assembly bypolls, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has not only ensured stability to its Government but has dealt a heavy blow to the Opposition, particularly the Congress and Janata Dal (Secular), who were hoping to stage a comeback. However, Yediyurappa has his task cut out. He must focus on delivering a corruption-free Government and work towards inclusive development in the State.

Gajendra
Via email

Address the root issue

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "No more tears please" (December 9). Although the common man has been heavily hit by the high prices of onions and everyone has been groaning about the Government's inability to get the bulk back within their reach, it would be wrong to

CAB: A violation of the Constitution

This refers to the report, "LS clears CAB amid pitched battle" (December 10). It is sad that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is working on an amendment that could worsen the religious divide in the country. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) and the National Register of Citizens both will have serious Constitutional and social implications, eroding the secular fabric of the country. In effect, the amendment to the CAB, when it is adopted by both Houses, will grant citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians while shutting the doors for Muslims.

There is no doubt that the population of Hindus has seen a drastic decline over the past several decades in countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh due to the discriminatory measures adopted against them. It is also true of the North-eastern States, especially Assam, where the influx from across the border has been very high. It goes without saying that in nature and spirit, Indian secularism and its treatment of Islam have been far more liberal than in the neighbouring coun-

tries. That said, one sincerely hopes the Bill, when it is passed, would undergo changes that are not inimical to the basic goals of the framers of the Constitution. Of course, we have the right to frame strict laws in regard to immigrants.

time. It could have ordered the import of onions right at the time when an increase was reported. Instead, it chose to wait for prices to spiral. It is now that we have ordered the import of onions from Egypt, Afghanistan and Turkey. The way forward for us should be to find possible solutions to increase the production



JS Acharya
Hyderabad

of onions and one of the measures could be to increase the area under onion cultivation across the country. Onions are the staple food for millions of Indians, the poorest of whom often make meals of wheat-rolled roti, green chilli and this vegetable.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Business as usual

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Murder most foul" (December 10). The fire in New Delhi's Sadar Bazar, that claimed the lives of 43 labourers, was an accident waiting to happen. Most industrial activities in the country are not regulated and function in utter violation of labour, safety and environment laws. That such a cavalier set-up was functioning uninterrupted speaks volumes about how lethargic our system has become.

If the proceedings in the Uphaar case are anything to go by, one can very well imagine the time the courts will take to decide on this case. Moreover, one does not even know if the punishment will be exemplary. The fund relief announced by the Government for the victims in the Azad Mandi fire does not matter. The owner of the factory and its manager have also been arrested. The real test, however, will be if we can amend safety laws.

Sahil Agrawal
Kolkata

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

EVs are the next big thing

Improved battery technology and concerns over climate change are set to make electric vehicles the dominant force in the automobile space



PANKAJ M. MUNJAL

The increased use of Electric Vehicles (EVs) is the first major game-changing revolution sweeping the automobile industry ever since the internal combustion engine changed the sector's dynamics. Powered by improved battery technology and made extremely relevant by growing concerns over climate change, EVs are slowly but steadily moving towards becoming the dominant force in the automobile space. In 2018, the global sale of plug-in vehicles reached 2.1 million units, which constituted a 64 per cent increase over the previous year. Of this, 69 per cent were all-electric models while 31 per cent were plug-in hybrids, indicating that the consumer is increasingly preferring pure EVs. Electric bicycles (e-cycles) are another category that is fast catching the public's imagination globally. According to a recent report by a leading market research organisation, the global e-cycle market is expected to touch \$21 billion by 2024, growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12.5 per cent between 2019 and 2024.

Interestingly, a bulk of this growth in the EV category is coming from China, which accounted for more than 50 per cent of global sales. It is the Scandinavian countries, however, that lead the way when it comes to adoption of EVs. In Norway, a whopping 40 per cent of new car sales in 2018 comprised EVs while in Iceland it stood at 17.5 per cent and in Sweden 7.2 per cent. In India, the Government has already provided a major boost to the EV sector by announcing major investment goals for realising the objective of creating requisite charging infrastructure for them. The last Budget also announced significant income tax breaks for people buying EVs. As the transport sector globally tilts towards them, a great amount of churning is expected to take place in the automobile industry, which is currently dominated by internal combustion engine-powered vehicles.

An increasing shift to alternative energy is transforming different aspects of the automotive industry. With EVs clearly emerging as the future of the industry, automobile sector players are already expected to invest billions of dollars in this emerging technology. With EVs becoming a reality sooner than it was expected, investing in this technology will be key for all major players to stay relevant. Currently, the EV divisions of most automobile manufacturers form a minuscule part of their overall businesses. Most manufacturers have just one or two variants of EVs in place. However, as this is likely to change in the near future, the next 10 years will be very critical for conventional automobile manufacturers. It is not that the automobile technology has not witnessed any transformation in a century. However, the transformation was ushered by continuing development of existing technology. A shift to EVs, however, marks a complete change in automobile technology as well as major disruption in the automobile ecosystem. For example, automotive parts manufacturers are likely to be hit since EVs use fewer parts than other vehicles.

The coming years will witness a huge boost in Research & Development (R&D) in the EV sector as an increasing number of conventional car manufacturers work overtime to improve their EV technology. The battery supply issues, need for fast-charging batteries as well as long distance charging concerns need to be addressed now. Most R&D efforts in the automobile sector are, therefore, expected to focus on improving battery performance and reducing battery costs to make EVs more affordable. The e-cycle space is also likely to witness a greater churning and growth. The bulkier lead-acid batteries have already made way for much lighter nickel-cadmium and lithium-ion batteries that have made newer models much more viable and acceptable to the end consumer. Newer emerging trends in the e-cycle space include luxury folding e-bikes and high-tech bikes with smartphone integration.

With much-improved battery lives, e-cycles offer a highly sustainable and effective solution to the air pollution-cum-traffic congestion woes of countries like India. E-cycles launched in the country are already offering a viable, versatile and eco-friendly alternative to motorised bikes. These e-cycles come with substantial battery life and can easily be pedalled back manually in case of loss of battery. Interestingly, most path-breaking innovation in battery technology is coming from startups and not from established automobile players which also indicates that the latter might have to fight harder for survival.

Another interesting shift might be observed in the global centres of automobile manufacturing. With countries like China and India giving a major policy push to EVs, a lot of automobile manufacturing is likely to shift to these countries over the next 20 years. The next Detroit might as well emerge in one of these countries.

The emergence of EVs in a big way also gives a shot in the arm to the alternative fuel sector in general. An increasing yearning for a carbon-neutral world has prompted greater work in the direction of making a basket of clean fuels workable. An ethanol-powered bike has already been launched in India. The decline of fossil fuels in general and a shift towards a greener economy will, therefore, provide a boost to biofuels as well as solar energy.

(The writer is Chairman & MD of a major motor company)

WHEN WILL FAROOQ ABDULLAH AND TWO OTHER FORMER CHIEF MINISTERS AND POLITICIANS OF KASHMIR BE RELEASED FROM PRISON? —SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER ADHIR NANJAN CHAUDHARY

POINT-COUNTERPOINT



SHEIKH ABDULLAH WAS KEPT IN JAIL FOR 11 YEARS BY CONGRESS, WE WON'T FOLLOW THEM. ONCE THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDES, THEY WILL BE RELEASED. —UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH

Take it into account

While standard accounting norms like IFRS are about creating a level global playing field, the freedom to differentiate each economy through reporting is also vital



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The world is witnessing an integration of economies like never before. At the same time, political and economic volatility has also increased manifold and no country is immune to the resultant turmoil. Another consequence of this global economic integration is the rise of multinationals with transnational operations and subsidiaries in numerous countries and access to financial markets worldwide.

More than one-third of all financial transactions occur across borders and that number is expected to grow as the search for diversification and better investment opportunities expands. Different accounting standards mean different models. For example, a company may recognise profits under one set of national accounting norms and losses under another, which could ultimately have an impact on its reported financial performance and position. Without common accounting standards, cross-border activities were complicated in the past that resulted in adding cost, complexity and risk for both companies and investors using those financial statements to make economic decisions. In such an integrated but impulsive world economy, it is important to have a common business language that can help understand and compare businesses. Financial reporting is an important way through which companies communicate with external stakeholders and standardisation of such reporting processes worldwide to bring about uniformity is more valuable today than ever before.

With a view to improve corporate governance and increase free flow of capital across the globe, in 2001, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) developed the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), a set of high-quality common accounting rules established to bring about consistency, transparency, reliability and comparability in the financial statements worldwide. They define the types of transactions with financial impact, their maintenance and reporting. This goal of a single set of high-quality global accounting standards is being supported by several nations, including G20 countries, several professional accounting organisations and investors worldwide.

IFRS norms support the three pillars of transparency, accountability and efficiency. Transparency in financial statements is brought about by improving the comparability and the quality of financial information internationally, thereby improving the decision-making capability of investors and other external stakeholders. As a source of globally-comparable information, IFRS norms are also of vital importance to regulators around the world. By reducing the information asymmetry between the providers and users of capital, they boost accountability. Improving capital allocation by helping investors to identify opportunities and risks across the world, these standards contribute towards better economic efficiency. The usage of IFRS has become quite widespread with approximately 120 nations partially requiring these standards for their domestic listed companies. However, as many as 90 countries have fully conformed with IFRS as promulgated by the IASB and include a statement, acknowledging such conformity in their audit reports. Even those countries that don't apply the standards directly, like China, closely follow the rules that the IASB has established over the decades. According to a 2018 IFRS Foundation report, 27,000 domestically-listed companies on 88 major stock exchanges in the world use the standards. India's convergence with

WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INCREASE FREE FLOW OF CAPITAL ACROSS THE GLOBE, IN 2001, THE INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD DEVELOPED THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS, A SET OF HIGH-QUALITY COMMON ACCOUNTING RULES ESTABLISHED TO BRING ABOUT CONSISTENCY, TRANSPARENCY, RELIABILITY AND COMPARABILITY IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WORLDWIDE. THEY DEFINE THE TYPES OF TRANSACTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPACT, THEIR MAINTENANCE AND REPORTING



IFRS started with its commitment to the momentum of growth in the G-20 summit held in 2009, following which the Ministry of Corporate Affairs formulated an action plan to implement the convergence of Indian Accounting Standards with International Financial Reporting Standards from April 2011.

However, after initial glitches, from 2016, India has implemented a new framework of the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) that are based on and seek to substantially converge with IFRS, although not fully adopt them. Leasing, revenue recognition, foreign currency convertible bonds, current vs non-current liabilities, bargain purchases are among the areas where India has deviated from IFRS.

According to the Ind AS, from April 1, 2016, adoption of these standards has been compulsory for companies with a net worth upward of ₹500 crore, which later expanded to every listed company from accounting period beginning on or after April 1, 2017. Even unlisted companies with a net worth greater than or equal to ₹250 crore but less than ₹500 crore came under its purview. Once any company starts following Ind AS, either voluntarily or on mandate, it cannot revert to its old accounting method. As on date, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified 41 standards. Fair value and accurate reporting are given more importance, while computing financial statements in the new accounting standards and substance are recognised to reflect the most current picture of financials. It has also changed how the key financials such as revenue, net profit, book value, operating profit, goodwill and return on equity are computed. For instance, under the old rules, excise duty was deducted from sales. Conversely, as per the Ind AS, excise duty is now treated as a tax on manufacturing activity. Therefore, it is assumed to be a part of revenue, which thereby, increases the revenue of companies but depresses oper-

ating margin, without, however, affecting Earnings per share (EPS).

Several studies have been conducted worldwide to examine the usefulness of IFRS in realising the three pillars of transparency, accountability and efficiency and to help economic decision-makers and stakeholders alike to make informed decisions. In Germany, the impact of IFRS adoption was studied during 1998 to 2002 by Hung and Subramanyam where they concluded that the value of total assets and equity and variability of net earnings are significantly higher under IFRS compared to the German Accounting Standards. However, changes in financial ratios were not supported by their study.

Agca and Aktas conducted a pre and post-adoption study on impacts on financial ratios of 147 listed firms on the Istanbul stock exchange during 2004-2005 and found out that ratios that were majorly affected were the current and net asset turnover ratios. In contrast to other individual surveys by country, analysts Callao and Jarne, conducted two studies comparing results in Spain and the United Kingdom (UK).

The results revealed that the quantitative impact on financial ratios is significant in both countries and that it is higher in the UK. Blanchette, Racicot and Girard, in their research, examined various financial ratios of liquidity, leverage, coverage and profitability and their impact on the adoption of IFRS in companies operating in Canada and did not find any difference. Although survey results showed differences in means, medians and volatility in most financial ratios of companies but statistical significance could not be established in many cases. When they specifically evaluated their results by groups of companies who adopted IFRS at different dates, no significant variations were found in their results.

