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NOT FAIR THAT I AM BEING
IMPEACHED: TRUMP

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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Citizenship Act is not discriminatory

For the past three years, various British friends have insisted that the pro-Brexit outcome of the referendum in 2016 was a freaky aberration and born out of voter ignorance. The professional middle class consensus, particularly in London, was that once the full implications of the decision of the United Kingdom was realised, the voters would find a way of reversing the decision. Meanwhile, it was up to the anti-Brexit majority in Westminster to stall any decision to rush through the departure. They would be helped by the Eurocrats in Brussels who would complicate the negotiations. Good Samaritans in the UK would also chip in by going to the courts and exploring ways and means to undermine the sovereignty of Parliament.

The plan certainly did work up to a point. Theresa May, by no means emotionally committed to Brexit, dragged the negotiations on and on to the point where people just gave up following the negotiations with the European Union. Parliament on its part chipped in by frustrating every attempt by May's successor Boris Johnson to meet a deadline he had set. The Supreme Court of the UK — a relatively new institution — did its best too by thwarting attempts to bypass parliamentary scrutiny. And as for the 'quality' newspapers, they were always on the side of enlightened capitalism, spreading scare stories about the grim fate that awaited Britain when the benign EU umbrella wasn't there. I knew of people who stocked up on essential supplies in anticipation of the day when Brexit would happen. Around the end of October last year — Boris Johnson's deadline for leaving the EU — I was firmly told to avoid visiting the UK since there would be absolute chaos everywhere, particularly the airports.

I woke up at the crack of dawn on Friday morning to listen to the BBC reporting on the outcome of the British general election. The exit polls at 10 pm GMT had forecast a clear majority for the Conservatives fighting on the simple but unattractive slogan "Get Brexit Done." The presenters tried to appear normal and nonchalant but it was clear that, like other members of the professional classes, they weren't entirely happy. Part of the unhappiness stems from the crab mentality of journalists: they weren't elated that a maverick member of their own tribe had defied all expectations and ended up as a Prime Minister with an emphatic majority. More to the point they were absolutely aghast that the results were a clear re-endorsement of the referendum outcome. The areas that voted for Brexit voted Conservative. This included areas that the Labour Party had never lost since the Labour sweep of 1945. Even Tony Blair's old seat, where the Labour majority used to be weighed rather than counted, elected a Conservative MP.

The situation that Friday morning was so reminiscent of our own counting day on May 23 when Narendra Modi defied the chattering classes and stormed back to power. I recall the mood of gloom and doom among the editorial classes and their sneering disgust at the voters for having defied the metropolitan consensus. I particularly found it deeply satisfying that the international media that had shed its traditional detachment from local affairs to campaign against Modi had been shown two fingers by the electorate.

The counting day of this month's British general election coincided with the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill by both Houses of Parliament. I had sat through the debate in the Rajya Sabha where Opposition stalwarts made two claims. First, that the legislation violated the 'soul' of India, not to mention assailing the 'idea' of India. Secondly, that regardless of who commanded the majority in Parliament, the issue would finally be settled in the Supreme Court. Since then, the media has persisted in telling us that India has become a version of Nazi Germany and that the CAB is akin to the infamous Nuremberg laws that institutionalised the exclusion of Jews from citizenship and paved the way for the gas chambers. By the morning I even received an email informing me that some American expert on genocide had even suggested that India was just a step away from the genocide of Muslims.

It is not for me to speculate on the verdict of the courts. I had heard earlier that the Ayodhya judgment by a five-judge of the Supreme Court was bad in law. The apex court heard the review petitions and threw them out. I don't know whether they will do the same with the petitions against the CAB, a legislation enacted by Parliament as opposed to the court-draft settlement in Ayodhya. At least the court hearing will also take note of the fact that the CAB does not outlaw Muslims acquiring Indian citizenship. The CAB will at best fast-track the acquisition of Indian citizenship by refugees from the two wings of erstwhile Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The real complaint by the sceptics centres on identifying the refugees by faith. They imply that the people who left the three countries for professing a particular faith should be secularised. Acknowledging that they were harassed because they professed an Indic faith (and Christianity and Zoroastrianism) is tantamount to being discriminatory and anti-secular.

This is a strange argument. One side behaves like a bigot and discriminates against people for being a Hindu or a Sikh. By acknowledging this was indeed the case, the Modi Government gets charged for being discriminatory against Muslims. It is bizarre logic

One side behaves like a bigot and discriminates against people for being a Hindu or a Sikh. By acknowledging this was indeed the case, the Modi Govt gets charged for being discriminatory against Muslims. It is bizarre logic

There are certainly Muslim migrants from the two Pakistans and Afghanistan. But they didn't leave on account of professing Islam. They left for other reasons. Maybe we should spell out what these were. Then we would get the complete picture.

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CITIZENSHIP ACT STIR

Protesters go berserk in Bengal

Torch 5 empty trains, 15 buses; Mamata appeals for peace, says won't allow NRC in State

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
ULUBERIA/SANKRAIL/KOLKATA

Five empty trains, 15 buses and many other public properties, including shops and Central Government facilities, were torched in different parts of Bengal even as the State continued to boil and burn for the second consecutive day on Saturday over the enactment of Citizenship Act and possible invoking of National Register for Citizens (NRC).

Even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made frantic appeal to people against taking law in their hands, protesters torched empty rakes at Lalgola the last Indian Railway station a few miles from Bangladesh border. The CM said she won't allow NRC or CAB in the State. Lalgola is in Murshidabad district that accounts for about 67 per cent of minority population.

At Basudevpur, violent

Jamia students call off protest; varsity announces vacation till Jan 5



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Jamia Millia Islamia on Saturday announced winter vacation till January 5 and cancelled semester exams in view of the tense situation in the university due to students protest against the new citizenship law, the students called off their university lockdown.

"All exams have been postponed. The new dates to be announced in due course of time. Vacation declared from December 16 to January 5. University will reopen on January 6, 2020," a senior university official said.

The university administration said those who indulged in violence and clashed with police on Friday were "outsiders" and not students. Jamia students, teachers and alumni, said they have formed a coordination panel to hold peaceful protests against the amended Citizenship Act. They said the law is discriminatory.

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PTI
Policemen try to protect themselves as protesters throw stones on them during an agitation against the Citizenship Act at Santragachi in Howrah district of West Bengal on Saturday

mob put to fire a railway signaling facility and torched a fire brigade engine that was rushed in to control the fire. By late evening the situation had literally gone out of control with no fire fighting team daring to move into the affected areas.

Similar incidents were reported from North 24 Parganas and rural Howrah, where several long-distances trains were halted, after the a portion of the Sankrail station was vandalised, said police,

I'm not Rahul Savarkar, won't say sorry: Rahul

Refuses to apologise for his 'Rape in India' remark

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Unfazed over the BJP's attack on him for his "Rape in India" comment, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday, in fact, went on to mock Sangh ideologue Veer Savarkar.

"My name is Rahul Gandhi, not Rahul Savarkar. I will never apologise for speaking truth and nor will any Congressman do so. It is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his assistant Home Minister Amit Shah who has to apologise to the country for destroying India's economy," Rahul said while addressing the Congress' Bharat Bachao Rally here.

The Congress leader was apparently referring to the allegation against Savarkar that he tendered apology to the British for securing early release from the Cellular Jail in Andaman. Rahul's "Rape in India" comment in an election rally in

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adding about 15 public and private buses were torched and protesters pelted stones at vehicles on NH-6 — popularly known as Bombay Road and NH-2 — known as Delhi Road. The agitators blocked both Kona Expressway — that connects Howrah and Kolkata to Golden Quadrilateral — and NH-34 — that connects South Bengal to North Bengal — throwing burning tyres on the roads even as helpless police brigade looked on for want of

specific direction. About 20 trains, including some 10 express trains were stranded in several routes as protesters squatted on railway tracks at Sankrail, Mourigram and Bakranawaz stations, Railway, said sources, adding many more trains were cancelled too.

Among the cancelled trains were Howrah-Digha AC Express, Howrah-Pune Duronto Express, Howrah-Tirupati Humsafar Express,



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses party workers during the party's Bharat Bachao rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

'Rahul Jinnah' more appropriate name for Cong leader, says BJP

No compromise on Savarkar: Sena

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP retaliated saying even if Rahul Gandhi takes 100 births he can't be Rahul Savarkar and a "more appropriate" name for the Congress leader is "Rahul Jinnah" as his "Muslim appeasement" politics

makes him a worthy legate of the Pakistan's founder.

The Shiv Sena, the new alliance partner of the Congress in Maharashtra, also reacted sharply saying there could not be any 'compromise' on the Hindutva ideologue. "Savarkar was 'Veer', patriot and had sacrificed. The language Rahul Gandhi uses for Article 370, air strike, surgical strike, CAB is Pakistan's language.

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PTI
Charred remains of a train coach that was set on fire on Friday by protesters during their agitation against NRC and Citizenship Act, at Beldanga Station in Murshidabad district of West Bengal on Saturday

Howrah-CSMT Geetanjali Express, Howrah-Ernakulam Antodaya Express, Howrah-Digha-Howrah Kandari Express, Coromondal Express from Howrah, Howrah-Yesvantpur Duronto Express, Howrah-Hyderabad East Coast Express, Puri-Digha Express, Puri-Santragachhi

Passenger etc. The agitators mostly from a particular community not only targeted Government properties but also torched shops belonging to private citizens, said sources, adding about 20 shops were set on fire at Bagnan in rural Howrah.

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Oil tanker set ablaze in Assam, driver killed

Curfew relaxed in Guwahati from 9 am to 4 pm

PNS ■ GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI
GIRIDIH/BAGHMARA (JHARKHAND)

Sporadic violence continued in Assam on Saturday against the amended Citizenship Act. An oil tanker was set ablaze in Sonitpur district whose driver succumbed to injuries even as curfew was relaxed in Guwahati from 9 am to 4 pm. But students' associations have given a call for 3-day satyagraha and the State Government employees have decided to cease work on December 18.

Protesters also resorted to blockade of rail and indulged in sit-ins and hunger strike.

Several countries, including the US, the UK, Israel Canada and Singapore, have asked their citizens to exercise caution while travelling to the Northeast India. In its advi-

sory, the US Government said it has temporarily suspended official travels to Assam, the epicentre of the protests.

The empty oil tanker, on its way for refilling petrol from Sipajhar in Udalguri district, was set ablaze by a group of people at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur on Friday night, police said.

The driver of the tanker was taken to a private nursing home where he succumbed to severe burn injuries on Saturday morning, they said. Meanwhile, AASU, Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) and 30 other organisations of indigenous people, spearheading the agitation against the Act, held protests in all districts of the Brahmaputra Valley along with senior citizens, students, artists, singers, intellectuals and teachers among others.

The AJYCP blocked tracks at Kamakhya railway station, disrupting train services from Guwahati to other parts of the country.

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PTI
A man plays cymbals as protesters gather during an agitation against the Citizenship Act in Dibrugarh on Saturday

Woman kills self, daughter after hubby's suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after a 33-year-old woman ended his life by jumping in front of a train at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Metro Station in Delhi, his wife killed her five-year-old daughter and then committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at their residence in Noida on Friday. Police said initial investigation suggests that the family was going through financial crisis.

The deceased have been identified as Shivranjani and her daughter Jayashritha, residents of Sector 128, Noida. Her husband Bharat J, a native of Chennai, ended his life on Friday by jumping in front of a train at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium



Metro Station.

According to a senior police official, on Friday at 11:27 am a police control room (PCR) call was received that a person has jumped in front of a Metro train at platform 2 of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Metro Station. "Acting on the call, a police



The deceased Bharat J (L) and Shivranjani (R). Relatives of Bharat (C) mourn deaths

team rushed to the spot and Bharat was taken to the Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. His wife was informed and



Shivranjani, along with her daughter, had come to the hospital to identify the body, said the senior police official.

According to Noida police, after identifying her husband in the RML Hospital she came back to her home. "Late on Friday night she first hanged her five-year-old daughter from

a ceiling fan in a room and then she went to another room and committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan," said Bhanuvesh Kumar, Station House Officer, Expressway police station in Noida.

"Shivranjani was a housewife while her daughter was studying in nursery. In September 2019, the family had shifted at JP Pavillion, Noida Sector 128. Bharat and Shivranjani were married for last 10 years. Bharat was working with Golden Tulips as a general manager," said the SHO.

"Police have initiated an investigation to ascertain the reason behind the suicides. Bodies have been sent for autopsy. Further investigation is going on," said the SHO.

CAPSULE

3 WOMEN DIE, 4 HURT IN DELHI BLAZE

New Delhi: Three women died and four people were injured on Saturday after a fire broke out at a house in northwest Delhi's Shalimar Bagh area, officials said. P4

MOTHER DAIRY INCREASES MILK PRICE BY ₹3/LITRE

New Delhi: Mother Dairy on Saturday announced an increase in milk prices by up to ₹3 per litre in Delhi-NCR due to supply and rise in procurement cost. P3

NCB BUSTS DRUG CARTEL, ARRESTS NINE PEOPLE

New Delhi: The NCB has arrested nine persons and seized 20 kgs of high-quality cocaine worth ₹100 crore belonging to an international drug cartel. P3

'I am similar to my character'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with ASHNOOR KAUR, who started her career at age 5, about the new season of Patiala Babes, her favourite pastime and plans to explore digital medium

■ What is your take on the latest track in Patiala Babes?

It is a different story and the track is completely different, that is why this is Season 2. As an actor, it is challenging for me because it is altogether a different journey for me. There are a lot of complicated and mixed emotions which are tough to enact. It is like something else is going on Mini's mind but she speaks something else. And to make the audience understand everything, you have to perform well. So keeping the hollowness inside and still trying to cheer up everyone else, comes as a challenge for me. Also Mini is now an elder sister to Arya. So this is an added responsibility on Mini and me too, since I am the only child and I have no experience of how to deal with your younger sibling. But, I bond well with kids so I am enjoying the new track and the new season.

■ Do you share any similarities with your character?

Yes, there are many things that I can relate to with my character. Mini and Ashnoor are 99.9 per cent same. I am chirpy, bubbly and I always try to cheer everyone else around me, just like my character. I believe in standing up against the wrong and speak with absolutely no filters on, just like Mini. (laughs)

■ You started very young, how do you see your journey?

Firstly, I feel good when someone asks me this question. I feel blessed that people still remember me as a child artist. I get messages from people saying that they will keep their child's name by my character's name, it is overwhelming. This proves that in a decade's journey, I have been able to make my place in people's hearts.

My journey has been a roller-coaster ride. I have played various roles and have explored different

My journey has been a roller coaster ride. I have played various roles and have explored different genres. I have also been a part of films like Sanju and Manmariziyaan. I have evolved as an actor in this period of time

genres. I have done a lot of ads, shortfilms and have also been a part of films like *Sanju* and *Manmariziyaan*. I have evolved as an actor in this period of time. I have polished my skills and I still keep on learning. Life never stops teaching and you should never stop learning, this is what I believe in.

■ What is the role that came close to you?

All the roles that I have played are close to my heart, but to name one it is Mini. Because all the roles that I have played before happened just like that. I was very young back then to understand that I was actually working. But now when I have grown up and have started seeing things with a broader perspective, I understand that this character has challenged me with every episode. I have got a chance to portray different shades of the character and that's why this one is my favourite.

■ Any show from the good old days that you would like to see a remake of?

I would like to see the remake of my first show — *Shobha Somnath Ki*, where I played Shobha, a warrior princess. I was just six back then.

■ Apart from acting what else is keeping you busy?

I am a Class XI commerce student. So, study keeps me busy most of the times. Apart from this, I spend my time in exercising, reading books, spending time with my family and friends and also watching movies. It helps me enhance my acting skills.

■ Can you share behind the scene moments?

There are a lot of fun moments behind the scenes. But my favourite one is it was my birthday and we were shooting the last scene of the day. It was a serious one and suddenly a large piece of cake came flying on my face and everyone on the sets laughed hard. It was like a cake facial for me. The brain behind the idea was our director, Yusuf sir. We both share a father-daughter bond off-screen.

■ Are there any plans of exploring the digital space?

Yes, I have been receiving offers for web series, but I am busy with *Patiala Babes* these days. When you are playing a lead in daily soaps, it becomes difficult to become a part of other project. May be after this show, I would step into the digital medium if I get some good offer, where I am getting to perform new things.



Plan Your Sunday

Celebrate Christmas The Irish Way

Venue: The Irish House, Nehru Place & Noida
When: Till December 29, 2019
Time: 12 pm to 12 am

Christmas waves a magic wand all over the world, and behold, everything turns elated and more beautiful. With Christmas bells ringing and the smell of delicacies in the air, your favorite neighborhood pub, The Irish House is all geared up to host a legendary Christmas menu filled with extravagant food and loads of booze.

Celebrate the most magical month of the year by digging into a wide range of dishes such as spinach and feta tartlets, roast tomato, garlic and cheese flatbread, wild mushrooms and goat cheese on brioche toast, char-grilled pears, brussels sprouts, chorizo, chicken ham and cheese flatbread, drunken lamb burger, christmas chicken roast, spicy pork ribs; with a chocolate, cheese and cranberry tart for a sweet ending. So this December, eat, drink and make merry, literally. Don't think twice and head to the cafe for an amazing drunken Green Christmas experience!



Ranthambore Music & Wildlife Fest

Venue: Nahargarh Palace, Ranthambore
When: December 27 to December 29, 2019
Ticket: ₹2,500

Spread over two nights and three days, the festival brings to its audience a spectacular banquet of music, art, food and wildlife experiences. The festival features some of India's most exciting edge music performance acts as well as an cutting mix of genres ranging from folk to rock, jazz, rap and electronic. This year will feature performances by Peter Cat Recording Co, Mame Khan, Naezy, Arko Mukhaerjee Collective, Lifafa, Rasika Shekar and others. Adding to the exhilarating musical affair, the festival will offer guests a host of experiences like wildlife safaris, live music concerts in step-well swimming pools and stone amphitheatres, block printing and pottery workshops, heritage expeditions, star gazing, and a delectable feast of local and international cuisine.