Arouri researched the IFRS impacts on return on equity (ROE) and value rel-

evancy over 40 French listed firms in 2004 utilising the longitudinal analysis and found that ROE and net income are increased by decrease inequity value due to the concept of fair valuation. Also, they did not observe any evidence of improvement in transparency and value relevance. In India, Achalapathi and Bhanu Sireesha studied several firms and showed that IFRS adoption has led to an increase in most of the liquidity, profitability and valuation ratios, which were statistically significant and were able to conclude that an opportunity for capital maintenance and protection against failure risk may have been provided to companies due to the transition to IFRS. Although standardisation and harmonisation of financial reporting is important in this globalised world, complete integration may not be possible as there is an increasing focus among different stakeholders on the future. Therefore, in an environment that is highly volatile and ever-changing, it is rather difficult for companies to make accurate predictions. Thus, more flexibility is needed in this area and the possibilities of standardisation become limited. Besides, non-financial aspects, like Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals, have started to play a major role in company reporting, the informative value of which may vary greatly from one industry to another and one country to another. The individual characteristics of each firm and their complex value chains must be taken into account here, as well as the industry, sector and country-specific requirements. Adequate flexibility is vital for coherent, stringent and appropriately-structured reporting. While standard accounting norms are all about creating a level global playing field, adequate freedom to differentiate each economy through our reporting is also vital.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

Time for collective introspection

Society should strongly support the victims of rape and not blame or shame them. The moral fabric of the country is tearing up slowly and this needs to stop. Boys must be taught to respect women by their parents at an early stage



KALYANI SHANKAR

In William Shakespeare's famous drama *Julius Caesar*, Cassius, a nobleman, speaking with his friend, Brutus confides in the latter that in the best interests of the public, Julius Caesar must be stopped from becoming the monarch of Rome. Cassius tells him, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." How apt is this quotation today! The solution to the increasing number of rapes and atrocities on women lies with us not elsewhere. This was my intro while writing about the Nirbhaya rape case.

Unfortunately, since then, despite public outrage, rape and molestation cases have been on the rise and they have become more violent. The recent Telangana rape-murder case and the burning of the Unnao rape victim and her subsequent death in a hospital, show that nothing has changed. Delhi is now considered the rape capital of the world. Foreign countries like the US and the UK have sent advisories to tourists travelling to India. In these countries too, there are crimes and rapes but by and large, the public is aware that the "big brother" is watching and the perpetrators will be caught sooner or later.

Sadly, this is not the case in India as criminals seem to have no fear of the authorities.

The public outrage following these unfortunate incidents is huge, as it should be. Asha Devi, mother of Nirbhaya, went on record and vented her frustration over the fact that her

daughter's rapists had still not been given capital punishment after all these years. In the meantime, there have been many high-profile rape cases allegedly involving some politicians and gurus.

However, the way some parliamentarians clapped their hands in support of the police encounter of the four alleged rapists in Telangana and the public support for the extrajudicial killings reveals the frustration of the people with the country's criminal justice system which takes years to mete out punishment.

But many apprehend that police encounters often end up thwarting justice and are often misused as a quick-fix by the security establishment under public pressure.

After the Nirbhaya incident, The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 was amended and is held as one of the most concrete steps taken by the Government to curb violence against

women. After the Telangana and Unnao incidents there has been clamour for even more stringent punishments. The question is, do we need more laws?

In reality, what is needed is stringent implementation of the existing laws by the police, Government, law enforcement agencies and awareness campaigns by women's organisations. The cases drag on for years. In the meanwhile, the perpetrators get emboldened and attack infants, children, girls, women and even grandmothers, to satiate their lust. Many women still do not go to the police to report these incidents for lack of faith in the criminal justice system.

The spate of atrocities against girls/women is indeed a wake up call for the judiciary. The State Governments and the High Courts (HCs) must support the Centre's proposal to set up 1,000 special courts to fast-track nearly 1.67 lakh rape cases,

of which the maximum crimes were those involving hapless children. It is also important to note that the conviction rate is a dismal 32 per cent and the other perpetrators are roaming free.

Poor investigation and shoddy case build-up by agencies result in culprits getting away scot-free. In short, there are failings in the entire criminal justice system. The police are not prompt in dealing with rape cases, the prosecution fails to get the perpetrators convicted and the courts do not have enough judges to take up cases.

The Centre and States need to address the issue of women's safety on a war footing as the public has lost confidence in the system. It is a sad commentary that despite the Supreme Court's observations that judicial reforms were needed urgently, the Government is dragging its feet on it.

Archaic laws need to be amended. It is appalling that when a toddler

is raped and is unable to give evidence, the culprits go scot-free because the mother's evidence is considered secondary. How can a two-year-old child give evidence of rape? The onus of proof should not lie with the victim. It is this kind of incongruity within the legal system which needs to be addressed.

Last, but not the least, there is need to change the mindset of the public. Society should strongly support the victims of rape and not blame or shame them. The moral fabric of the country is tearing up slowly and this needs to stop. Boys should be taught to respect women in a country where the *Shakti* (divine feminine creative power) cult is still relevant.

We should introspect in the aftermath of Hyderabad and Unnao incidents and put the fear of God in the minds of perpetrators and provide justice to the victims.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



BRING YOUTH TO THE FOREFRONT

Sri Lanka, while dealing effectively with any nation trying to interfere in its internal affairs, needs to change its goals on Universal Declaration of Human Rights issues, and as the 2019 theme says bring our creative, enterprising, imaginative youth to the front and centre of key human rights issues, including decision-making and poverty alleviation.

(Courtesy: Daily Mirror)

RCEP did not address India's concerns: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The RCEP did not "adequately" address India's concerns including over issues of non-tariff barriers to trade and opaqueness in subsidy regime in some countries, which forced it to back out from the trade deal, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Besides, the government is also going to review the free trade agreement between India and ASEAN countries by the previous governments saying that it has created trade imbalances, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said in a statement.

According to the minister, imports from these countries have increased much more than exports from India.

However, Goyal, who was replying to members in the Upper House, also assured them that India's Look East policy would continue.

"The government's priority is also to correct the asymmetry in the existing agreements and maximise its export potential to benefit domestic industry and

farmers to promote Prime Minister's vision of Make in India and doubling farmers' income," said Goyal.

The minister also said that India would continue to engage with other countries as "equal partner and on the principle of reciprocity".

"We are working with our existing FTA partners like South Korea and Japan to address our concerns," said Goyal in his statement on trade agreements with RCEP countries.

He further added: "We have also secured an agreement to initiate a review of ASEAN-India Trade and Goods agreement to make the AIFTA more user friendly, simple and trade facilitative."

Over RCEP, the minister said that India continued to focus on its core demands - level playing field, fair trade practices, transparency and market access - during the trade negotiations.

"Since, RCEP in its current form did not adequately address our concerns, joining it would be unfair to our interests," he said. During RCEP negotiations,

the government had highlighted India's position as a relatively low per capita GDP as compared to other RCEP countries and its concerns about the livelihood of farmers and employment generation provided by the industrial sector, particularly by the MSMEs.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega free-trade agreement (FTA) which was negotiated by 16 countries, including India and China. On November 4 in Bangkok, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the call of not joining the RCEP agreement as India's concerns were not addressed in the pact.

Taking a dig on the previous governments, the minister said that the previous FTAs done by them had done damage to trade, hence there was no question of any such further trade agreements.

Asked about the consequences of not joining RCEP, the minister said, "The economy of the country would improve and there would be no unwanted imports."

₹ rises 12 paise to 1-month high of 70.92 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee rose by 12 paise to close at a more than one-month high of 70.92 against the US dollar on Tuesday amid softening crude oil prices and weakening of the greenback vis-a-vis major global currencies.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee gained ground on the back of stable crude oil prices and a weaker dollar index. However, muted domestic equity markets weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 70.98 against the US dollar.

During the day, the domestic unit fluctuated between a high of 70.85 and a low of 71.04 and finally ended the day at 70.92 against the US dollar, the highest closing level since November 5 when the unit settled at 70.69.

On Monday, the rupee had settled at 71.04 against the

American currency.

"Rupee continued to extend gains despite fall in domestic equities but primarily on back of weakness in the dollar against its major crosses," said Gaurang Somaiyaa, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Private Ltd.

Somaiyaa, further said that focus will now be on inflation and industrial production number and weaker-than-expected data could curb the gains for the currency.

"We expect the USDINR (Spot) pair to find support close to 70.80 levels and on the higher side resistance is at 71.40 level," he said.

Forex traders said easing crude oil prices and weakness of the US dollar vis-a-vis other currencies overseas supported the rupee.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.13 per cent to 97.51.

Chinese inflation hits eight-year high as pork prices double

AFP ■ BEIJING

Consumer prices in China accelerated at their fastest pace for almost eight years in November as the African swine fever epidemic caused pork prices to more than double, data showed Tuesday.

The consumer price index (CPI) — a key gauge of retail inflation — came in at 4.5 per cent for November, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, up from 3.8 per cent in October and the highest rate since January 2012.

Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News had forecast an increase of 4.3 per cent on-year.

The widespread outbreak of swine fever since August 2018 has disrupted the pork supply in China, sending the prices of the staple meat up 110.2 per cent last month November.

With China's pig herd down by about 40 per cent, authorities last week launched a plan to restore pork production to pre-swine fever levels by 2021.

Govt told to prevent misuse of input tax credit under GST as collection slows

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary panel on finance on Tuesday observed that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection has slowed down in recent months and asked the government to prevent misuse of input tax credit.

Two years after its launch, the government has begun the review of GST, including a possible resetting of rates along with the slabs, the Standing Committee on Finance headed by Jayant Sinha said in its report tabled in Parliament.

"In this connection, the committee are constrained to observe that GST collections have somewhat slowed down in recent months as compared to the target. The committee would therefore expect the government to resolve all the troubling issues related to GST at the earliest to achieve the desired revenue buoyancy," the panel said.

GST revenue collection crossed the ₹1 lakh crore mark after a gap of three months in

November, with the revenue growing by 6 per cent to ₹1.03 lakh crore in the month. The collection stood at ₹95,380 crore in October.

"The committee would also urge the Department of Revenue to remain vigilant so as to prevent misuse of provisions as input tax credit and enhance monitoring of overall compliance," the committee said.

It further asked the revenue department to have systematic reports and conduct feedback surveys from taxpayers to evaluate whether GST is operating smoothly.

On large amount of tax refunds and the accruing interests on it, the committee said the processes should be revisited to dispense with the "need for raising realistic demands as also payments of disproportionately large advance tax by assesses".

In 2017-18, the direct tax refunds stood at ₹1.52 lakh crore and ₹17,603 crore as interest, which rose to ₹1.61 lakh crore and ₹20,566 crore respectively in 2018-19.

FCI raises ₹8K cr on BSE BOND platform

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) garnered Rs 8,000 crore by way of issuance of bonds on private placement basis on BSE's electronic book mechanism platform.

In total, 247 bids for Rs 20,071.2 crore were received on BSE BOND Platform, which is the second highest bids ever received for yield based bidding, the exchange said in a statement.

B S Mohapatra, Executive Director (Finance) at FCI said the platform's convenience, user-friendly feature and support from BSE team smoothened the entire bidding and fund-raising process.

"I am delighted that FCI is

able to raise Rs 8,000 crore successfully using BSE BOND platform...BSE firmly believes that Indian bond market is tapping ample potential for sizeable growth and India is parking its domestic savings in the most judicious manner," BSE CEO and MD Ashishkumar Chauhan said.

The platform was launched on July 1, 2016 to facilitate online bidding for private placement of debt securities. Since then, companies have garnered over ₹9 lakh crore through the exchange mechanism.

The platform, which allows all categories of investors to place bids, helps bring in transparency and efficiency in price discovery for private placement of debt securities.

Flipkart-owned PhonePe receives ₹585 cr infusion from parent firm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Flipkart-owned digital payments company PhonePe has received a fund infusion of about ₹585.66 crore from its parent firm in another round, according to regulatory filings.

PhonePe Pvt Ltd, Singapore, (formerly Flipkart Payments Pvt Ltd) was allotted 13,81,278 shares and the total amount paid was ₹585.66,18,720, according to documents sourced by business intelligence platform Tofler

The company declined to comment on the fund infusion.

In July this year, PhonePe had received a fund infusion of about ₹698 crore from its parent firm.

The latest fund infusion is expected to provide PhonePe more muscle to compete in the burgeoning payments segment in India. It competes against the likes of Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and others in this space.



Paytm had recently announced a USD 1 billion (around ₹7,173 crore) fund raise led by the US-based asset management firm T Rowe Price. Existing investors Alibaba, Softbank and Discovery Capital had also participated in the funding

round. Digital payments have seen significant growth in India after the government's demonetisation drive in 2016. Players like PhonePe and Paytm have witnessed strong growth in user base as well as transaction value and volumes.

PhonePe has seen its losses mount to ₹1,904.72 crore in 2018-19 from a loss of ₹791.03 crore for the year ended March 2018.

However, its revenue from operations rose manifold to ₹184.22 crore in 2018-19 as against ₹42.79 crore a year ago.

Previously, PhonePe had stated that it had seen 380 million transactions on its platform in August 2019, as compared to 290 million in the month of June.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	AMC of CCTV system installed in IRCA building & P.K. Road Railway Officers Colony, New Delhi for three years.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 18,45,106.56 only.
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-1, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Tender Document Fee (₹)	₹ 2,360 only.
Earnest Money to be deposited (₹)	₹ 36,900 only.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time 08.01.2020 up to 15:00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the N. Ry. website www.nreps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

No.: 558-Sig-16-Tele-AMC-563 Date: 10.12.2019 3936/2019
Serving Customers with a Smile

COAL LINKAGE RATIONALISATION LEADS TO ₹3,770CR SAVINGS PER YEAR BY 58 TPPS: CIL

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Coal India Ltd (CIL) on Tuesday said about 58 thermal power plants (TPPs) in the country are saving around Rs 3,770 crore per annum in coal transportation cost after the miner had implemented the fuel linkage rationalisation.