Food For Thought Fest

Venue: GMR Square, Aerocity
When: December 15, 2019

The 2019 edition of the Food for Thought Fest brings in the exciting components

that make this a truly unique event. There will be talks and discussions around culture and cuisine in the Thought Fest, while the Food Fest will be offering cookery workshops with master chefs of the region and an authentic flavor from the participating countries. This year the theme of the Food Court is 'A Taste of Luxury' which brings together 13 of the most well-known luxury hotels in Delhi NCR to showcase their top seven dishes in their booth, which will be served in tasting portions and priced between rupees ₹150 to ₹350 only! This is the very first time that luxury will be so affordable.



Unwind, Innovate & Collaborate

Venue: Whiz Café, Whizdom Club, Savitri Complex, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi, 110048
When: Till December 15, 2020
Time: 11 am to 8 pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
Cost: ₹1,550 for two (plus taxes)

Looking for an ideal spot that inspires you, gives you an opportunity to network and serves you an epicurean menu? Look no further, we have the perfect place for you — Whiz Café.

The cafe offers a gourmet menu that covers an impressive line-up of various cuisines and delicious dishes, along with a host of refreshing beverages curate by internationally renowned Culinary Chef Ashay Dhoptakar and acclaimed Pastry Chef Neha Lakhani.



TELLYTALE

SHIVIN INJURES HIMSELF



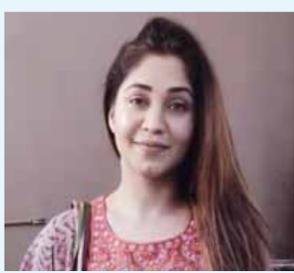
While shooting for *Beyhadh 2*, Jennifer Winget encountered the most dangerous sequence so far which almost cost her life. Shivin and Jennifer's first shoot together for the show was an outdoor shoot at a construction site. During the shoot Shivin emerged as a real life hero for Jennifer when he saved her from falling off the building. While they were shooting, Jennifer had harness on and was in the lift used by construction site workers. The lift lost control and dropped from the top floor. Jennifer's harness got stuck in the lift and she was getting dragged with it when Shivin came to her rescue and reached out to her and saved her from falling. He himself got injured and hurt his hand but did not stop shooting.

On the incident, Shivin shared: "Our first shoot together was an outdoor shoot at a construction site and I was quite excited. The sequence was one where Jennifer was supposed to be in a lift. While performing such stunt sequences, the production takes utmost care of the artists and even Jennifer had her harness and other safety gear on but unfortunately her harness got stuck and she was about to get dragged with the lift from top floor when I instantly reached out for her and grabbed her. In the course of saving her, I injured myself and my hand got hurt and she got a few bruises here and there and both of us were terrified."

Meanwhile in the show, it will be interesting for audience to see how Maya plans to meet with MJ's sons and manipulates Rishi, spies on him and his family.

AMRAPALI IS BACK

Tujhse Hai Raabta, one of Zee TV's popular fiction dramas, has kept its audiences hooked with its heartwarming narrative of a unique mother-daughter



relationship that emerges between a young girl and her step-mother. Recently, viewers witnessed that the honest and upright cop Malhar (Sehban Azim) has been framed. Everyone now thinks that he is a corrupt police officer, but he is out to prove his innocence. In fact, he holds the Chief Minister at gunpoint for the truth to come out in front of the world. Another new, big twist is on the cards with the return of Kalyani's mother Madhuri Deshmukh, played by Amrapali Gupta.

For those of you who don't know, Amrapali was also seen in the initial episodes of the show, where she ends up meeting with an accident. Although, it seemed like she is dead, with her return, we are sure the viewers have a much more exciting twist to look forward to.

Commenting on her return on the show, Amrapali reveals: "*Tujhse Hai Raabta* is a fascinating story and I am really excited to be back on such a show with such a unique concept. I am glad that it is doing so great and Madhuri is coming back into Kalyani's life. We have seen how Madhuri has been a selfish person, but she loved her husband and daughter unconditionally. However, this time around my character has amnesia and she may or may not remember her daughter. I hope I am able to justify my character and I hope that the audience extends their support to me in this endeavour."

DHARMENDRA-RISHABH'S COMMON WISH



Sony Entertainment Television's *Indian Idol* season 11 upcoming episode will be one of the most anticipated episode as the legendary Dharmendra and Asha Parek will be coming this weekend. The show has already become everyone's favourite because of the talented contestants and their extraordinary singing skills. The panel consists of the very Talented Neha Kakkar, Vishal Dadlani and Himesh Reshaimiya.

The rockstar of *Indian Idol* Season 11 Rishabh Chaturvedi performed on the song *Pyar Deewana Hota Hai* and *Pyar Ke Iss Khel Mein*. Recently Rishabh expressed his liking for Bollywood superstar Alia Bhatt and was telling the same to Dharmendra ji and also mentioned he hasn't got a chance to meet her till now. Dharmendra ji said he too likes the work of Alia Bhatt and he also hasn't met her till date.

Further in the show Asha Parek also told she is a huge fan of Dilip Kumar and

Vijayanti Mala. Neha Kakkar while appreciating Rishabh said: "I can see so much improvement in your singing since your audition. With every performance you are becoming better and your today's performance was really enthralling."

SHUBHARAMBH OF NEW SHOW

Colors has collaborated with Rouble Nagi Art Foundation (RNAF), for its new show *Shubharambh*, to weave the longest



ecofriendly bed linen. Giving a platform to the artisans from across the country, the initiative imparts the importance of strong partnerships and how it can help in the betterment of our society. The show chronicles the journey of Raja and Rani, who are imperfect as individuals but together they weave magic. As the show focuses on the power of *ek aur ek gyarah*, the initiative too will bring India together for a stronger tomorrow.

FAHMAAN KHAN TO BE SEEN IN MDKD

Actor Fahmaan Khan who has previously been seen in a few television shows, has been roped in for Sony Entertainment Television's latest offering *Mere Dad ki Dulhan (MDKD)* to portray the character of Randeep, a carefree boy who believes in living his life to the fullest.

Randeep, the son of a businessman, who belongs to a wealthy family, has dreams and goals of his own. His father however wants him to be the next CEO of their company and lead the organisation. Niya's accidental meeting with Randeep brings out a stark difference in the way they approach life.

Fahman and Anjali Tatrari are having a gala time shooting with each other, most of which takes them away from the set.

Fahmaan Khan shares: "I'm very excited about this role because it's something I've never done before. All my characters have been serious ones in the past, but Randeep is a very lively person. Unlike Niya, he is a very impromptu, and lives-in-the-moment. He is very different from Niya and that's what makes her admire his way of life. He's a carefree guy with an entrepreneurial in nature and he assists his father in reviving small scale businesses."

Was the chance encounter between Niya and Randeep just a coincidence or will it lead them to meeting each other further?



DELHI POLICE
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POLICE



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INTERNATIONAL DRUG CARTEL BUSTED

Narcotics worth ₹1,300 cr seized, 9 arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of five Indians, one American national, an Indonesian and two Nigerians, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday claimed to have busted an international drug cartel with largest seizure this year of the narcotics substances worth about ₹1,300 crore.

According to SK Jha, Deputy Director General, NCB, Northern Range, on Friday one of the largest quantity of Cocaine in the country, at 20 kilograms (kgs) was seized from a drugs syndicate spread across Delhi, the National Capital Region, Punjab, Uttarakhand,

Maharashtra, with global links in Australia, Canada, the US, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Columbia, Malaysia and Nigeria.

"The source of 55 kg of cocaine and 200 kg of methamphetamine that was seized in Australia has also been unearthed as part of this operation. The seized drug in India has international value of Rs 100 crore and the total worth of the seizure affected from this cartel is ₹1,300 crore," said Jha.

The accused have been identified as Akshinder Singh Sodhi and Yogesh Kumar Dhuna, both residents of Jalandhar in Punjab, Ojober Kingslay and Obiora Tony Okike, both Nigerian nationals,

Richard Walter Fournier, USA national, R Singh, a resident of Ghaziabad, Sammy, a resident of Rudrapur in Uttarakhand, V Chhabra, a resident of Haldwani, Uttarakhand and M Rainheart, an Indonesian national.

"The accused Akshinder Singh along with his associate Yogesh was coordinating shipments of drugs from Canada and India to Australia. Ojober Kingslay was important link of the cartel in Delhi and he was involved in hawala transactions and had developed network in Malaysia, South Africa, Brazil and Australia. Richard worked as a courier for the drug network and he was arrested with 4.2 Kgs of Cocaine from a hotel in

Mahipalpur, Delhi," said Jha.

"Specific inputs were received regarding the involvement of Canadian National of Indian origin in a major seizure of Methamphetamine (200 kgs) in Australia, sourced from Canada. Acting on the inputs the NCB, initiated a trailing inquiry which lead to the inputs that one person Akshinder was involved in various shipments and parcels from Canada to Australia. One such parcel originated from Canada and destined to India, was intercepted by NCB and 422 grams of Cocaine was found concealed in the parcel," said Jha.

"Further, raids in Jalandhar led to the arrest of Akshinder with more recoveries of

Cocaine and other psychotropic drugs. Various Canadian and Australian links of Akshinder were discovered during inquiry and further surveillance was mounted on the network," said Jha.