A total of 63 million tonne of coal movement is currently involved under the rationalisation policy, CIL sources said. "An estimated Rs 3,770 crore is being saved annually by 58 thermal power plants in the country in coal transportation costs after the implementation of linkage rationalisation policy by Coal India Limited since 2015," the miner said.

The linkage rationalisation refers to transfer of coal supply source of a power plant from a far end mine to the nearer one. This arrangement benefits the power plants in reduction of coal transportation cost and ensures quicker supplies of the fuel and greater availability of railway rakes, the sources said.

Vishal Sikka joins Oracle's board of directors

Washington: Former Infosys CEO Vishal Sikka, who recently launched his AI startup Vianai Systems, has been nominated to the board of directors of global technology major Oracle. Sikka, 52, is among the world's leading experts in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning and would be helping Oracle in the business value and adapt to change, the company said in a statement.

"Vishal is one of the world's leading experts in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning," said Oracle chairman and CTO Larry Ellison, announcing Sikka's addition to the Board of Directors. Before starting Vianai, Sikka was a top executive at SAP and the CEO of Infosys. PTI

SBI reports loan divergence of ₹11,932 cr for FY19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday reported about Rs 12,000 crore divergence in their bad loans for the last fiscal.

As per the assessment done by the RBI, the gross NPA of the SBI was 11,932 crore more at ₹1,84,682 as against ₹1,72,750 reported by the bank for 2018-19, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

Similarly, the net NPA was 77,827 crore as compared to disclosed figure of ₹65,895 crore, reflecting divergence of ₹11,932 crore, it said.

As a result the bank has to make additional provisioning of ₹12,036 crore in the balance sheet and the notional loss would have been at ₹6,968 crore.

SBI had posted a profit of ₹862 crore for 2018-19 in May this year.

It further said after subsequent slippage or upgradation during the current financial year, the remaining impact on the gross NPAs during the third quarter of current fiscal is ₹3,143 crore.

The impact on provisioning during the third quarter



stood at ₹4,654 crore, it added.

In recent months, there have been several instances of under-reporting of bad loans by lenders, prompting regulatory action by the Reserve Bank of India.

Last month, SBI in a circular noted that disclosures in respect of divergence and provisioning are in the nature of material events and hence necessitate immediate disclosure. Further, this information is also price sensitive, requiring prompt disclosure by a listed entity.

Accordingly, the regulator has decided that "listed banks shall make disclosures of divergences and provisioning beyond specified threshold, as mentioned in aforesaid RBI notifications, as soon as reasonably possible and not later than 24 hours upon receipt of the Reserve Bank's Final Risk Assessment Report (RAR), rather than waiting to publish them as part of annual financial statements".

The SBI has reported the loan divergence to the exchanges, as per the direction of market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Next rate cut depends on how less teary-eyed onion leaves RBI

Mumbai: Days after the Reserve Bank stunned the market with a status quo on the policy rates, an American brokerage has said onion prices hold the key to the next rate cut.

Onion prices, considered politically sensitive, have been spiralling for the last few weeks and have breached the ₹200-mark in some markets.

The RBI was widely expected to cut interest rates at last week's policy, which would have made it into a sixth consecutive cut in as many policy reviews in 2019 to boost the sagging growth, that has dipped to a six-year low.

"We advise investors to track onion prices to time the next rate cut by RBI," house economists at Bank of America Securities said in a note on Tuesday.

It said onion prices have now jumped 371 per cent year-on-year in December, after a 177 per cent increase in November. If the prices retreat to ₹60 a kg in December and to ₹40 in January from the present levels, inflation should peak off at 5.9 per cent in December and slip to 5.4 per cent in January. But if onion price moderates to ₹60 a kg in January, when bulk of onion imports arrive, inflation will be at 6.1 per cent in January, it said.

The note, however, said its base case is for a rate cut at the next policy review in February, when it expects the headline inflation to peak at 6 per cent in December or latest by January.

While holding the rates, governor Shaktikanta Das had said that the central bank was still open to cut the rates but chose to wait and watch for evolving data.

The brokerage said if the RBI is not comfortable with a negative real repo rate, which is the repo rate minus the headline inflation, the next rate cut will be in April.

China plans to launch its own digital currency: Report

PTI ■ BEIJING

China plans to launch its own digital currency to stay ahead of the global competition with its central bank approving proposals to conduct trials in some cities, official media here reported on Tuesday.

China's central bank - the People's Bank of China (PBC) - has stepped up efforts to roll out its Digital Currency Electronic Payment (DCEP) as it seeks to stay ahead of the competition among central banks around the world and help preserve financial sovereignty, state-run Global Times reported.

The bank is set to conduct trials of the digital currency in cities such as tech hub Shenzhen in the country's southern Guangdong Province, it said.

The initial test, set at the end of this month in Shenzhen, will involve some of the largest banks in the country and telecom carriers, the Times reported, quoting the Caijing Magazine.

The test will be expanded to more areas next year, it said. Similar tests are also expected to be conducted in Suzhou, China's eastern Jiangsu Province, the report noted.

Domestic internet giants Alibaba and Tencent will also participate in the trials, it added. The PBC is accelerating the launch as competition heating up among central banks around the world to leap ahead with digital currency, expected to affect a wide range of sectors ranging from financial to retail and trade, the report said.

On Wednesday, Francois Villeroy de Galhau, governor of France's central bank, announced that the bank will conduct a test of a digital currency and launch a call for projects before the end of the first quarter of 2020.

Employability of graduates jumps to 47% in 2019 from 33% in 2014: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In some good news to the millions graduates and also to the education system in the country as a whole, where for many years as much as 70 per cent of the professional degree holders were found to be unemployable, a survey has found that nearly half of the fresh pass-outs are employable now.

The survey, however, does not speak about the jobs scenario given the shape of the economy due to the high capacity underutilization prevalent in across most industry segments for many years now.

According to the India Skills Report by Wheebox, People Strong and CII, there is an overall positive trend in talent supply as over 46 per cent of the students surveyed are found to be employable or ready to take-up jobs in 2019 against only 33 per cent in 2014.

"There is an improvement in the availability of employable talent at around 47% in 2019up from 33.9% in 2014," Wheebox founder and chief executive Nirmal Singh said.

The most employable candidates are MBA passouts with 54 per cent of the being found employable against 40 per cent in two years ago, it said, adding BPharma, polytechnic, BCom and BA graduates have also seen an improvement in their employability which has increased by over 15 per cent.

However, there has been a decline in the employability those coming out with BTech, other engineering streams, MCA, technical and computer-related courses, says the survey. The survey is based on a study by the talent management specialist Wheebox which has conducted the national employability test survey from July-November 2019 with more than 3 lakh participants from 3,500 educational institutions across the country.

Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 45 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 5 Inch, Complexion : Shallow, Wearing : Grey Colour Inner Only, has been found dead on 29.11.2019 Near Hari Haran Public School, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 21-A

Dated 29.11.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO DP/724/N/19. PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23967889, 23968730, 8750870123

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Ram Kumari, D/o: Rajender Singh, R/o: Gali No.- 10, Sanjay colony, Safabad Road, Narela, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 20.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 497/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 21.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under: Name: Ram Kumari, Age: 16 Years 6 Months, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, ID Mark: Mole on left cheek, Wearing: Blue colour frock and sandal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Narela, Delhi.

Web: http://cbl.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbl.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO Police Station, Narela, Delhi Ph: 011-27282350, 27285839

DP/820/ON/19

Passenger vehicle sales slip into negative territory in Nov

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic passenger vehicle sales slipped into negative territory once again in November after registering a slight recovery in the preceding month, as muted demand conditions forced companies to reduce their dispatches to dealers. According to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle (PV) sales declined 0.84 per cent to 2,63,773 units in November from 2,66,000 units in the year-ago period.

The PV sales figure would have been much lower during the period under consideration, if it had not been aided by the utility vehicle segment, which saw despatches grow by 32.7 per cent to 92,739 units in November as compared with 69,884 units a year-ago. Domestic car sales were down 10.83 per cent to 1,60,306 units as against 1,79,783 units in the year-ago period while van sales were down 34.32 per cent to 10,728 units as compared to 16,333 in November 2018.

"Challenges continue in the passenger vehicle segment. We have to remember that the current numbers are on a comparatively low base of last November," SIAM Director



General Rajesh Menon told reporters here. New launches in the utility vehicle segment has helped prop up sales in October and November, he added. PV sales had risen marginally in October aided by positive festive season sentiment and introduction of new models in utility vehicle space, just about managing to snap 11 continuous months of decline in sales. However, vehicle sales across categories remained in the negative territory for over a year now. Menon said, sales in PV sector would in all probability continue in the slow lane during the remaining months of the ongoing fiscal. He added that SIAM was in talks with the government to introduce BS-VI fuel across the country from February itself in order to push the sales of BS-VI emission norms compliant models. As of now the government has

kept April 1, 2020 as the date of introducing upgraded fuel across the country. The BS-VI fuel is available currently in only the NCR region.

Total two-wheeler sales in November fell 14.27 per cent to 14,10,939 units compared to 16,45,783 units in the year-ago month. Motorcycle sales last month were down 14.87 per cent to 8,93,538 units as against 10,49,651 units a year earlier. Similarly, scooter sales last month declined 11.83 per cent to 4,59,851 units as compared with 5,21,542 units in November 2018. Commercial vehicle sales were down 14.98 per cent to 61,907 units in November, SIAM said.

"It is worrisome that commercial vehicles and two wheelers sales continue to be in the negative zone. Commercial vehicle segment continue to suffer because of low demand

in the infrastructure sector while two wheelers sales remain muted due to low demand in the rural areas," Menon said.

In the PV segment, Maruti Suzuki India reported a 3.31 per cent decline in its November sales at 1,39,133 units. Hyundai Motor India witnessed a 2.04 per cent increase at 44,600 units, while Mahindra & Mahindra reported a fall of 9.62 per cent to 14,633 units during the month.

In the two-wheeler category, Hero MotoCorp posted a 15.81 per cent drop in sales at 5,05,994 units, while rival Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India saw sales decline by 5.32 per cent to 3,73,283 units. Similarly, Chennai-based TVS Motor Company saw its sales slump by 26.52 per cent to 1,91,222 units in November.

In November, vehicle wholesales across categories registered a decline of 12.05 per cent to 17,92,415 units from 20,38,007 units in November 2018. On the other hand, November retail sales data showed a somewhat better picture in terms of sales, pointing to inventory correction taking place in the industry. Overall retail sales increased by 4.76 per cent to 22,13,519 units as compared with 21,12,876 units in the year-ago period.

TRAI issues public notice on revised MNP process

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator TRAI on Tuesday issued a public notice on the revised mobile number portability process, which is slated to make the porting process fast and simple from December 16. The new process, which comes with conditions for generation of Unique Porting Code (UPC), entails three working days' timeline for port out requests within a service area, and five working days for requests for port out from one circle to another.

There is no change in the porting timelines for the corporate mobile connections, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said. "TRAI has revised the Mobile Number Portability (MNP) process... In the revised MNP process, the Unique Porting Code (UPC) will be generated only when the subscriber is eligible to port-out his mobile number," TRAI said. From December 16, 2019, the revised MNP process will be in place and mobile subscribers can generate the Unique Porting Code and avail the mobile number porting process, it added. Laying down the rules for the new process, TRAI said a positive validation of various conditions will determine generation of the Unique Porting Code.

Sensex tumbles nearly 250 pts

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices spiralled on Tuesday, dragged by widespread selling in bank, energy and IT stocks, as investors booked profit at higher levels amid laudable macro and global cues. The 30-share BSE Sensex, after a positive opening, lost momentum throughout the session. It finally closed 247.55 points or 0.61 per cent lower at 40,239.88.

On similar lines, the 50-script NSE Nifty fell 80.70 points or 0.68 per cent to finish at 11,856.80. Participants were eager to take money off the table amid lack of positive news on the growth front, while global cues were weak due to the US-China tensions, traders said. Yes Bank was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack with 10.05 per cent decline, followed by PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, ITC, TCS, Axis Bank, Hero MotoCorp, M&M and HCL Tech, which lost up to 2.66 per cent. On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, HUL, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Bajaj Auto gained up to 1.06 per cent. "Selling in domestic market accentuated today as investors turned more cautious over double whammy of inflationary pressure and weak growth. Another factor which

is impacting market is the likelihood of maintenance of status quo on rates by both US Fed and ECB. Given domestic premium valuation of key indices, market is highly susceptible for near term volatility," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. All the BSE sectoral indices finished in the red.

BSE Utilities took the biggest hit with 2.16 per cent fall, followed by power (1.83 per cent), oil & gas (1.73 per cent), metal (1.38 per cent), basic materials (1.27 per cent), IT (1.18 per cent), Teck (1.12 per cent), FMCG (1.11 per cent) and energy (1.02 per cent). BSE Auto declined 0.79 per cent after industry data showed that domestic passenger vehicle sales slipped into the negative territory once again in November due to muted demand conditions.

According to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle (PV) sales declined 0.84 per cent to 2,63,773 units in November from 2,66,000 units in the year-ago period. Meanwhile, the rupee appreciated by 11 paise to trade at 70.93 against the US dollar (intra-day). Brent futures, the global oil benchmark, slipped 0.33 per cent to USD 64.04 per barrel.

Honda launches BS-VI compliant City, price starts at ₹9.91 lakh

New Delhi (PTI): Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) on Tuesday introduced BS-VI compliant version of its premium sedan Honda City priced between Rs 9.91 lakh and Rs 14.31 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). Petrol version of the BS-VI compliant Honda City is available in both manual and automatic transmissions, while diesel version will be introduced subsequently. HCIL said in a statement. The company said it has introduced Digipad 2.0 — an advanced infotainment system, in V, VX and ZX variants of the car, which now comes with 17.7 cm advanced touchscreen audio, video and navigation system with smartphone connectivity through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Commenting on the introduction, HCIL Senior Vice President & Director, Marketing and Sales Rajesh Goel said, "The launch of BS-VI Honda City will be followed by sequential introduction of BS-VI versions of other models in our line-up."

Honda is committed to bring its latest and advanced environment friendly technologies to the Indian market in line with the policy framework of the government, he added. The company has been selling BS-VI compliant Honda CR-V Petrol and Honda Civic Petrol since October 2018 and March 2019 respectively, it added.

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11950.50	11953.20	11844.70	11856.80	-80.70
BAFINANCE	3950.00	3995.00	3945.50	3994.50	49.65
HINDUNILVR	2014.90	2041.60	2011.00	2030.20	22.05
CIPLA	450.60	454.95	449.50	452.80	4.90
EICHERMOT	2128.00	2136.50	2092.95	2121.00	21.85
BHARTIARTL	445.45	451.00	442.25	449.65	3.80
ICICIBANK	526.05	530.25	524.70	529.75	3.25
HDFCBANK	1251.00	1253.65	1245.10	1250.10	7.15
GRASIM	766.00	782.00	764.70	770.60	4.30
KOTAKBANK	1665.00	1665.95	1651.05	1667.75	4.50
TITAN	1175.10	1192.10	1172.90	1180.00	1.95
SUNPHARMA	429.60	435.75	425.30	427.60	0.60
BAJAJ-AUTO	3230.00	3240.00	3211.25	3229.00	3.45
BAJAJFINSV	8910.00	8993.00	8879.00	8935.00	6.00
LT	1277.00	1284.00	1267.15	1276.85	0.85
HINDALCO	198.70	200.60	197.70	198.75	-0.10
BRITANNIA	3066.05	3079.00	3042.10	3056.15	-2.25
MARUTI	7019.00	7048.95	6905.00	6982.15	-12.60
TATAMOTORS	162.15	162.25	159.05	160.10	-0.40
RELIANCE	1572.05	1573.60	1554.15	1564.90	-7.70
INFY	713.00	718.50	710.00	713.45	-3.80
DRREDDY	2908.75	2908.75	2877.50	2892.65	-16.10
NESTLEIND	1424.00	1424.95	1403.70	1401.10	-86.40
ASIANPAINT	1726.00	1732.00	1709.00	1715.00	-11.35
UPL	565.30	572.50	553.60	559.50	-4.05
TECHM	749.95	749.95	737.30	744.90	-5.45
ONGC	126.40	128.30	124.90	125.25	-1.05
HDFC	2318.50	2332.90	2288.15	2288.55	-22.85
WIPRO	240.40	240.40	237.10	237.90	-2.50
TATATELE	405.00	409.60	400.20	402.35	-4.35
SBIN	317.20	322.65	312.25	313.20	-3.50
M&M	514.60	514.85	503.75	507.35	-6.30
BPCL	143.20	143.30	140.40	140.85	-1.70
HCLTECH	552.05	554.90	541.80	544.50	-7.55
IOC	125.50	126.50	121.85	123.20	-2.30
ADANIPTS	373.90	373.95	366.05	367.70	-7.90
INFRAEAT	259.00	259.00	252.15	255.40	-4.20
TCS	2060.00	2060.85	2003.25	2016.25	-44.20
HEROMOTOCO	2400.00	2406.10	2322.00	2327.00	-54.75
NTPC	112.50	113.15	109.70	110.10	-2.60
COALINDIA	192.00	192.45	186.55	187.00	-4.65
AXISBANK	731.00	734.80	714.00	717.80	-17.80
ITC	241.60	241.70	235.00	235.50	-5.95
INDUSINDBK	1460.00	1461.50	1408.60	1412.20	-37.80
ULTRACEMCO	4160.00	4165.25	4031.20	4040.00	-111.45
POWERGRID	187.95	187.95	182.20	182.75	-5.20
BPCL	495.90	503.70	482.40	485.15	-7.50
JSWSTEEL	256.30	259.15	250.30	251.15	-14.70
ZAIL	119.50	116.00	110.45	111.10	-5.10
GEEL	285.85	288.10	268.90	269.65	-14.50
YESBANK	54.80	56.35	48.55	50.40	-5.85

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	2786.45	2787.05	2749.00	2746.65	-294.00
NILCIL	133.35	145.20	133.15	140.60	8.60
IBULHSGFIN	261.00	277.00	259.30	270.10	11.35
IDEA	6.25	6.85	6.10	6.60	0.10
SRILIFE	950.00	968.00	930.00	949.00	7.10
NMDC	108.95	111.35	109.15	110.05	0.70
DIVISLAB	1810.10	1821.60	1795.40	1812.00	5.70
BIOCAN	289.45	290.25	286.30	290.00	0.80
CADILAH	258.95	262.15	256.20	259.00	0.45
INDIGO	1327.40	1340.50	1324.15	1326.95	-0.85
LATHEE	114.50	115.10	112.40	113.00	-1.10
SHREECEM	20330.00	20333.25	19950.00	20000.00	-21.15
MFC	111.65	113.00	110.55	111.50	-0.15
PARIC	339.95	340.95	335.50	340.00	-0.75
HDFCPIPE	577.15	586.50	569.05	571.00	-1.50
BERGEPAINT	339.00	342.00	325.00	329.75	-1.40
PAGEIND	2199.90	2219.00	2175.00	2185.60	-82.35
NHPC	23.85	23.95	23.60	23.80	-0.10
PHILITIND	1327.35	1331.80	1317.50	1318.85	-8.25
ASHOKLEY	77.20	77.70	76.15	76.85	-0.50
MCDOWELLN	588.25	601.00	582.00	582.20	-3.85
PETRONET	272.00	274.75	270.50	270.80	-1.85
LUPIN	758.15	759.40	747.30	750.45	-5.60
ICICIPRULI	492.00	502.15	483.70	486.00	-3.50
SIELMENS	1478.00	1488.85	1460.00	1463.00	-11.80
CORANKOR	540.00	563.45	551.40	552.60	-6.85
BANKBARODA	97.75	98.05	95.20	95.70	-1.25
HINDZINC	209.65	210.45	206.00	206.15	-2.90
DABUR	463.65	464.90	458.00	458.45	-6.85
BOSCHLTD	1526.05	1532.00	1495.05	1499.95	-22.45
SRTRANSF	1083.00	1090.00	1068.55	1075.70	-17.70
GODREJCP	661.55	664.80	645.05	646.40	-11.65
PNSB	60.70	61.10	59.40	59.65	-1.15
MAHES	658.35	658.35	645.10	645.75	-12.60
HAVELLS	134.00	134.45	130.75	131.80	-2.60
URL	1231.00	1232.00	1200.00	1200.20	-23.60
AMBUJACEM	199.90	200.35	195.30	195.60	-4.10
OFSS	2943.40	2963.95	2891.20	2891.30	-61.00
ICICI	1366.00	1385.00	1337.05	1341.25	-29.90
PEL	1490.00	1665.00	1601.10	1608.30	-39.50
DMART	1788.00	1790.00	1732.10	1736.60	-43.95
BAJAJHLING	3381.00	3410.00	3272.80	3295.00	-85.50
ACC	1475.00	1478.70	1432.80	1435.90	-37.95
PGH	1143.40	1143.40	1116.20	1117.05	-30.00
GREC	242.50	252.80	240.15	235.30	-61.00
HDFCPETRO	268.40	269.75	260.00	260.85	-8.20
HDFCAML	2966.00	3030.00	2834.00	2892.00	-92.00
BANDHANBNK	542.95	550.00	516.10	523.70	-19.50
AUROPHARMA	449.60	450.35	440.00	440.15	-18.15

BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
MAHINDCIE	154.10	160.00	146.60	148.45	
YESBANK	55.00	56.30	49.30	50.55	
IBULHSGFIN	260.80	277.50	259.20	269.05	
HDFCAML	2960.00	3028.25	2834.00	2890.90	
SBIN	317.75	322.50	313.20	313.45	
THERMAX	983.85	1012.00	983.85	990.75	
ZEEL	288.40	288.40	268.80	270.60	
RBLBANK	327.25	334.20	317.75	320.75	
RELIANCE	1571.90	1574.80	1554.25	1562.20	
MARUTI	7010.00	7051.50	6907.00	6977.00	
TCS	2063.40	2063.55	2002.00	2012.50	
HDFCLIFE	578.95	586.65	569.00	570.80	
HDFC	2319.00	2332.75	2284.15	2294.70	
IDEA	6.23	6.83	6.19	6.56	
TATAMOTORS	162.20	163.25	159.00	159.65	
KOTAKBANK	1669.00	1669.00	1651.40	165	

Become a problem solver

An integrated approach has to be taken and courses like design thinking and creative problem solving, have to be offered in MBA programmes as a core subject which will help students think holistically, says DR RAMAKRISHNAN RAMAN



If one ponders about the job that a middle level and a senior manager does in any organisation, then it would be evident that they solve problems and try ensuring that those problems do not occur again. One of the critical skills that a manager must have is the ability to solve problems. The issues can be related to process or people or procedures — but solving them needs creative thinking and excellent people management skills.

In an MBA programme which is offered by many Indian B-schools, faculties are usually arranged in functional silos, where specialised knowledge such as finance, accounting, operations and HR is taught in specialised courses by subject-specific technical experts. But when it comes to the real-world scenario, complex problem solving is integrative, and it cuts across these silos. This means that all departments are responsible for helping students become better problem solvers, but none of them owns

the challenge and takes the lead in addressing it. Consequently, a typical b-school doesn't teach complex problem solving as part of the core curriculum or provide the opportunity to practice and get feedback on it. Hence an integrative approach has to be taken and subjects like Design Thinking and Creative Problem Solving, have to be offered as a core subject which helps students to integrate and think holistically.

B-schools must ensure that problem solving becomes an integral part of the MBA programme and must equip the students with skills related to problem-solving. There are several theoretical approaches which give insight about several methods to solve problems in a structured manner. While imparting this 'knowledge' the students must also be trained in tools and technologies that can help them approach, understand and solve problems in a better fashion. Today every organisation has a large amount

B-SCHOOLS MUST ENSURE THAT PROBLEM-SOLVING BECOMES AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE MBA PROGRAMME AND MUST EQUIP THE STUDENTS WITH RELATED SKILLS. THERE ARE SEVERAL THEORETICAL APPROACHES WHICH GIVE INSIGHT ABOUT SEVERAL METHODS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN A STRUCTURED MANNER

of unstructured data available at disposal. Using this data can help in understanding the root cause of many issues that the organisation are grappling. Analysis of this data and correlating it with the problems can bring a different perspective to the organisations. If this skill is imparted to a management graduate, then, their employability quotient would increase by many folds.

Many managers go with their gut feeling when they face a problem which needs an immediate solution. Whenever one depends only on the gut, then the answer might go wrong in the long run. Hence ability to quickly look at the available data and analyse it to get some insights can help in solving the problem in a better fashion. This is a key aspect which must be ingrained in the students while they pursue their MBA degree.

In the present VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambi-

guity) world problem-solving is in demand. It's considered the top skill for success at management consulting firms and it's increasingly desired for everyone, not just MBA graduates. A case-based curriculum that is followed by some premium B Schools in the country orients the students towards problems solving in real-time. With the internet and access to it via mobile a lot of data that is available at disposal for the graduates while they join the workforce. Hence there is no point in making the graduates cram up mundane stuff; instead, they must be made to learn on how to apply the concepts to solve real-time practical problems. By ensuring that problem-solving becomes the default in all subjects offered at the MBA level, the next generation managers will be well equipped to innovate and bring innovative solutions to perennial problems.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune

QUOTE OF THE DAY
A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special
 — Nelson Mandela

ECG TECHNOLOGY

The Delhi Paramedical and Management Institute (DPMI) invites applications for admissions to its full time Diploma in Electrocardiogram Technology (ECG) programme.

This course provides syllabus that combines theory and practice, covering important background on the anatomy and physiology of the heart and chest, electrical conduction system of the heart and basic ECG interpretation.

Duration: One year
Eligibility: This diploma course has been thoughtfully designed for those who have recently passed Class XII from any recognised board and wants to work in Health industry can enroll for these courses.

How to apply: Log on to www.dpmiindia.com or the application forms & brochure may be obtained from admission office of Delhi Paramedical & Management Institute, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.

Last date to apply: August 28, 2020.

HOTEL MANAGEMENT

Lakshya Bhartee Institute of International Hotel Management invites applicants for admissions to its under graduate programmes and a post graduates programmes in Hotel Management.

Duration: Three years for BSc; two years for MSc.

Eligibility: Candidates must have passed Class XII from a recognised central/state board or from a recognised university. Selection will be based on the personal interview and for MSc in Hotel Management applicants must complete their graduation from a recognised university.

How to apply: Log on to www.lbihm.com or the admission forms can be obtained by filling the institute's application form and paying nominal fee of ₹400 in cash or ₹450 via demand draft in favour of



Lakshya Bhartee Institute of International Hotel Management (LBIHM), payable at New Delhi.

Last date to apply: December 29, 2019.