"Subsequently, information was received from Australia that 55 Kgs of Cocaine shipped from India was seized by Australian authorities. The backtracking of the shipment was conducted by NCB and it unearthed that this international syndicate members are spread across India and having links in Australia, Canada and Nigeria," said Jha.

"Raids were conducted by the NCB team and R Singh was apprehended from Ghaziabad

with 10 kgs of Cocaine in his possession, Sammy and V Chhabra were nabbed from Uttarakhand while M Rainheart, Indonesian national was arrested near Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. During her search 500 grams of cocaine was recovered from her possession," said Jha.

"During interrogation, the accused R Singh revealed that he used to work as man-Friday for the members of this cartel and they had also registered one company on his name with the target to build the necessary financial credentials which were to be used in international trade. Singh used to assist the group in delivering the cocaine to the clients and their destination

used to be in and around Shipra mall in Ghaziabad," said Jha.

"Sammy and V Chhabra disclosed that they were working on behalf of international drug trafficking syndicate spread across Canada, Australia, India and Nigeria," said Jha.

"During interrogation Rainheart revealed that she met one Indian named Raj in a night club in Malaysia during her holiday. She and Raj discussed the proposition of narcotics trade across the world and Raj explained the possibilities of lucrative narcotics trade in India. She also had Columbian contact who promised to get the deliveries made in India. She reached India on 20th November, 2019

and stayed in a guest house in South Delhi. She contacted both Raj and her Columbian contact for the deliveries and distribution," said Jha.

"Working on the information of this syndicate, in an operation by NCB, Delhi, an American national Richard Walter Fournier along with Obiora Tony Okike, a Nigerian national and both were apprehended with the drug concealed in the suitcase. In all 4.5 Kg of Cocaine was recovered from their possession. Richard worked as a courier for the international drug cartel based in America and having international linkages through Nigerian nationals in various countries," said Jha.

Prashant Kishor's I-PAC teams up with AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections in next year, Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal announced that Prashant Kishor-led political consultancy firm I-PAC has come on board with the party.

The political advocacy group was part of the successful election campaign of Narendra Modi in 2014 when he was BJP's prime ministerial candidate. Kishor is now the national vice-president of Bihar's Janata Dal (United), a key ally of the BJP.

"Happy to share that Indian-PAC is coming on-board with us. Welcome aboard!" Kejriwal said in a tweet. The Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) replied to the tweet, saying the AAP was seen as the toughest opponent during Punjab polls. Kishor's electioneering machine worked behind the scenes for the Congress in Punjab.



"After Punjab results, we acknowledged you as the toughest opponent that we have ever faced. Happy to join forces now with Kejriwal and AAP," the I-PAC said in a tweet.

Elections to the 70-member Delhi assembly are due early next year. The national capital is set to witness a triangular fight with the AAP, which had won 67 seats in the last assembly elections, seeking to retain power by defeating the BJP and the Congress.

The I-PAC had used innovative programmes such as 'chai par charcha' in the 2014

campaign for Modi. It worked on a number of successful campaigns since 2014, including the one that brought the JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to power in 2015. The organisation also helped Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu win both state and general elections.

The Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) is currently working on the Trinamool Congress' reelection campaign for the 2021 West Bengal Assembly polls to aid Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's bid for a third consecutive term.

Kishor has been lately in the news over his criticism of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which his party JD(U) supported in Parliament.

Rajya Sabha member and president of the Bihar unit of the JD(U) Vashishth Narayan Singh said once the party made its stand clear, leaders should have refrained from "making public their personal views".

L-G withdraws land acquisition proceedings of unauthorised colonies

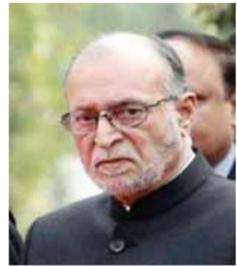
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on Saturday said he has issued directions to withdraw the land acquisition proceedings within delineated boundaries of 1,731 unauthorised colonies.

Taking to Twitter, Bajjal said it was a major step for conferring ownership rights to the residents of these colonies, adding that the move would pave the way for smooth implementation of the PM-UDAY (PM Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi AwasAdhikar Yojana). "Directions issued to withdraw the land acquisition proceedings (de-notification of the land) in respect of the land situated within the delineated boundaries of 1,731 Unauthorised Colonies (UCs). #PM-UDAY," the LG tweeted.

Later, the LG office issued a statement and said, "Detailed orders outlining the procedure for the same have been issued last evening by the land building department with the approval of the LG."

However, the move will not include 69 affluent unauthorised colonies, including Sainik Farms and Neb Sarai Extension



area. According to the central government's figure, it will benefit around 40 lakh residents living in the 1,731 unauthorised colonies.

Meanwhile, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said maps of 1,500 unauthorised colonies have been prepared.

Taking to Twitter, Puri said 1,000 maps have been uploaded on a portal of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

Earlier this month, Parliament had passed a bill to grant ownership rights to residents living in the 1,731 unauthorised colonies in the national Capital.

Two Nigerians arrested for cloning ATM cards

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of two Nigerian nationals, the Delhi Police on Saturday busted a gang of ATM cloners active in the national Capital. Police have also recovered 37 cloned cards, 10 blank cards with electronic chip and other instruments used in the crime from the possession of the duo.

The duo accused was identified as, Oluwatoyin Isaiah Adewale (46) and Nosa Tony Lawani (43).

According to Devender Arya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South west district, following a tip off regarding an International ATM card cloners, a trap was laid at DDA Market Vasant Kunj and nabbed the duo.

"During interrogation, it was revealed that a Bulgarian national namely Eris used to steal the card data by placing scammer devices and hidden cameras at ATM Center and after decoding the ATM Card



Numbers he send this data to Oluwatoyin Isaiah to paste this data on other Debit Cards," said the DCP.

"Nosa Tony used to assist Oluwatoyin Isaiah in pasting this data on other Debit cards available with him with help of a Magnetic Strip reader and writer machine. Thereafter they used to withdraw money from these cloned cards," said the DCP.

"Oluwatoyin Isaiah used to give Nosa tony 2 per cent share of money which he withdraws from these cards. Oluwatoyin Isaiah has purchased this Magnetic strip reader/writer machine from an online shopping website namely ubuy.com," said the DCP.

"Oluwatoy came to India on medical visa and earlier worked as a priest at a church in Greater Noida. He continued to stay in India after his Visa expired in 2013 and started business of exporting hairs to African countries," said the DCP.

"In 2018 at IGI airport Oluwatoy met a group of people who came from Romania and Bulgaria. One of them was Eris, who taught him the process of Card Cloning with help of Magnetic Strip Reader Device. While Tony met Oluwatoy at an African get together party in Janakpuri and joined his gang," said the DCP adding that further investigation is going on.

3 robbers arrested, 1 minor detained

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Police Control Room (PCR) unit of Delhi Police has arrested three robbers while a minor was apprehended near North-West Delhi's Bhalswa area on Saturday.

The arrested robbers have been identified as, Indrishi (18), Ajay (19) and Yogesh (19), all residents of JJ cluster in Bhalswa Diary area. While their fifth associate managed to escape.

According to Sharat Kumar Sinha, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), PCR, on the intervening night of Friday- Saturday, a police team on PRAKHAR van received information regarding robbery.

"The police team reached the spot and subsequently, noticed the suspects moving near Bhalswa chowk and nabbed them after a brief chase. One of their associate fled away from the spot on another bike. The accused were even identified by the victim," said the DCP.

"All the accused persons along with recovered cash and bike were handed over to local police at Shalimar Bagh police station," the DCP added.



Congress set to come back after elections: Party chief

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Enthused over a packed Bharat Bachao rally at the Ramleela Ground here on Saturday, city Congress president Subhash Chopra said his party is set to stage a comeback in Delhi after the Assembly polls next year.

Claiming that lakhs of people were present at the rally addressed by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, he said the event was turned into a "thumping success" by party workers and the people of Delhi.

"The outstanding attendance in the rally shows that the Congress is set to stage a comeback in Delhi. People of Delhi are tired of the misrule of the BJP government at the Centre and the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi, and want the Congress to come back to power in Delhi," Chopra said.

The Congress had managed to

improve its vote share in Lok Sabha polls in May this year and pushed the AAP to the third place in five of the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi.

Chopra said the success of the rally has sounded the "death knell" of both the BJP and the AAP governments. The "forceful attack" on Modi by Rahul Gandhi has strengthened the position of the Congress party in Delhi, he claimed.

"The entire rally was thronged with Congress workers from across the country and all corners of Delhi, carrying the tricolour, banners and placards as they arrived at the Ramleela Ground in processions. From as early as 6 AM, Congress leaders were busy ensuring that people reached the venue on time," he said.

Delhi Congress leaders including Chopra had been visiting different parts of the city holding public meetings to slam the BJP-led government at the Centre on issues

like the economic slowdown and unemployment, and to mobilise people to participate in the 'Bharat Bachao' rally.

"The rally was historic as very rarely have so many people attended a political rally at the Ramleela Ground. People from all strata of society participated in the rally," Chopra claimed.

Delhi Congress chief spokesperson Mukesh Sharma said that despite the cold weather lakhs of people reached Ramleela Ground early on Saturday morning, proving their faith in the Congress party.