MSC PROGRAMME

JK Business School (JKBS) invites applications for admissions to its AICTE approved PGDM programme.

Duration: Two years
Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline from a recognised university with minimum 50 per cent score is eligible to apply for the PGDM programme. Candidates appearing in the final examination 2019 can also apply.

How to apply: Log on to www.jkbschool.org.

Last date to apply: January 31, 2020.

UG PROGRAMMES

The Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD) in collaboration with Kingston School of Art, London invites applications for admissions to its undergraduate programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers post-graduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion Business Management.

The institute offers these programmes through its creative studio-based education and strives to groom the next generation of designers and design thinkers at its state-of-the-art campus in New Delhi.

How to apply: Log on to www.iiad.edu.in or contact +91 98713 83633, +91 11 4138 0000.

'Adopt creative teaching approach'

There is need to develop innovative ways of learning for differently-abled children, says MAHJABEEN YUSUFI

Learning is the process of gaining knowledge or skill. But how do we accomplish this with children who are unable to learn in traditional ways.

Well, the answer to that is innovation! Innovative methods; titrated to the needs of each child will help optimise the learning process. Now let us look at some of the challenges encountered.

Do you remember sitting for a three-hour long movie and waiting for the interval to stretch your legs? Well, whittle that down to a 40-minute session; and you have a child who is edgy, restless and fidgety. What that child needs; is an interval. Tasks like 'erase the board', 'take a peek out the window', 'have a sip of water and join us' can be given to the child. These two-minute intermittent breaks will calm the surge of restiveness and help with sitting tolerance.

For many children rote learning has been an integral and safe tool, hence any digression into abstract territory may ruffle them. Have you tried making sense of a Jackson Pollock? I can't! Making sense of abstract nuances can be a difficult task for those children



who think only in black and white.

Simple tasks like 'make a sentence' will leave them parroting back the excerpt from the lesson. Tell them 'Don't think about the table as you read it in the text, look at your table; is it big, blue, messy, wooden? Now make a sentence.'

Encourage role play where they learn to challenge and improvise. Turn that abstract thinking into something concrete. 'Circle your friend like the Earth does the sun', 'Put your hand on the speaker and feel the vibration of sound'. Engage all their senses and create

a 5D learning experience.

Another area is attention. I sometimes think of that picture in picture television. Where do I focus my attention? That can be a daily reality for many children. What we need to do is tone down the learning space. No cluttered desks, no engaging in intrusive and tangent talk. Train the child to build tolerance by waiting for a stipulated time at the end of each class for expression and dialogue.

You may also encounter impulsive and sometimes destructive behaviour. Can you imagine having to dodge a projectile in

class while teaching because the child was not happy with a B. A behaviour modification chart will go a long way to repair unfitting behaviour. Being firm with bad behaviour is just as important as rewarding good behaviour. A rewards chart with takeaways like 'you can wear coloured clothes once you collect your stars', 'library privileges card' will help motivate appropriate behaviour.

Adopt a creative approach. Reverse roles in class, as a teacher you hand in your work and ask them to correct it. Let them hold the reins for a while scanning through your flawed work. This is not only an excellent tool for revision but it humanises the authority figure and shows the children that adults too make mistakes.

At the end of the day you need to respect every child. Steer clear of discrediting syntax. They might not understand semantics but they are fluent in body language. A simple pat on the back will show them that you care.

The writer is Teacher, The Aditya Birla Integrated School

Digital Delhi Conclave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) organised the inaugural, day-long Digital Delhi Conclave on the topic of IT and Health for all at its campus. The event saw the participation from a cross-section of IT and health related specialists from the academic, industry and the civil society related to the theme of sustainable development and health in Delhi. Participants included doctors and media researchers from various institutions such as AIIMS, WISH foundation, DBT/Wellcome Trust India as well as representatives from the field of media and health sector including Save the Children, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The idea behind the conclave was to create a public platform to discuss the evolution of information technology and its implications for sustainable development of the national capital region. "As an institution recognised for its cutting-edge research and teaching in information technology, we are very well placed to initiate the discussion on how the rise of information technology can play a role in the sustainable development of Delhi and the NCR region. Moreover, as a public institution, located in the heart of this bustling India's largest metropolis, we see our role as an agenda-setter for issues of AI and IT and how they relate to the key sustainable development goals (SDGs) for our shared future," said Dr Asim Khan, Assistant Professor (SSH), IIIT-Delhi and the convener for the event.

The event kicked off with a conclave debate on the topic of IT and future of healthcare, where student teams debated some of the most significant questions relating to social and data challenges facing India's healthcare sector. This was followed by a workshop on scientific communication which participation from both within and beyond IIIT-Delhi. The latter part of the conclave saw thought leaders, scientists, innovators, social scientists and science communicators engage in a lively discussion including on theme of big data and the potential to revive our health sector through partnerships across silos.

Go for right date

ITCOUNTS



The date on which a business should be launched or *mahurat* is to be done, should be decided on the basis of the personal year number of the person as well his destiny number.

The date which we fix should vibrate harmoniously with both personal year number (actual age of a person on that date) and the destiny number (the total of date + month + year).

For example, a person's name is Raj Kumar. He wants to launch his business on December 15, 2019. His date of birth is May 15, 1990. To find his personal year, subtract the date of birth from the date of launching of business. In this case, it will be 15.12.2019 — 15.05.1990 = 29+.

So, this person will be running in the 30th year and shall continue till his next birthday. Therefore, personal year will be, 30 = 3+0=3.

Psychic Number (date of the birth), 15=1+5=6

Destiny number (date + month + year) = 1+5+5+1+9+9+0=30=3+0=3

So, we have to see the



JC CHAUDHRY

relationship of destiny number (3) with personal year number (3).

As they are in harmony with each other so this date can be fixed for launch of business and will prove as a good date.

If the date is not harmonious then, some other date can be fixed.

Each number vibrates with different frequency.

The writer is a renowned entrepreneur, motivational speaker and numerologist

Leadership change in Cambridge University Press

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ratnesh Jha, the Managing Director of Cambridge University Press India and South Asia, is standing down to pursue other career opportunities.

During his six years with Cambridge, Ratnesh has played an important role in the Press's success in India, developing innovative publishing and digital solutions, responding to changing needs from teachers and learners, putting in place a team which has generated strong growth, and laying the foundations for further expansion.

Managing Director for the Press's Education Group, Rod Smith, said: "Ratnesh has helped build Cambridge's profile with Government, industry bodies and school

chains and under his leadership our teams have had a powerful and positive impact on education in this region."

Govindan Talian Veedu will take over the role from Ratnesh. Govindan will move from his current post as the Press's Regional Director for English and Education in the Asian region and North East Asia, where he has built an impressive track-record in driving sustained growth, building effective teams and long-lasting relationships with customers.

Chief Executive of Cambridge University Press, Peter Phillips said: "Ratnesh has been a huge asset to the Press in India and South Asia. While we're sorry he's moving on, we wish him success in his future career."

12th convocation at IMS

The 12th convocation of the IMS Engineering College on the National Highway was completed with grandeur. In which titles and certificates were distributed to 840 students — graduates and undergraduates. The convocation was inaugurated jointly by the chief guest Dr Omkar Rai, Professor Vinay Kumar Pathak, IMS College Society's Rakesh Chharia by lighting the wreath and lamp on Maa Saraswati.

Significantly, in his address Professor Mukherjee, Director of IMS College, presented the



Dignitaries present at the event

brilliant placement in the International Outreach Programme, Culture of Innovation, among the major achievements of the college in his

address, mainly awarding degrees to 840 students. Eight students were awarded various medals and cash prizes.

During this, Chief Guest Dr Onkar Singh said that India is in a phase of IT revolution after Green and White Revolution. Experienced entrepreneurs, efficient youth power, the government has developed an eco system which can revolutionise IT with entrepreneurship and start-up. Today's young generation and startups can achieve very good status and can take the country to some level.

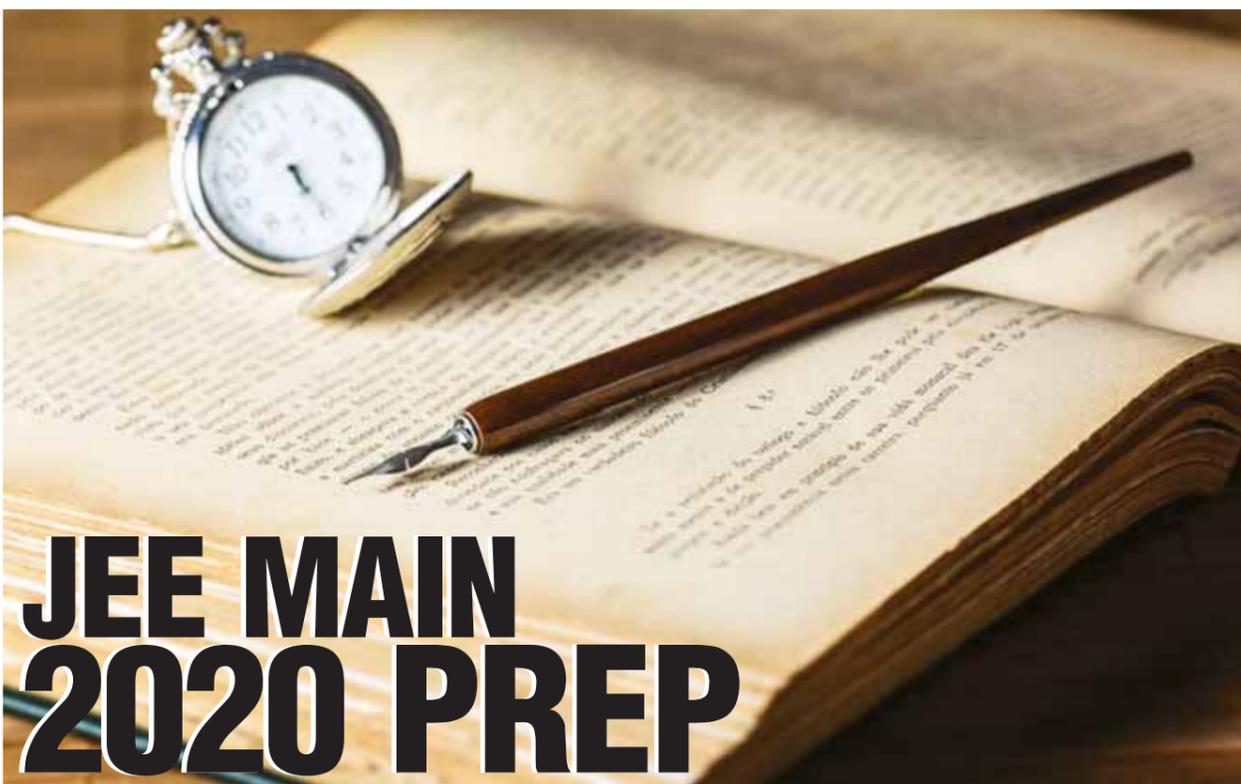
Academic excellence award for Ryan

The Ryan International Group of Institutions was awarded the Most Promising School with Academic Excellence Awards at the Indo Arab Leaders Summit and Awards 2019 in Dubai. The award was given by Market Research Company, Worldwide Achiever for outstanding contributions in the field of education. Ryan Pinto, CEO of Ryan International Group of Institutions received the award.

On this occasion, HE Dr Mohammad Saeed Al-Kindi (Former Minister, Environment and Water,

United Arab Emirates), Vipul (Consul General of India, Dubai) and Asian Games Gold medalist wrestler Padma Shri Bajrang Punia were present as the chief guests.

While addressing the audience Vipul said: "Technology has become a part of our life. Through these investments, both countries can be beneficial for each other. Technology is evolving in the field of teaching as well, online learning apps are the best example of it. Nowadays, students are also taking the help of technology for studying."



JEE MAIN 2020 PREP

With less than a month left for the exam, AKHAND SWAROOP PANDIT shares last minute tips for the aspirants that may help them

For centuries, Indian parents have been urging their children to grow up as doctors, engineers or architects. From as early as Class VIII, they put their heart and soul into convincing their kids to either take up engineering or go for MBBS. And that's how most students get enrolled themselves for the drilling coaching classes and end up making Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) their life goal. Once this practice starts, struggles, challenges, failures, and achievements naturally follow.

Every year, thousands of candidates apply for JEE and give their best to secure a seat in one of the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). However, now that times have changed and so did JEE Main 2020 exam patterns, aspirants should be extremely mindful before moving on to the preparations stage. The latest changes introduced by the National Testing Agency (NTA),

that every JEE aspirant should look into, are as follows:

- From now on, candidates who wish to apply for BPlanning courses will be required to give a separate exam. JEE Main 2020 will be conducted in three sections: Paper I for BArch, Paper II for BArch and Paper III for BPlanning. This gives them the choice to appear for anyone or two or all three paper.

- When it comes to BE/ BArch paper, there will be 75 questions in total as compared to 90. Each section will now have five questions less, which is, an aspirant will need to solve 25 questions instead of 30.

- Similarly, Paper II for BArch will have a total of 77 questions. In the drawing test, candidates will now require to solve two questions instead of three. While Part I and Part II of this paper will be computer based, Part III will involve pen and paper.

Scanning these latest changes in the JEE Main 2020 pattern will give a clear picture of how to pre-

Don't spend much time on one topic, study at least 2-3, side by side. Doing so will help you stay engaged and maintain the momentum instead of getting bored and losing interest

pare, accordingly.

Here's a list of carefully-picked pointers that will certainly help you prepare well for the upcoming JEE, and even crack it in one go.

- Prepare a daily time table and smartly allocate days for each topic. Always remember not to spend much time on one topic and rather study at least two-three top-

ics, side by side. Doing so will help you stay engaged and maintain the momentum instead of getting bored and gradually losing out interest. Apart from doing regular revisions, fix a day, for instance, Sunday for revising the work done in the past week.

- Practice solving more and more questions rather than mugging up the theory part, again and again. As part of regular revision practice, prepare a list of 50-60 standard questions that should cover all the relevant topics and practice them rigorously.

- Divide the syllabus into Class XI and Class XII topics. It is always advisable to start your preparations with a lower level (Class XI) then gradually proceed to a higher level (Class XII) to make your base stronger, which will further help you in better understanding of the higher-level subjects. Remember, JEE will comprise a right mix of both levels. Prepare accordingly!

- Carefully analyse the question papers of last 10-15 years of both JEE and AIEEE. Doing so will give you a clear idea of which topics should be given the maximum weightage. Never forget to cover those topics that are being asked almost every year.

This shows the level of importance they carry. For instance, a candidate should never miss out topics such as thermodynamics, organic chemistry, calculus, complex numbers, coordinate geometry, among others. Most essentially, revise them at least two-three times on a regular basis.

- Last, never break your sleeping pattern as it may affect your health and make you feel lethargic all day. Maintaining a disciplined sleep cycle will enable you to stay active and focused during exam hours. And remember the mantra: Study, solve, eat, sleep and repeat.

The writer is Founder-CEO, Catalyst Group, Online Learning Platform

'Important to know your passion to select course'

Choosing the right career path is integral to our life as it leads to greater chances of success and fulfillment in the long run, says DR NARENDRA SHYAMSUKHA

The lacklustre performance amongst the current working class is leading to greater lay-offs and more firing than hiring, creating inflation in the economy. Here it is more than just monetary gains that are at stake - we are turning out to be a veritable army of robots, failing to add passion to our work. Here, choosing the right career path is integral, as it leads to greater chances of success and fulfillment. Here it is important to follow your passion and inner-calling for the following reasons:

Enhanced concentration: There's no denying the fact that your perception and attitude towards your work decides your level of concentration you can put on it. When you bag the position of your dreams, you'll ensure that you stand up to the post. This would require enhanced levels of concentration that you would give, happily without creating a strain on your thought-process. The chances of making mistakes would steadily decrease as you would pay closer attention, naturally.

Passion and willingness: Work done with passion and love more often than not leads to greatness. All the great leaders in the world have been driven by passion, in order to achieve bigger things.

Willingness and passion convey better attention towards works and the results it shall bring. With a passion for work come hope and the want to achieve. Your fire to achieve remains intact and in fact, it grows to the betterment of you and the business.

Evaluation of your skills: Listless jobs do nothing for your skill set as it constantly bogs you down, decreasing your productivity to the greatest extent. Here you need to have a job that reinforces your hunger, while helping you evolve your skill sets and acumen. With your passion being turned into occupation, you have a better chance at evaluating your skills and figuring out new ways to improve.

Job satisfaction: Love and passion nurture an individual from a novice to an expert. Hence, job satisfaction is one of the important factors that people are less acquainted with. With job dissatisfaction decreases the onus to create an impact and grow - hampering work life balance. As you follow your passion, you shall see a difference in your approach. You will feel happy getting up in the morning and will



Dr Narendra Shyamsukha
Founder & Chairman, ICA Edu Skills

look forward to going to your workplace. With a satisfying approach towards your job ensures employers satisfaction. Here, you would achieve excellence as you would actively participate in measures to improve your skills.

Scope of growth: The more you stifle yourself in the wrong fit, the more you're miserable, thereby decreasing productivity significantly. With having a passion, you look forward to completing tasks that would help the organization grow as well as develop your position. The joy of working for something you love remains unmatched as you take pride in creating newer opportunities. It will provide you new avenues to grow and continue providing the best to the organization as well as position.

Excellence: Have you ever seen excellence being achieved through dissent and dissatisfaction? Excellence is what every organization requires, where there is no space for half-hearted attempt. Vocational training and constant skilling come of great use, as they help you improve upon your skills and unlock newer potentials. There are some institutes that help in arming people with the right skills to improve and enhance your career. They have already established its position as a pioneer of in-hands, real-time guidance in Accounts, Finance and Taxation Training nationwide, offering a vast range of skill training programmes.

It is widely accepted, "Personalities are seldom born, they are forged". In order to achieve unprecedented success, one always has to take the road less travelled. Although, the case with the modern day student is entirely different. Students do not want to take the tough path and have conveniently adopted 'follow the herd' mentality.

Sadly, most of them are 'marks' centric and not 'skill' centric. Marks would enable students to enter colleges of their choice but serve very little purpose beyond that. The present generation has forgotten that each of them is unique and has different abilities. In their overblook to get ahead in the race, they often overlook their own aptitudes and interests. Getting good marks, admission

into a college to finally end up with a job that does not match his natural abilities is a sad tale of many a students.

The modern-day student lacks the ability to co-op with the stress that comes with the decision to travel the unknown terrain. Students today are suffering from stress related problems as they are never taught the art of managing stress in the schooling years.

This is one of the major drawbacks in the system of education in our country. The curriculum has missed out on major life skills subjects like anger management, stress management, confidence and self-esteem building, fighting peer pressure, addiction etc. This leads to catastrophic aftermaths later in the college life.

MINDIT

In a survey, over twenty thousand teenage students were asked questions related to stress. Almost 45% of them admitted that they feel stressed almost all the time. The major reason behind the stress was the pressure from family, teachers, peers and school. Students today are vulnerable than ever as with the increasing competition, their ability to handle the pressure has not enhanced. It is same like sending a warrior to battle in a war without weapons and armour. It is but natural that he will fail 99% of the time.

People need to understand that a power

packed life skills training programme in schools and colleges is the need of the hour and should be made mandatory in all the states. We as a Nation cannot afford to squander this precious time as we are currently one of the youngest Nations in the world. Preparing students to tackle the obstacles they face in their life is of paramount importance and should not be delayed any further.

With Life Skills Training, students will develop competence, confidence and maturity. As a result, during the crucial interviews and selection drives, they would

not hesitate to stand-out and be noticed. When an individual wins the inner battle, the battle outside would look puny and feeble. Studies have shown that with programmes like 'happiness drive' and 'anger management', students have transformed greatly as these kinds of programmes touch the often untouched areas in one's personality. After the training, students develop a positive perception towards life and see life from a new and broader perspective.

Students also develop creativity and curiosity that indeed are the biggest teachers in the World. When students are curious and happy, they find the key to their problems by themselves as they get a sudden surge of zest in them.

The students of today are the torch bearers of the India of tomorrow. After graduation, they must have more than just a degree in their quiver. Arming them with the necessary life skills is crucial to enable them to cope with post school environment, handle stress better, be more social and be more employable. Need for such success skills can not be overemphasised, they are critical to happiness and success. Life is competitive and unless children are empowered with these essential skills they would not be able to stand apart in a crowd. Therefore, there is a dire need to prepare them for the life ahead by giving them a much needed platform.

The writer is Col (Retd) Dinesh Mudri, Director of TWIN WIN Academy, Bengaluru



The Strathclyde Business School is delighted to be able to offer a number of Masters Scholarships for International students starting their studies in 2020. Candidates for all Full Time MSc programmes in Glasgow will be automatically considered for these scholarships so no separate scholarship application is necessary.

Number: 40
Value: £7000
Eligibility: The Scholarships will be awarded on merit, rather than financial need, to candidates who demonstrate in their Masters Programme application excellent academic performance (current and/or previously gained); any relevant extra-curricular or professional experience and career development and who will contribute to the overall academic, cultural and experiential profile of the programme cohort.

For more information - <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/strathclydebusinessschools-scholarships> or contact sbs.admissions@strath.ac.uk

Application deadline: July 31, 2020.

The University of Sheffield, UK is delighted to offer 125 International PG Taught Merit Scholarships in 2020.

Each scholarship is a competitive award worth 25% of the original tuition fee. The scholarships are available to all new international (non-EU) students who meet the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility: Your programme must commence at the University of Sheffield in September 2020. You must receive an offer for a course studied in full at the University of Sheffield. Masters programmes split between the University of Sheffield and a partner institution are not eligible to apply for a scholarship.

For tuition fee purposes you must be self-funded and required to pay the overseas tuition fee. Anyone studying a Masters/integrated PhD programme is eligible for a merit scholarship in the Masters element of the programme only.

For more visit: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/scholarships/postgraduate/international-merit-postgraduate-scholarship>
Application deadline: It is 13:00 (UK time) on Monday May 4, 2020.

ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING AT BRAHM WORKS

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2279528
Application deadline: December 15, 2019

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WORKEK

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2279530
Application deadline: December 15, 2019

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT DIGION

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2279538
Application deadline: December 15, 2019

COUNSELLING AT ESTERO NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2279542
Application deadline: December 15, 2019

CIVIL ENGINEERING AT ELEVENX CONSULTANCY

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2279543
Application deadline: December 15, 2019

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT ALNOURISH HEALTHY FOODS

Location: Delhi, Gurugram
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2279545
Application deadline: December 15, 2019

VIDEO EDITING AT P2C SOLUTIONS INDIA

Location - Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2279549
Application deadline: December 15, 2019

STUDY ABROAD

'Permanent residency is an attraction for students'

Statistics say that Canada and Australia are preferred study destinations, over the US, for students. ROHIT SETHI lists reasons for the same

There are numerous reasons why Indian students are preferring to go to Australia and Canada for their higher studies.

Post-study work permit: Many countries don't offer the option of a post-study work permit to students, Australia and Canada do. Foreign students in Australia can apply for a post-study work visa if they have studied for two years or more in the country. Similarly, Canada gives a work permit for three years to students on the completion of a Master's degree from a Canadian university. The country also allows this permit to students pursuing a minimum of eight-month diploma from any community college, however, the visa tenure is different in such case. Adding to the inflow of Indian students to Canada is the Study Direct Stream programme introduced last year.

Safety and affordability: Australia and Canada offer a safe study environment to foreign students. The residents of these countries are kind to foreigners and strongly support cultural diversity. Apart from safety, studying in Australia and Canada is also

more affordable as compared to the US, be it in terms of the cost of living, tuition fees etc.

Multitude of courses: Reputed universities in Australia and Canada are famous for offering a vast range of courses. From Science, Technology, Engineering and Math courses to management programmes, these two countries offer several options to students, basis their personal interest and expertise. Students are also opting for unconventional and specialized areas of study, in addition to popular mainstream courses.

Permanent residency: In many cases, students continue to stay back and seek employment in Australia and Canada after the completion of their studies, before applying for Permanent Residency. The best part: They don't have to go through a lot of hassle. The approval process is smooth and takes little time. Canada's newly reformed Express Entry programme has also drastically streamlined the approval process for foreign students looking to seek permanent residency in the country.

These two countries are expected to pull in more students from the country in the near future as well.

The writer is director, ESS Global (Study Abroad Consultant)

IN BRIEF

GIS CLUB WITH ESRI TECHNOLOGY

The Scottish High International School has announced the launch of India's first ever GIS Club in a school. Through this launch, it aims to educate and train the future professionals around the dynamics of GIS technology and how it can be used for better understanding of various subjects including IT, Science, History, Civics, and Literature apart from Geography.

The programme provides hands on experience for students to learn Esri StoryMaps and use Esri technology in research and learning. In 2017 and 2019, students from Scottish High Schools also won awards in Esri India StoryMaps Contest using Esri's ArcGIS technology. Students have also presented their work to distinguished audience in the Esri India User Conference.

AUC PARTNERS WITH BRAINGAIN ACADEMY

The American University in Cairo (AUC) in Egypt, has exclusively collaborated with BrainGain Academy, for its 10-day winter programme - 'Discover Egypt: A Historical and Cultural Learning Adventure'. The programme is inviting applications for its 10-day programme from January 11-24, 2020 at the campus of the American University in Cairo. The

short course will offer an immersive experience. With this archaeological adventure, participants will explore Egypt's history and ancient civilizations and walk through the past, while experiencing the present in the streets of the magical city of Cairo. The deadline for accepting applications is December 20, 2019.

Harjiv Singh, founder-CEO, BrainGain

Global said: "We are happy to collaborate with AUC for this unique programme. The goal is to provide students with a valuable historical and archaeological academic experience while immersing students in an authentic learning environment. Such programmes provide cultural and educational experience and we are glad that we have partnered with AUC."

PG IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

The FLAME University has developed a unique model of creating next generation of high impact innovators and entrepreneurs. The curriculum is designed by renowned faculty, industry practitioners and innovation experts. Programme participants will get an opportunity to interact and learn from advisors and mentors like Hari Menon, Rupen Jhaveri, Manish Chokhani, Saras D. Sarasvathy, Prasanna Krishnamoorthy and more.

The four-module programme provides an opportunity to work on live

start-up projects over the first two modules followed by incubation of new ventures either individually or in groups in the second half of the program. The program is practice and outcome focused. Participants learn and practice decision-making frameworks such as effectuation and lean start-up that have helped established entrepreneurs succeed.

Participants will be given exposure to exponential technologies that will include AI/ML, Blockchain, Robotics, IoT and AR/VR.