"It's a clear signal that the Congress party is all set to return to power in Delhi after the Assembly elections," Sharma claimed.

Congress will intensify its attacks on the BJP and AAP governments across the national capital for their "all-round failures" in the coming days, he added.

SDMC launches first e-charging station in GK

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Advancing the effort to build a robust E-vehicle charging infrastructure to enable adoption of Electric Vehicles, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) in a joint venture with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under Union Ministry of Power, on Saturday launched its first electric vehicle public charging station in the SDMC parking area of Greater Kailash 1 N Block market.

While inaugurating, the Mayor Sunita Kangra said that the inauguration coincides with the National Energy Conservation Day being celebrated across the country.

She said that the electric public vehicle charging stations will hopefully boost sale of electric public vehicle and will contribute in decreasing pollution in Delhi.

"With commissioning of charging station in large number the dependence on the fossil fuel will decrease and environmental protection will get boost. Apart from this the acceptance of e-vehicles in the society will become high," said Kangra.



On the occasion Commissioner Gynesh Bharti said that working at a rapid pace, in a period of two weeks, SDMC has installed the charging station, after the signing the agreement with EESL.

He added that E-Vehicles are economical and more efficient than petrol & diesel vehicles as the running cost of e-vehicle is less than 1 rupee per kilometre and other vehicles running cost is more than 6 rupees per kilometre.

This is the first of the 75 charging stations to be installed across SDMC area as per the agreement with EESL which will cater to the requirements

of electric cars of general public.

Bharti further said that SDMC will be installing charging stations at Aurobindo Place Market, B6 Safdarjung Enclave, GK-1 R Block Market, Sukhdha Hospital, Hauz Khas Village, Malviya Nagar main market, Max hospital Saket, PVR Priya Vasant Vihar, SDA Rose Garden, Siri Fort Auditorium, H-block Market, Sarita Vihar, Lajpat Nagar, Living Style Mall Jasola, Nehru Place - BSES, Nehru Place - Plot No.81-85, Janakpuri District Center-On the deck, Dwarka Sec-6 Market, Dwarka Sec-12 Metro Station.

Rain, moderate fog next week likely



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-NCR will witness moderate fog in the upcoming week, according to Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). It said on Saturday that the maximum temperature will fluctuate between 18 and 20 degrees Celsius while minimum temperature will remain at 8 degrees Celsius.

On Saturday, cold wave intensified with the minimum temperature likely to fall by two to three degrees Celsius over the northern plains.

According to Skymet weather, isolated rain might occur over the northern districts of Punjab, Haryana and West Uttar Pradesh.

Moderate to dense fog was also likely over Delhi, parts of Punjab, Haryana, North

Rajasthan and West Uttar Pradesh.

The Western Disturbance has moved away and northerly winds are blowing over the northern plains. But the remnants of Western Disturbance will continue to give light rain and snow with one or two moderate spells over Western Himalayas.

The pollution level in the national capital will however,

remain in the unhealthy category and isolated pockets might even witness pollution in very poor level, according to Skymet Weather forecast. In the current winter season, rain and snow began in the hills of north India in the month of November itself, and that too in excess. By the end of the month, Kashmir was a surplus by 379 per cent, Himachal Pradesh by 143 per cent and Uttarakhand by 239 per cent.

As of Thursday morning, Dharamsala recorded 66 mm of rains, Qazi Gund 62 mm, Manali 49 mm, Srinagar 25 mm, Una 23 mm, Dehradun 20 mm, Shimla 13 mm and Mandi 12 mm.

Rain and snow have dropped the maximums below 5 degrees, wherein Manali saw maximum at 4.2 degrees which is 11 degrees below normal, with Shimla recording 5.9 degrees Celsius which is 9 degrees below normal.

City air quality improves from very poor to moderate

New Delhi: The air quality in Delhi has improved significantly from "very poor" to "moderate" category on Saturday. The city's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 179 at 9.45 am which falls in the "moderate" category as against 316 on Friday morning. The AQI recorded in Ghaziabad was 264, Greater Noida 241,

Noida 254, Gurgaon 165, the Meteorological (MeT) department said.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered "good", 51-100 "satisfactory", 101-200 "moderate", 201-300 "poor", 301-400 "very poor" and 401-500 "severe". An AQI above 500 falls in the "severe plus" category.

Mother Dairy, Amul hike milk prices by up to ₹3/litre in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi: Leading milk suppliers Mother Dairy and Amul on Saturday announced an increase in milk prices by up to ₹3 per litre in Delhi-NCR due to lower supply and rise in procurement cost.

The new prices will be effective from Sunday, it said. Prices of both token and poly pack milk have been increased in a range of ₹2-3 per litre.

The price of bulk vended milk (token milk) has been hiked by ₹2 to ₹42 per litre.

In poly packs, full cream milk rate has been raised by ₹2 to ₹55 per litre. Price of half

litre full cream milk has been hiked to ₹28 from ₹27.

Toned milk price has been hiked by ₹3 per litre to ₹45 while double-toned milk will now be sold at ₹39 per litre compared to ₹36.

Price of cow milk too has been raised by ₹3 per litre to ₹47 per litre. "Milk availability across various states is under severe stress due to adverse climatic conditions including extended monsoon and delayed start of the flush season. The adverse climatic conditions have also resulted in a significant increase in feed and fodder prices." PTI

JNU V-C claims attack by group of students

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

JNU Vice-Chancellor Mamidala Jagadeesh Kumar on Saturday claimed a group of 15-20 students tried to attack him on the campus but university security staff saved him.

"I had gone to School of Arts and Aesthetics to see how the exams were going on. When I was returning to the administration block, 15-20 students surrounded me, abused me and tried to attack me. However, I was rescued by university security personnel and policemen in plain clothes," Kumar said.

Shah calls upon N-E residents to maintain peace

PNS ■ RANCHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday called upon the residents of Northeast to maintain peace in stir-struck Assam and assured that their rights as citizens of the country will remain intact under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Centre. This is the minister's first public statement on Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) since Rajya Sabha's nod to it on December 12.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a gathering during an election campaign rally ahead of the 4th phase of State Assembly election in Deoghar, Jharkhand on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Addressing an election rally in Giridih, Shah — the man who aggressively defended CAB in the upper and the lower houses of the parliament — said that refugees from the minority communities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan were leading a hellish life in India. CAB, he added, will provide citizenship rights to these refugees and bring an end to their hardship. "Congress party says CAB is anti-Muslim. According to them, even the abolishment of

Triple Talaq and surgical strike on Pakistan was anti-Muslim. According to them, everything we do is anti-Muslim," said Shah, adding that the Congress party provided safe haven to terrorists in India for political benefits. "Congress party has been doing Hindu-Muslim politics since decades. And what they are doing right now is no different," said the BJP national president. Some Northeast states,

especially Assam and Manipur, have witnessed major unrest since Rajya Sabha's approval to CAB. The Government had to control the situation with military intervention and block Internet connectivity across Assam in order to maintain peace. Assam is one among the few Northeast Indian states that witness maximum influx of immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh. Many

protesters have claimed that allowing citizenship to all non-Muslim immigrants may take away the rights of local Assamese residents.

Talking from a podium in one of the 19 Maoist-affected districts in Jharkhand, Shah on Saturday said that only Modi can bring an end to Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in Jharkhand. "The BJP Government has already pushed Maoists on the back foot. Only Modiji can bring an end to Naxalism," said Shah. Giridih is set to go to polls in the fourth phase of elections here on December 16. Addressing thousands of voters who would decide the fate of candidates in the constituency, Shah said that the BJP Government ensured electrification of all the 370 villages in the constituency.

At least 40,000 families in Giridih got LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), added Shah.

"Modiji knows the pain of

poverty. He himself comes from a poor background. This is why he brought schemes and policies to ensure better life for the poor people of the country. At least 1.22 lakh scholarships have been awarded to poor students here. We have also built 22,860 Kilometers of road in five years," said Shah.

In a bid to ensure a BJP win in Jharkhand, he requested all the BJP supporters at the rally to make phone calls to at least 50 people and ask them to vote for the BJP. "Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has joined hands with the parties that were against the idea of Jharkhand's formation," Shah said, recalling the days of Jharkhand Movement when Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress party protested the bifurcation of Bihar.

A five-phase election is underway in Jharkhand for the 81 Assembly constituencies here since November 30. By now, three phases of elections have been completed and the

fate of candidates in these constituencies is sealed in EVMs. BJP has set a target of winning at least 65 seats in the Assembly here and form a majority Government. On the other hand, Congress party, JMM and RJD have formed a tripartite alliance to turn the tables here.

Meanwhile, addressing rallies in Boro and Mahagama constituencies on Saturday, BJP Executive President JP Nadda said that the people of Jharkhand have made up their mind to bring the BJP to power once again in Jharkhand. He said that the voting trends so far indicated that the BJP will win in Jharkhand by a huge margin. "Congress party, JMM and RJD will try and manipulate you to vote for them. But whenever they come to you seeking votes, you must ask them what all developmental works did they do when they were in power," Nadda told the BJP supporters at his rallies.

US, UK, others issue advisory against travelling North-East

Washington/London: Several countries, including the US, UK, Israel Canada and Singapore, have asked their citizens to exercise caution while travelling to the Northeast India which has witnessed violent protests against the amended citizenship act.