Gunners end barren run

Arsenal relieved as worst winless streak since 1977 ends at West Ham



Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, front right, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal duels for the ball

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg believes a weight has been lifted off his players shoulders after a three-goal blitz in nine second-half minutes beat West Ham 3-1 on Monday to end the Gunners worst winless run in 42 years.

Another miserable night for the Swede seemed in store when the visitors trailed at half-time to Angelo Ogbonna's deflected header.

However, Arsenal suddenly sparked into life after Gabriel

Martinelli scored his first Premier League goal as Nicolas Pepe finally started to deliver on his club record £72 million fee by curling home a brilliant second, before crossing for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to secure all three points.

"It means so much for the players. They have been living under enormous pressure and you see it in their performances," said Ljungberg.

"You can see the players have been a bit low and you see in the dressing room the relief and how happy they are."

A first win in 10 games in all

competitions lifts Arsenal up to ninth and cuts the gap on fourth-placed Chelsea to seven points in the battle for Champions League qualification next season.

Ljungberg reacted to taking just one point from his opening two games in temporary charge against lowly Norwich and Brighton by making five changes with Martinelli and Pepe among those coming into the side.

Pepe's inability to make an impact has been one of the major reasons for Arsenal's struggles, but the Ivorian looked a new player after

curling home his first Premier League goal from open play 24 minutes from time.

"Nicolas is an amazing football player, but it is not easy to come from the French league into the Premier League and adjust straight away," added Ljungberg.

"It was an amazing goal and he'll get better and better."

'WEST HAM 'DOMINATED FOR 60 MINUTES'

Not much had improved in Ljungberg's first two games since replacing the sacked Unai Emery

and it was the same tame and lifeless Arsenal for the first hour against a West Ham side that have won just once in their last 11 games.

"I think we dominated the game for 60 minutes and after that in 10 minutes we lose the game," said West Ham manager Manuel Pellegrini, who is under increasing pressure as his side sit just one point above the relegation zone.

Another home defeat means the Hammers have taken just one point from their last five games at the London Stadium and the home side were booed off at full-time.

"You understand the boos because the last five games we played here we didn't win," added Pellegrini. "You cannot concede three goals in every game."

In a first half of precious little good football it was fitting the opener arrived in scrappy fashion as Ogbonna's attempted header came off his shoulder and deflected off Martinelli to wrong-foot Bernd Leno in the Arsenal goal.

But one moment changed the course of the game when Sead Kolasinac burst down the left and crossed low for Martinelli to slot home his eighth goal of the season after impressing in the League Cup and Europa League.

Suddenly the confidence which Emery and Ljungberg bemoaned had drained away from their players in recent times was restored, none more so than in Pepe, who cut inside onto his favoured left foot and curled into the top corner.

Pepe then turned provider for Aubameyang to slide in for his 13th goal of the campaign.

"At half-time, Freddie told us to play with a higher tempo," said Aubameyang.

"We have the quality in the squad, and if we believe in ourselves, we can go forward and win games. We will take this second half as an example for the rest of the season."

Sindhu ready to defend Tour Finals crown



PV Sindhu in action during match BWF

Race to Guangzhou Rankings qualifies for the World Tour Finals and Sindhu ended the year at the 15th spot but still made it to the women's singles field by virtue of being the world champion.

Despite the recent dip in form, all eyes will be on Sindhu as she has the reputation of producing her best in major events. The Indian had taken a break after the Hong Kong Open to be in the best shape for the World Finals, where she has twice reached the summit clash in 2017 and 2018.

This time, Sindhu has been placed in group A alongside Chinese duo of Chen Yu Fei and He Bing Jiao and Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, while Group B consists of the rest four shuttlers — Taiwanese Tai Tzu Ying, Thai duo of Ratchanok Intanon and Busanan Ongbamrungphan and Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.

Sindhu will open her campaign against Akane Yamaguchi, who has claimed two titles at Indonesia and Japan before a hip problem saw her make four straight first round exits. However, the Japanese showed signs of regaining her form with semifinal finishes at French Open, Hong Kong Open and Korea Masters.

The world no 6 Indian has a healthy 10-6 head-to-head record against Yamaguchi but she lost to the Japanese in the last two meetings.

Against Chen Yu Fei too, Sindhu enjoys a 6-3 record but the Chinese has been in rampaging form this season, having won all six of her finals, including the All England Championships.

Sindhu, however, lost nine times to He Bing Jiao with four of them coming in their last four encounters.

The Chinese won the Korea Open, besides finishing runner-ups at India Open and Badminton Asia Championships.

Only the top 8 on the BWF

India end SAG on top

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

India ended its South Asian Games campaign with a best-ever medal haul of 312, continuing its undisputed domination in the regional multi-sporting event by finishing on top for the 13th time in a row here on Tuesday.

India collected 174 Gold, 93 Silver and 45 Bronze after ten days of competitions in the 13th edition to surpass the 309 (189 Gold, 90 Silver and 30 Bronze) it had won in the previous edition in Guwahati and Shillong in 2016.

But the number of Gold India won this time was 15 less than the 2016 edition. India had sent 487 athletes in this edition.

The 2016 edition, however, had 263 medal events and a total of 789 medals on offer while this edition has 338 medal events and 1014 total medals.

Hosts Nepal stood a distant second with 206 medals (51 Gold, 60 Silver and 95 Bronze) while Sri Lanka was third with 251 medals (40 Gold, 83 Silver and 128 Bronze).

India has topped the medal tally of every South Asian Games since its inception in 1984.

On the concluding day on Tuesday, India added 18 medals (15 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze) with the boxers fetching six Gold and 1 Silver.

Indian cagers also fetched both the men's and women's basketball Gold by defeating Sri Lanka (101-62) and hosts Nepal (127-46) in their respective summit clashes.

In squash, India won a Gold and a Silver in the women's and men's team events respectively.

The day belonged to the Indian boxers who brought home a rich haul of 12 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze.

Reigning Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Vikas Krishan (men's 69kg) and 2014 Commonwealth Games Bronze medalist Pinki Rani (women's 51kg) guided India to six more Gold medals.

From among men, Sparsh Kumar (52kg), Narender (+91kg) were the other boxers who bagged the yellow metal while Sonia Lather (57kg) and Manju Baboriya (64kg) contributed to India's Gold medal tally among women.

All the women boxers in action won a gold. Former World Championships Silver medalist Sonia Lather (57kg) hardly broke a sweat and easily dominated her final bout against Sri Lanka's Krismi Ayoma Dulani Lankapurayalage 5-0 to finish on the top podium.

Consecutive WC in India make sense: FIH CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The decision to award hosting rights of the men's hockey World Cup to India for the second consecutive time in 2023 was purely based on merit, world body (FIH) CEO Thierry Weil said on Tuesday.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) CEO Thierry Weil said that the decision of giving it to India instead of Malaysia, completely makes sense, considering the financial viability of the sport in a country like India.

"I am coming from another sport which is football, where whenever we organised an World Cup, we have been extremely criticised to have created white elephants," Weil said in a tele-conference with Indian journalists from Lausanne.

"So, in that sense I am extremely happy that we as a sport have decided to re-use venue like Bhubaneswar for the second time because there was a lot of effort and investment went in to build this venue, which currently to my knowledge is the best venue we have," he said.

India will, thus, become the first country to stage four men's Hockey World Cups after having hosted the showpiece in 1982 (Mumbai), 2010 (New Delhi) and 2018 (Bhubaneswar). The Netherlands had hosted three men's tournaments.



Indian players celebrate after end of India's campaign in Olympic qualifiers

"The bid was an open one. There were quite a lot of good bidders, including Malaysia. Actually it was decided taking into factor India's commercial relevance and high financial contribution. FIH needs financial revenues. India did an extremely good job of putting everything on table," Weil said.

"Some of the countries that bid didn't have infrastructure and needed huge investments. We made the decisions which make complete sense and completely viable for our sport."

Weil said FIH needs revenue to keep its flagship event, the Pro League lasting for a long time and India's introduction in the second edition of the league will be big plus for the sport.

the best of hockey against two top teams.

"I totally believe and it is the mission of the FIH along with participating nations is to sell this product and make people understand it's not just another friendly game but the result of this game can lead a team to be the best team in a year, next to Olympics."

India will make its debut in the Pro League against the Netherlands at Bhubaneswar in January next year.

The FIH CEO also informed their plans of introducing quite a few changes from the second edition of the Pro League, including abolishing the year-end grand finale and also introducing relegation system in future.

"We have done two things. First of all not just because of the Olympics we changed the number of travels but also for the welfare of the players. But I myself feel there is no better way to prepare than play at the Pro League 6 months ahead of the Olympics," Weil said.

"This has been done for two reasons - one is to give the national teams 6 to 8 weeks to prepare for the Olympics. But I myself feel there is no better way to prepare than play at the Pro League 6 months ahead of the Olympics," Weil said.

"We should stick to the league system where at the end of the season the team which has collected most points will win the league," Weil said.

Baby piles on Delhi's miseries

PTI ■ THUMBA (KERALA)

Skipper Sachin Baby grinded a listless Delhi attack to hit 155 as Kerala gained complete control, first by posting a mammoth 525 for 9 and then removing the two opposition openers here on the second day of their Ranji Trophy group A campaign.

Left-hander Baby, carried on the good work done on the opening day by centurion Robin Uthappa and Ponnambalam Rahul (97), as his 274-ball knock had 13 hits to the fence.

His innings was the primary reason that Kerala went past the 500-run mark as a tired Delhi side lost both its openers - Anuj Rawat cleaned by off-spinner Jalaj Saxena and Kunal Chandela (1) edging one to Mohammed Azharuddeen behind stumps



Puducherry left-arm spinner Sagar P Updesh

off pacer Sandeep Warrier. Skipper Dhruv Shorey and his deputy Nitish Rana were at the crease and the only other specialist batsman in the side is left-handed Jonty Sidhu.

Delhi will first look at a score of 376 to avoid follow-on and take it from there. However it looks an uphill task at the moment in the manner the match has panned out so far.

After looking pedestrian on opening day, Delhi bowling seemed to have found its mojo back for a brief period when Vishnu Vinod (5) and Azhar (15) were dismissed in quick succession reducing Kerala to 310 for 5.

Just when it seemed Delhi would do well to restrict the hosts under 375, Baby and Salman Nizar (77 off 144 balls) added 156 runs at a decent pace to gain the momentum.

Delhi's specialist — debutant leg-break bowler Tejas Baroka (3/128 in 30 overs), offie Shivam Sharma (2/112 in 34 overs) and orthodox slow left-arm Vikas Mishra (1/107 in 34 overs) had the ignominy of conceding 100 runs each.

Baby had 13 hits to the fence while Nizar hit nine fours and two sixes.

Once Nizar was out, Baby shielded the tail beautifully as another 31 invaluable runs were added with Karparambil Monish (9) which took the score closer to 500.



Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring against Tottenham

Bayern look for home comforts Bundesliga giants will aim to create history as Spurs braced for revenge

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich are already through to the Champions League last 16 as group winners, but interim coach Hansi Flick wants his side to beat Tottenham today to boost their confidence after back-to-back defeats.

"We need a win in front of our fans and we want to show them a good performance. That's why tomorrow is an important step for us," said Flick, who has been put in charge as caretaker coach until January.

If Bayern beat Jose Mourinho's Tottenham they will become the first German club to win all six Champions League

group-stage matches.

"We'll try all we can to win at home," said Flick, who ruled out resting any of his stars despite the game being a dead rubber with Spurs guaranteed to finish second in Group B behind Bayern. "We're going in the right direction, but we have to be critical with ourselves."

"We haven't made the most of our chances in the last two games."

Flick confirmed French midfielder Corentin Tolisso will miss the game with injury.

While despite scoring 27 goals in 22 games so far this season, Poland striker Robert Lewandowski has failed to score in his last two matches.

Mulani shines as Mumbai on verge of taking innings lead

PTI ■ VADODARA

Domestic giants Mumbai are on the cusp of getting a first-innings lead after reducing Baroda to 301/9 despite a valiant unbeaten 100 by their opener Kedar Devdhar.

Resuming on their overnight score of 362/8, Mumbai added 69 runs to their tally, as their innings folded up at 431.

For Mumbai, spinner Shams Mulani shone with both the bat and ball, as his 89 helped them cross the 400-run mark.

Mulani, who was unbeaten on 56, added 33 runs to his score and eventually fell at 89.

He hammered 11 fours and two sixes in his 141-ball knock.

Mulani played responsibly with the tail-enders Shashank Attarde (22) and Tushar Deshpande (18 not out), and was the last man to be dismissed, as he missed what could have been a terrific 100.

For Baroda, opener Kedar Devdhar (154 not out) staged a lone battle as Mulani (5-99) ran through their batting line up.

Devdhar was the cynosure of eyes at the Reliance Stadium here, as he took the Mumbai attack to cleaners on the second day of the four-day game.

Devdhar has struck 20 fours and a six in his 184-ball stay at the crease so far.

It will be an uphill task for Baroda if they want to go past Mumbai's first innings total.

Devdhar got support only from Vishnu Solanki (48) at the top, as the other opener Aditya Waghmode (2), Deepak Hooda (24), skipper Krunal Pandya (1) and Yusuf Pathan (2) fell cheaply.

Wicket-keeper Viraj Bhosale (27) played his part as he supported Devdhar, but the stumper failed to convert his start.