The new amended citizenship law, which provides for granting citizenship to non-Muslim persecuted minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, has put the Northeast on the boil, where people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration.

The US government has temporarily suspended official travels to Assam, the epicentre of the protests.

"US citizens in the northeastern states of India should exercise caution in light of media reports of protests and violence in response to the approval of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. Government curfews are in place in some areas. Internet and mobile communications may be disrupted. Transport may be affected in various parts," the advisory read.

The US Embassy in New Delhi has also listed out precautions for its citizens staying in the northeastern states, asking them to avoid areas with "demonstrations and civil disturbances", being aware of their surroundings, and keep a "low profile" among others.

The UK government updated its travel advisory for India to warn its citizens against travel to the states in the Northeast. In the regular travel advice section constantly updated by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for all countries,

British nationals have been advised to exercise caution while undertaking all but essential travel to the region. "The FCO advise against all but essential travel to the state of Manipur, except the state capital Imphal and the Meiti Valley areas, which include Loktak Lake, Keibul Lamjao National Park and the Imphal War Cemetery," reads the updated advisory.

The UK online advisory continues to advise against all travel to Jammu and Kashmir, including tourist destinations of Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg, Srinagar and the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) issued a travel notice for Northeast India, advising Singaporeans travelling there to "exercise vigilance and caution". "Travel conditions are difficult due to street protests and cancellation of some flight and train services. Mobile data have also been restricted in some areas," Singapore's Channel News Asia quoted MFA as advising.

"Due to the evolving situation, the travellers should also keep themselves updated on the latest developments through the local news and to take all necessary precautions to ensure their personal safety, including avoiding areas with crowds," said the Ministry.

Canada has advised its citizens to avoid "non-essential" travel to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland due to the protests.

Israel has warned its citizens to "completely avoid" going to Assam because of violent protests.

3 women dead, 4 hurt as fire breaks out in house in Delhi

New Delhi: Three women died and four people were injured on Saturday after a fire broke out at a house in northwest Delhi's Shalimar Bagh area, officials said.

After receiving information about the blaze at 6.05 pm, eight fire tenders were rushed to the spot, the fire department said.

The victims were taken to a hospital where Kanta (75), Kiran Sharma (65) and Somvati (42) died. While Lajwanti (68), Inna (28), Akshit (16) and Vanshika (14) were undergoing treatment, the police said.

The blaze occurred days after at least 43 people were

killed when a massive fire ripped through a four-storey building housing illegal manufacturing units in north Delhi's congested Anaj Mandi area.

Around 6.10 pm on Saturday, the SHO Shalimar Bagh got information regarding the incident in BQ-Block. He rushed to the spot and broke open the terrace door of the house and rescued two women in unconscious state," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said.

The firemen and police personnel rescued five other people from the building and all the injured were taken to Fortis Hospital Shalimar Bagh, the

DCP said. Three women were declared brought dead, while four people were undergoing treatment in the hospital, they said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the incident was tragic.

"Every life lost is very tragic. My prayers for those who have succumbed to the fire. I have directed officials to ensure the injured get the best medical attention. The fire dept has doused the flames," he tweeted. According to the fire department, the blaze was brought under control by 7.55 pm.

PTI

BJP forming Govt with Ajit came as 'shock' to me: Pankaja Munde

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Still apparently not comfortable with the things happening within her party in Maharashtra, BJP leader Pankaja Munde said here on Saturday that her party's decision to team up with NCP's breakaway leader Ajit Pawar to form a Government came as a "shock" and she was not happy with the development.

"In the first place, I did not know such a thing would happen... I cannot talk about other core committee members in the party, but I did not know. I was not happy with what had

happened. In fact, the development came as shock to me. It took some time to digest. I was numb for a while. I could not react," Pankaja said, recalling the swearing in of Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar as the chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively on November 23.

She said that all she did at that time was put out a tweet expressing good wishes to chief minister Devendra Fadnis for bringing out of the President's rule. She said that she felt uneasy for 12 days between December 1 and 12 after she put a Facebook post saying that "con-

sidering the changes that changes in political situation in the state and also the responsibility before me, she would decide on her future political journey".

"After I put out that post, there was intense speculation about the possibility of my leaving the BJP. There were rumours that I was indulging in power game and I was angling for the leadership of the Opposition's post. To put an end to all these speculations, I announced my decision to resign from the party's core committee," Pankaja said in interview given to a leading Marathi television channel.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manan Gupta, S/o Late Sh. Anuj Kumar Gupta, R/o. B-1, Near KDV School, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, on passport my name is mentioned as Manan. I solemnly affirm & declare that Manan & Manan Gupta are same and one Person.

PD (8710)A

Chola Cholanandam Investment and Finance Company Limited
Branch Office: Plot No.8, 2nd Floor, Opp Metro Pillar No.81, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005.
PUBLIC NOTICE
An advertisement was published under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 for the above mentioned company. In this advertisement of Sale cum auction notice (For Immovable Property) on 01/12/2019. Where as auction of property mentioned below stand cancel which was scheduled on 31/12/19. property No. B-2/1 ADMEASURING 80 SQ.YDS. OUT OF KHASRA NO.9/3,7/23, 7/14, 25, 6/21, 2/2, 2/3 & 21 SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE KHUREJI KHAS IN THE ABADI OF GOLDEN PARK MAIN ROAD SHIV PURI EXTENSION SHAHADR DELHI. (Borrower Name: NARENDER PAL SINGH) Auction of all remaining properties remains same and auction shall be done on the date, time and venue scheduled on 31/12/19.
Place: Delhi+NCR Sd/-
Date: 15/12/2019 (Authorised Officer)
Cholanandam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Protesters go berserk in Bengal

From Page 1

Things however improved in parts of South 24 Parganas where no new report of violence came in from Diamond Harbour.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister making a strong statement against the "CAB-NRC menace" asked the people to maintain peace warning the "breakers of law" that the Government would be forced to take drastic action against them. A release from the Chief Minister's office also requested people not to take law in hands. "Do not take law in your hands, blockade roads, railway traffic or damage public property as this will cause inconvenience to the people. Strict action will be taken against those who are found guilty in creating disturbances."

The Chief Minister has directed the Trinamool leadership to take out processions condemning the "draconian laws" on Sunday and Monday.

"The TMC workers will take out rallies in districts on Sunday. People from all walks of life, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and political affiliation are requested to join the march," Mamata said adding she would herself take part in a rally in Kolkata on Monday.

Two TMC rallies, one from South Kolkata and one from North Kolkata, will be organised on Monday, Mamata said adding, "I want the people remain calm at this hour of crisis. I want the people to protest in legal way. I want to assure everyone that despite the enactment of the draconian law with the help of a brute majority in Parliament the BJP will not be allowed to implement it.... I assure you that this Act will not be allowed to be implemented in Bengal. There will be no NRC or CAB here as it is the State Government that implements such laws and we will not implement it."

'Rahul...'

From Page 1

He can't be "Veer" or be at par with Savarkar," BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said.

Another BJP spokesperson, GVL Narasimha Rao, said a more appropriate name for Rahul would be "Rahul Jinnah" given the Congressman's "Muslim appeasement politics and mindset".

Maintaining that five generations of Nehru-Gandhi family can't measure up to Savarkar's legacy, BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malaviya took a dig at the Shiv Sena saying, "Looking forward to seeing Shiv Sena deftly Rahul Gandhi for his statement implying that Veer Savarkar was a coward who apologized."

Sena leader Sanjay Raut tweeted: "Veer Savarkar is an idol of whole country and not just Maharashtra. The name Savarkar denotes pride about nation and self. Like Nehru and Gandhi, Savarkar too sacrificed his life for the country. Every such idol must be revered. There is no compromise on this."

Savarkar is revered as Hindutva icon for the BJP but is accused by its rivals of tendering apologies to the British government to secure release from jail when India was under the colonial rule.

Justice Chandrachud: There is chasm between ideals and implementation of JJ Act

New Delhi: There is a "chasm" between ideals and implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and an approach focussed on deprivation and poverty was necessary to address the problem of juvenile delinquency as unfortunate circumstances push minors into substance abuse and violence, a Supreme Court Judge said on Saturday.

Justice D Y Chandrachud, who was speaking at the National Juvenile Justice Consultation programme held at the Supreme Court here, said it was imperative to acknowledge that children in conflict with law are not just offenders but in many cases are in need of care and protection.

"We have amazing legislations but there is a chasm between ideals and implementation of the law... Children often inherit crime. They are born into unfortunate circumstances which push them into substance abuse and violence," he said.

While speaking on 'Child Care Reform: Towards Strengthening Accountability for Children', Justice Chandrachud said the subject was a personal one for him as

he and his spouse were foster parents to two physically-disabled young girls who grew up in a village in Uttarakhand.

"It was personal for me to be in such setting as I and my spouse provide foster care to two young girls and they are children who grew up in a small village in Uttarakhand. They are physically challenged but amazingly bright and vibrant mentally," he said.

The judge further said that maintenance of standards was crucial where institutions are concerned and gave examples of Muzaffarpur and Panvel shelter homes' cases where minor girls were allegedly sexually abused.