Once the ninth wicket fell, Baby decided to declare, rightfully denying Delhi's shoddy bowling attack of getting the opposition all-out.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

SERIES DECIDER

India face Windies in winner takes it all contest at Wankhede

India will have to address the many inadequacies laid bare by a resolute West Indies in the second T20 International when the two teams made up of power-hitters square off in what promises to be an enthralling series-finale here today.

The rubber is locked 1-1 after two-time world champions West Indies turned on the style in the second T20 International in Thiruvananthapuram following a Virat Kohli special in the lung-opener in Hyderabad.

For India, the focus will once again be on young guns like off-spinner Washington Sundar and under-fire wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant.

The spotlight on Pant, especially, has been obsessive and it is expected to be no different when the team takes the field at the Wankhede Stadium.

As for Sundar, it would be interesting to see whether the team management persists with him or gives chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav a game.

Sundar has taken only three wickets in the last five T20s that he has played (two against West Indies and three against Bangladesh) and leaked 144 runs in 23 overs that he bowled.

He also ended up wicket-less in the two T20 Internationals against South Africa.

Sundar's fielding is another aspect about which skipper Virat Kohli would be worried. In the last game, he dropped a sitter of Lendl Simmons, whose 45-ball 67 laid the foundation of the West Indies' eight-wicket triumph.

Kuldeep last played a T20 against New Zealand in Hamilton back in February. He warmed the benches in the first two games.

For Pant also things are only getting tougher. The focus on him has been unrelenting and it won't be easy for him to regain the early form that made him seem like Mahendra Singh Dhoni's heir apparent.

Coming in at No.4, Pant made scores of 33 not out, 18, 6, 27, 19, 4 in the last seven T20s that he featured in.

His last T20 fifty came against West Indies in August, in Providence. With the likes of Sanju Samson wait-



Rohit Sharma, top left, Kuldeep Yadav, right, Ravindra Jadeja, front left, Deepak Chahar, right, warmsup during a training session

India vs Windies
Live from 7:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

ing in the wings, Pant will have to come good sooner than later.

But in overall analysis, India's batting has never been a problem. Opener Rohit Sharma, who had a rare-twin failure, would be raring to go before his home crowd.

K L Rahul and skipper Kohli are also among the runs. Shivam Dube, who slammed his maiden T20 fifty, showed he can hit towering sixes and he would want to perform before his home crowd and so Shreyas Iyer.

However, bowling is a slight concern. A profligate pace duo of Deepak Chahar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar leaked runs in the first two matches. Chahar had a memorable series

against Bangladesh but has not managed to repeat the show this time around. With Mohammed Shami around, Chahar will have to step up.

Also, India's fielding was way below par. The dropped catches and several mis-fields prompted Kohli to say if the performance does not improve, no score would be enough.

The hosts are also good chase-masters but will need to learn how to defend targets.

On the other hand, West Indies will also fancy their chances to clinch the series after the terrific comeback.

Their top-order batsmen, particularly Simmons, are in splendid form. Also the likes of Evin Lewis, Nicholas

Pooran and Shimron Hetmyer are among the runs and they will look to continue the form.

Add to it, the firepower of Brandon King, Jason Holder and skipper Kieron Pollard, the West Indies can look unbeatable on their day.

Even their bowlers, including pacer Sheldon Cottrell, are among the wickets. Along with Cottrell, Keshrick Williams, leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr and Holder, will have to bowl in the right areas to stem the flow of runs.

The West Indies also have fond memories of playing T20s at the Wankhede as in the 2016 ICC World Cup semi-final, they defeated India and went on to win the title.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (c), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Shami, Sanju Samson.
West Indies: Kieron Pollard (captain), Fabian Allen, Brandon King, Denesh Ramdin, Sheldon Cottrell, Evin Lewis, Sherfane Rutherford, Shimron Hetmyer, Khary Pierre, Lendl Simmons, Jason Holder, Hayden Walsh Jr, Keemo Paul, Keshrick Williams.

'WC is long way away, let's focus on present'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian team might be treating every bilateral T20 assignment as an audition for next year's World Cup but vice-captain Rohit Sharma prefers to focus on the present instead of losing sleep over a marquee event, which is still 10 months away.

India will lock horns with two-time world T20 champions in the series-deciding third match here even as the efforts to find the right combination for the marquee event continue.

"See, I don't want to keep saying that we are trying to build a squad for the (T20) World Cup. It is still a long, long way ahead. We just need to focus on winning the series and that will keep us in good state, moving forward," Rohit said on Tuesday ahead of the series-finale.

"If we keep winning games, keeping doing the right things on the field, the composition of the team will take care (of itself)," Rohit added.

The stylish batsman then gave his rationale for why he wants to take one series at a time.

"We are playing against a quality team and hereafter Sri Lanka is coming, then we go to New Zealand and thereafter there are a lot of T20s to focus on. If we focus on the present, that will help us more than anything else."

"Right now, we need to see what are the mistakes we are making so that when we come out and play every fresh game, we look like a different side."

Talk about chasing, Rohit agreed that India have been better while batting second compared to defending totals as one found out in the first two games in Hyderabad (won while chasing) and Thiruvananthapuram (lost while defending).

"Yes, of late our chasing has been good compared to posting targets. It was a good target that we posted but again it's a new set of guys."

"There are a lot of inexperienced players along with experienced players but that is what every T20 team now has, bit of inexperience, along with that some experience. Those two elements need to come together to form a very composition (composite) side."

He gave West Indies credit for chasing a target of 171 on a slow track.

"When you talk about setting targets, on that pitch (in 2nd T20 Int'l), a target of 170 plus (171) looked decent. When we started batting, the wicket was on the slower side, the shot-making was not that easy although the West Indies made it look very easy."



AP/File Picture

Pollard's IPL experience will benefit WI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

West Indies coach Phil Simmons on Tuesday said the team would be banking heavily on skipper Kieron Pollard in the series-deciding third T20 International against India as his understanding of the pitch due to IPL exposure will be "invaluable" for the bowlers.

Pollard has played a lot at the Wankhede Stadium as he has been part of the Mumbai Indians IPL squad and Simmons said his experience will help the visiting bowlers.

"(Kieron) Pollard has played a lot at this venue, the others have not played that much. I think the experience which they have got from here is invaluable and especially the captain (Pollard), as he has been here for 10 years," Simmons said in the pre-match press conference here.

"He knows things inside out and that will definitely help our bowlers mainly, there are a few youngsters in this format. It will definitely help," he added.

There have been lot of dropped catches from both the sides and Simmons said there should be no excuses for fielding lapses.

"You will not win games if you drop them. The players will have to tell you if it is the lights or whether it is their execution or their position," he said.

"...I do not like excuses. I think if you drop a catch it is your fault. You can blame the lights but I think we just have to keep working hard so we do not drop any," he added.

Pollard replaced Jason Holder as the captain of the ODI team, while he replaced Carlos Brathwaite to become skipper of the T20 side and Simmons said



Pollard looks on during training AP he has been doing well in the twin roles.

"I didn't have Jason (Holder) a lot in the ODIs when I was there (as a coach) before. Kieron (Pollard) is proactive with all the

'Pollard is a smart thinker'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma has seen a capable leader in Kieron Pollard from close quarters and believes that his longtime Mumbai Indians teammate has been responsible for a transformed West Indies side in white ball format.

Rohit termed the West Indies captain as a "smart thinker of the game."

"I know Pollard really well and he has a great knowledge about the game. I know as a leader what he would be expecting from the team. Under his leadership, it is a different team that we are seeing now, so yes, we have to be at our best when

we play them," said Rohit. "He (Pollard) is a very smart player, smart thinker and he has been the captain of the team. When it comes to Mumbai (Indians), he has always been part of the leadership group and last year when I wasn't available for one game, he captained MI. So, he has always been part of the leadership group and I know how he thinks."

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Rohit agreed that the Caribbean are unpredictable as a side.

"They are very unpredictable as a team, you never know what they can come up with on a given day, like we saw the other day," said Rohit.

sense that they know that he'll give everything for the team," Simmons said.

Don't mess with Mahi



Ravi Shastri and Mahendra Singh Dhoni in a file picture

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India coach Ravi Shastri says none can "mess around with" Mahendra Singh Dhoni if he decides to be in contention for next year's T20

World Cup but the enigmatic former captain would "never impose himself" on the team.

In a soon-to-be-televast interview on 'India Today' channel, Shastri was asked

about the much-speculated future of Dhoni, who has been on a sabbatical ever since India's semifinal exit from the ODI World Cup in England earlier this year.

"That (Dhoni) guy is a legend. The last thing he will want is to impose himself on an Indian team, having known him."

He is wanting to take a break but he is going to play the IPL," Shastri said on the show 'The Inspiration'.

Asked if he isn't ruling out a comeback by the 38-year-old, Shastri answered, "The amount of sport he has played... If he puts himself in contention... If he feels after the IPL that 'I am good enough to play for India', don't mess around with that."

Dhoni, after maintaining a stoic silence on his future plans for months, had recently stated that, "Don't ask anything till January."

It's an emotional moment: Azhar on return of Test cricket to Pak



Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali with his Sri Lankan counterpart Dimuth Karunaratne pose with trophy before start of Test series PCB

PTI ■ RAWALPINDI

The return of Test cricket to Pakistani soil is an emotional occasion, captain Azhar Ali said on Tuesday but that will not come in the way of his team's efforts to make amends for a disastrous tour of Australia.

Pakistani players will play Test cricket at home after a gap

of 10 years when they take on Sri Lanka in a two-Test series starting here today.

"All the players are very emotional about this Test series. It is great to be back to our home grounds and I just hope that Test cricket returns regularly to Pakistan now," Azhar told a media conference.

Azhar also conceded that the series is a make-or-break situation for his team it has not been playing well in Test cricket for some time now. Pakistan lost 0-2 to Australia.

"It is unacceptable the way we lost in Australia. The last two series in South Africa and Australia have been tough for

No more int'l cricket at neutral venues

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan will no longer look for neutral venues to stage home international cricket matches.

"The onus will be on the other teams to tell us why they can't play in Pakistan," Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Our default position will remain that Pakistan is safe. We play cricket in Pakistan (and if) you want to play against Pakistan you have to come to Pakistan."

"It's only logical that cricket comes home," Mani said.

us. We know how important this series is.

"We need to turn to reverse our results and get back on the winning track as there is a lot of pride in Pakistan cricket and we need to win back the confidence of the fans," he said.

The under-pressure Pakistan skipper also made it clear that Sri Lanka would be a tough side to beat even in home conditions.

"Sri Lanka has always been a tough team because they play disciplined cricket. We also have to play disciplined cricket in every department. Test cricket demands disciplined cricket. You can't win a test in one session but you can lose a test in one session. So one has

PCB invite CA for Test series

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board is trying to convince Cricket Australia to send its national team for a Test series in Pakistan in 2022, according to its CEO Wasim Khan.

"Cricket Australia has agreed in principle to play three Tests in Pakistan's home series. Obviously, we are doing everything to ensure Australia agrees to play in Pakistan in 2022 and it is an ongoing process," Khan told reporters.

He added that under the new Future Tours Program, whenever Pakistan and Australia play a bilateral series it will include three Tests.

Australia has not toured Pakistan since 1998, forcing the 1992 World Cup champions to conduct their home series' at neutral venues, including Sri Lanka, England, and UAE.

to be disciplined to beat Sri Lanka at home or away," he said.

"We have to rely on our bowling attack. Yasir Shah didn't do well in Australia but he has won us many matches and I think he will return to his old self in this series. We have confidence in our attack and we are backing them," he added.

The PCB official lamented that whoever from the board had agreed to the existing Future Tours Program schedule has not given enough importance to Test matches.

"It is unfortunate that we are among those countries who play the least number of Test matches in a season. Whereas other leading nations play 8 to 14 Tests in a year we don't even get six to seven," he said.

Khan also confirmed that the PCB has dispatched the proposed itinerary of the ICC Test Championship Tests to the Bangladesh Cricket Board to be played in January.

"We have sent the itinerary and are awaiting a response. After Sri Lanka's arrival to play the two Tests we don't foresee any problems in the Bangladesh board agreeing to send their team in January," he said.

Azhar said one can't say for certain how much time is required to rebuild the team.

"We have never kept patience and we don't give the rebuilding process time. I think these players have a lot of potential and they will soon come out of their comfort zone once they play under different conditions. We have to keep patience instead of calling for changes," he asserted.



Micky Arthur explains some batting techniques to Niroshan Dickwella

Mickey's presence is big advantage: Karunaratne

PTI ■ RAWALPINDI

Sri Lankan Test skipper Dimuth Karunaratne feels the presence of former Pakistan coach Micky Arthur in their camp will be a "big advantage" when his side take on Azhar Ali's men.

"Mickey is with us and previously he was the coach of the Pakistan team as well so it is a positive thing for us that he knows the Pakistan team very closely and that has given us a lot of confidence for this series," he said on the eve of the match.

However, the skipper said the onus will be on the his players to execute plans properly.

"His presence is a big advantage to us as he knows each and every player very closely. How they think. How they prepare.

But we have to do things right in the middle and implement our plans properly."

"Our bowlers have to bowl in the right areas to every batsman and we have to also apply ourselves in batting and fielding. Pakistan has never been an easy side to beat at home. The good thing is we know their game well having played regularly against them in home or UAE," he said.

He added that playing in Pakistan for the first time serves as a motivation for him to do well in the series.

"I am in Pakistan for the first time and that is also a motivation for me to do well as I have played against them at home and in UAE. But this will be a different experience for me and most our guys who are playing here for the first time," he said.