"The maintenance of standards is crucial where institutions are concerned because whether it is the context of the Muzaffarpur home case in Bihar or the Panvel shelter homes case in Mumbai which I dealt with when I was a judge of the Bombay High Court, the problem is the absence of standards and the enforcement of standards despite the establishment of structures of governance," he said.

Talking about children involved in the drug trade, Justice Chandrachud said children who are seen as offenders were indeed victims of the trade.

"Given the deplorable living conditions of many children in India, it is imperative to acknowledge that children in conflict with law are not just offenders but in many cases are children in need of care and protection.

"If you look at the drug trade for instance, children who are otherwise treated as offenders are indeed the victims of the drug trade because they are essentially drawn into the net by being exposed to petty drugs and then they become carriers and then become offenders," he said.

Justice Chandrachud said statistics indicate that there is a strong correlation between deprivation of economic resources and juvenile delinquency.

"In India, children often inherit crime. They are born into unfortunate circumstances which push them into substance abuse and violence," he said.

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(Rule 8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 20.09.2019 calling upon the Borrower: 1. M/s. XLNT Pneumatic, through its prop. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, S/o. Uma Shankar, H.No.02, Near Shiv Mandir, Ashoka Enclave Main, Sector-34, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003. 2. Mr. Sudhir Kumar, S/o. Uma Shankar, H.No.02, Near Shiv Mandir, Ashoka Enclave Main, Sector -34, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003. Guarantor 3. Mr. Uma Shankar S/o. Chander Bali Singh, H. No. 02, Near Shiv Mandir, Ashoka Enclave Main, Sector-34, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003. with our Faridabad branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 9,92,382/- (Rupees Nine lakhs ninety two thousand three hundred and eighty two) as on 31.08.2019 with future interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 10 day of December 2019. The borrower's attention is hereby invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd for an amount of ₹ 9,87,311 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand and Three Hundred and Eleven only) as on 30.11.2019 and with subsequent interest and charges thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES:
On eqm of land to an extent of 45 sq yds in Khasra No. 15/13/1-2, House No.2, Ashoka Enclave main, Village Palla, Dist Faridabad and Residential building constructed thereat to the extent of 1215 sqft (GF 405 sqft + FF 405 sqft + SF 405 sqft) standing in the name of Mr. Sudhir Kumar Boundaries: North: Road, East: Plot No.1, South: Plot No. 27/28 & 26, West: Plot No.3.
Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.,
For Faridabad Branch

Date : 10.12.2019
Place : Faridabad

Oil tanker set ablaze in Assam...

From Page 1

"We do not want to inconvenience but the blockade has been called to draw the attention of people from all over the country about the threat to the people of the State due to the amended Citizenship Act," AJYCP general secretary Palash Changmai said.

The AJYCP has also given call for a 36-hour 'Gana Anshan' (mass hunger strike) from 6 am on December 16 across the State, while from December 18, they will organise 'Gaan Sabhas' (village meetings) in all village of the State. The AJYCP, which also demands that Assam be brought under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime, has also planned 'Gana Samadal' (mass rally) on December 24.

"We have coined the slogan 'No CAA, Yes ILP' and we will continue our agitation till

it is granted," Changmai said. Protests by people and states are happening across the state and it will continue everyday till 5 pm, AASU General Secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi told an agency. The AASU has called for 'satyagraha' for three days, beginning December 16.

"We will continue with our agitation till the Act is withdrawn but we will follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi in our struggle which will be non-violent and disciplined," Gogoi said. A Northeast Frontier Railway spokesperson said all trains to Upper Assam districts have been terminated at Guwahati, while all-long distance trains leaving Guwahati will resume their onward journey after the blockade.

In Giridih/Baghmara in Jharkhand, addressing election rallies Union Home Minister Amit Shah hit out at the Congress, accusing it of stoking violence over the amended Citizenship Act. Shah said the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill has caused a "stomach ache" to the Opposition party. He assured the people of the

Northeast that their culture, language, social identity and political rights will be not be affected by the Act.

The Railways is running special trains from Guwahati to help stranded passengers in Assam. Special passenger trains are being run in Guwahati so that people reach their destination in upper Assam. One such train was operated on Friday to Dimapur.

Trains were also run on Saturday to Furkating, the main railway junction in Assam's Golaghat district, and to Dibrugarh, officials said in New Delhi. A special passenger train to Dimapur from Guwahati will also run tonight, they said.

While 2000-2400 passengers ferried in last two days, around 600-800 passengers were still stranded in Guwahati. The remaining passengers will be ferried by tomorrow morning. The officials said the railways is using social media like Facebook and Twitter to inform passengers about the special trains and also to appeal to people to not vandalise station property.

I'm not...

From Page 1

Jharkhand has led the BJP to seek an apology from him and also take up the issue with the Election Commission.

Accusing Prime Minister Modi of single-handedly "destroying" the country's economy, he said, "All of India's enemies wanted that its economy, which is its strength, should be destroyed." "That work (of destroying the economy) has not been done by the enemies, but by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself. And, (he) still calls himself a patriot," he added.

Training his guns on Modi, a charged-up Rahul Gandhi said the PM only thinks about one thing - whether he has the power. "They will do anything

for the power- make the youth unemployed, destroy the economy and what not," he said.

He also alleged that people manning various institutions, including media and constitutional ones like judiciary, have forgotten their work. While approving of media's criticism of the UPA government, he said, "I respect that and you did the right thing but today you have forgotten your work."

"It is your responsibility to rise when you are suppressed and attacked as it is not an attack on you but on the very soul of India. This country is being scared and suppressed, but no Congressmen have any kind of fear. I am telling those people in institutions not to fear from anything. The Congress party is standing with them. We will together end this atmosphere of fear in the country," he said.

Jamia students call off protest; varsity announces...

From Page 1

The university had turned into a virtual battlefield on Friday when students and

policemen clashed with each other as students tried to march to Parliament in protest against the

legislation. Earlier in the day, Jamia Teachers' Association (JTA) had also called an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss measures ahead of their protest against the contentious legislation.

UNFRUITFUL EXPENDITURE OF ₹7 CRORE CBI books Padma Shri awardee Leela Samson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked ace Bharatnatyam dancer and former Chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi Leela Samson for alleged "unfruitful expenditure" of ₹7.02-crore on renovation of Koothambalam Auditorium of Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai.



Samson, a Padma Shri awardee and also a former Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification, has been booked in her capacity as the then Director of Kalakshetra Foundation along with four more officials of the Foundation. The other accused in the case include the then officers of the Foundation: Chief Accounts Officer (on deputation from CAG) TS Murthi, Accounts Officer S Ramachandran, Engineer Officer V Srinivasan and proprietor of architecture firms CARD and Chennai Engineers.

After registering the case on Thursday, the CBI also conducted searches on the residential premises of the accused.

In a complaint to the CBI, the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Culture Ministry has alleged that the officials of the Foundation awarded the contract for the renovation work to consultant architect CARD in violation of General Finance Rules (GFR), according to the FIR which stated the period of the alleged offence from 2006 to 2012.

After conducting an inquiry in 2016, the Culture Ministry alleged that the 84-year old Foundation had spent Rs 62.20 lakh more than the estimated amount on the Rs 7.02-crore project.

The estimation given by the Central Public Works Department revealed that the

expenditure of Kalakshetra and submitted the report on August 5, 2011. In the report, the CAG brought out various lapses in executing the renovation work of the auditorium. The CAG also pointed out that the renovation works were undertaken without formal sanction of the Governing Board and Financial Committee.

It also alleged that Samson failed to apprise the non-official members of the Works Committee about the GFR norms and inform the Works Committee about the CAG Inspection Report received in August 2011.

Instead, approval of the Works Committee was obtained for two major expenditures in September and December 2011. She failed to place the CAG Inspection Report in the meeting of Finance Committee and General Body meeting held on January 23, 2012, and January 24, 2012, respectively and kept these bodies under dark," the agency has alleged.

The FIR, citing reports, alleged even if there were only limited sources of supply of sophisticated equipment for sound, stage lighting, these were not justified in the file notings for resorting to limited tender, and hence there was no justification in not resorting to open bidding.

She was allegedly responsible for the losses incurred by the Foundation on account of not opting for open tendering as also mandated by the General Body, it said.

The FIR said Kalashetra had spent Rs 62.20 lakh more than the estimated amount. The CPWD estimates revealed the contracts were awarded at a higher rate and the payments made to the contractors accordingly.

The Comptroller and Auditor General audited the

BHARAT BACHAO RALLY

Time to rise to save Constitution, democracy: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on 'Modi-Shah Government' over several issues concerning the nation and gave a clarion call to rise to save democracy and Constitution.

Addressing the Bharat Bachao Rally in the national Capital, Sonia alleged that the BJP-ruled Government's sole agenda was to make people fight to serve their politics, and vowed that her party would not retreat in its struggle against injustice.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh too addressed the crowd during which he accused his successor Narendra Modi of misleading the people by making "lofty promises" which he "failed" to fulfil. Other Congress leaders P Chidambaram, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Sachin Pilot and Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot, Kamal Nath, Bhupesh Baghel too addressed the gathering that had come from across the country, particularly from the Congress ruled States.

Sonia also targeted the Government over the economic situation and exhorted people to raise their voice to protect the country and its Constitution. "The Congress and only Congress has always fought for people's rights. And today too, the Congress party is not going to retreat. Till our last breath, we will fulfil our duty towards protecting the country, democracy and the Constitution" she said.

"Andher nagri chaupat raja wala mahaul hai (confused leader, chaotic State)... kahaan hai sabka saath sabka vikas? What has happened to economy? Where are jobs?" she asked, hitting out at the government over the handling of economy.

The Congress chief said



Former PM Manmohan Singh, along with Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, waves at the party workers during the party's Bharat Bachao rally at Ramtila Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

the situation in the country is serious as she highlighted the plight of women, farmers, labourers and the youth and asked party workers to struggle hard for protecting their rights. "The greatest sin is to bear injustice. So raise your voice to the Modi-Shah government and tell them that we are ready to give any kind of sacrifice for the protection of democracy. And we are ready for any kind of struggle to protect the Constitution."

Talking about the new amended citizenship law, Sonia Gandhi said it has been on BJP's agenda for a long time now. "They are not bothered that this new CAB law will shred the soul of India, as is happening in Assam and other northeastern States." It is for India's soul that our great nation builders and Babasaheb Ambedkar struggled hard, but I can say with confidence that our country's basic foundation does not allow such discriminatory actions. I assure you that the Congress will stand by all those against whom injustice is done," she said.

The Congress has been

opposing Citizenship Amendment Act, alleging that it discriminates on the basis of religion. Training her guns on Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the Congress chief said, "Modi, Shah are not bothered about the Parliament nor do they care for Constitutional institutions. Modi and Shah have a single aim - they have a single narrow agenda. They only bother about politics. Their narrow agenda is 'Lagon ko ladao, aur asli muddon ko chhupao' (Make people fight and hide the real issues)."

She said they "violate" the Constitution everyday and then also celebrate Constitution Day. Asking people to rise against the injustice, she said, "There comes a time in the life of any person or society or country when you have to decide which side you're on, today is one such day. The time has come to struggle hard to save the country. It's time to rise to save democracy and Constitution." She said unprecedented job losses are being witnessed and the youths face darkness.

On his part Manmohan

Singh said Modi had promised to take the country's economy to \$5 trillion by 2024, double farmers' income and provide two crore new jobs every year for youths. "Six years ago, Narendra Modi showed lofty promises to people. Now it has been proved that all these promises were false and he has failed in fulfilling all the promises made and the people of the country were misled," he said.

In his brief address, Manmohan Singh urged the

people to strengthen the Congress party and the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in order "to take the country forward in the right direction". He also urged Congress workers present at the rally in large numbers to take the message of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to every nook and corner of the country. "It is your responsibility. The enthusiasm in you will surely help give a new direction to the country," he noted.

Priyanka takes jibe at 'Modi hai to mumkin hai'



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks during the party's Bharat Bachao rally at Ramtila Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said those who don't fight the prevailing situation today will go down in history as cowards. "If you love India, please raise your voice. If we remain silent today, our revolutionary Constitution will be destroyed. The division of the country will start and we will all be as responsible for this division as any corrupt leader of the BJP and the RSS," she asserted while addressing the party's Bharat Bachao Rally.

While Priyanka urged everyone to gather the courage to fight the current situation, she also took a jibe at BJP slogans praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"At every bus stop, in every newspaper, on every TV channel, one can see that 'Modi hai to mumkin hai' (Everything possible with Modi at the helm). Asliyat ye hai ki BJP hai to ₹100 kilo ki pyaaz mumkin hai, BJP hai to 45 saal mein sabse zyada berozgari mumkin hai, BJP hai to 4 crore naukriyan under

hona mumkin hai, BJP hai to 15,000 kisan ki atmahatya mumkin hai....(The fact is under the BJP, it is possible that onion sells ₹100 a kilo, it's possible that unemployment is highest in 45 years, it is possible to destroy 4 crore jobs. If the BJP is there, it is possible that 15,000 farmers commit suicide....)," said the Congress general secretary.

A combative Priyanka raised the recent alleged torching of a rape victim in Unnao who subsequently succumbed to her injuries at a Delhi hospital and remembered her father Rajiv Gandhi and his sacrifices.

"When I saw the father of the Unnao rape victim burying his face in his palms and crying, I remembered my own father whose body I saw as a 19-year-old. My father's blood is in this soil just as the blood of the Unnao victim is nurturing this earth. This country is ours and it is our moral duty to save it," she said flanked by her mother and party president Sonia Gandhi and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi seated at the stage.

Govt to conduct Economic Census

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Seventh Economic Census was launched in the national Capital on Friday. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has tied up with Common Service Centre (CSC), an SPV under Ministry of Electronics and IT, to carry out the 7th National Economic Census.



For the first time the entire Census is being conducted on a digital platform by the use of an application which will ensure high accuracy and data security. Delhi is the 26th State where the survey has been launched, while the process is already on in 20 States and 5 UTs. In Delhi the entire process will take around three months where enumerators will survey around 45 lakh establishments and households," said A.K. Sadhu, DG (Social Statistics), Central Statistics Office (CSO).

The process of Economic Census was first held in 1978. This is the Seventh Census which will provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all establishments in the country. The census will provide valuable insights into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern; persons engaged etc. of the establishments engaged in economic activity.

In the 7th Census, an IT based digital platform is being used for data capture, validation, report generation and dissemination will be used. The fieldwork for the Census started in June 2019. A comprehensive training strategy has been evolved to impart training to enumerators and supervisors engaged in the Census. CSC CEO Dr Dinesh Tyagi was also present on the occasion.

Kovind hosts university heads' conference

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has set itself for sustainable development as it strives to eliminate poverty and become a middle-income country, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Saturday as he hosted a conference of 46 heads of Central Universities and institutes of higher learning in the fields of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, aviation, footwear-design, fashion, petroleum and energy, maritime studies, planning and architecture and information technology.

"India has set itself for sustainable development as it strives to eliminate poverty and become a middle-income country. Each of these institutes will be instrumental to the realisation of our socio-economic goals. The central agricultural universities can support our national goal of promoting sustainable agriculture, productivity and supporting our farmers with useful research," Kovind said in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"The same is true of all other institutes linked to different areas be it pharmaceutical, aviation, oceanography, petroleum and energy, IT,



President Ram Nath Kovind in group photograph with heads of Central Universities/Institutes of Higher Learning during their conference in New Delhi on Saturday

Design, Architecture and others. Each of them is doing well but we need to raise the bar further.

As our economy grows we need to acquire the scale and efficiency that is greater and better than the best in the world," he added.

The president said while developing their specialisations, these institutes should collaborate and learn from each other. "This is possible

for institutes in the same field. It is also possible across categories. For example, advances in information technology can aid architects and town planners to design smart cities that minimise use of energy. All of them should set up systems that can scout for and support cross-category collaborations which might hold creative promises to solve many of our problems," Kovind said.

Issues such as promotion of research, promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship among students, building industry-academia linkages, filling up of vacancies, including faculty from foreign universities, creating alumni funding and enhancing alumni activities and completion of major infrastructure projects in a time bound manner, were discussed during the conference.

Government eases FASTag execution

Up to 25% of FASTag lanes to be temporarily converted to hybrid lanes at NH toll plazas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To avert inconvenience to citizens, the Centre on Saturday announced to convert up to 25 per cent of FASTag lanes at national highway toll plazas to hybrid lanes for a month. The hybrid lane will accept FASTag and other modes of payment.

The Government earlier had announced rollout of mandatory FASTag under electronic toll collection from December 1, which was later extended to December 15, 2019. "Considering the request of NHAI and further the citizens are not put to inconvenience... It is decided that depending on the traffic

pile up at high traffic volume fee plazas, not more than 25 per cent 'FASTag lane of fee plaza' may be temporarily converted to hybrid lanes," the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said.

This is to be considered on a case to case basis, it added. "A daily evolution of such cases be made to take necessary corrective action," it said.

It should be ensured that the least possible number of the declared FASTag lanes are converted into hybrid lanes and at least 75 per cent lanes of every fee plaza should remain operational as FASTag lanes, it added.

The ministry clarified that



it is a temporary measure to be adopted for 30 days only to facilitate smooth flow of traffic so that no inconvenience is caused to the citizens. The

Government had earlier extended the date to December 15 for making FASTag mandatory for toll payments on national high-

ways. The National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme, the flagship initiative of the ministry, has been

implemented on a pan-India basis in order to remove bottlenecks and ensure seamless movement of traffic and collection of user fee as per the notified rates, using passive radio frequency identification (RFID) technology.

After announcement of waiver of tag cost from November 21, there has been a growth in FASTag issuance. To give a fillip to digital payments and bring in enhanced transparency, the ministry had directed to declare all lanes of fee plazas on National Highways as 'FASTag lanes' by December 1. However, one lane in each direction was decided to be kept as 'hybrid lane' which will accept FASTag and other modes of payment.

A customer may call on the helpline number '1033' for any assistance related to FASTags, the ministry had said and added that they can also reach out to banks to obtain FASTags.

राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम, मुख्यालय
परिवहन मार्ग, चौमू हाउस, जयपुर।

संशोधन-पत्र
निगम की वाहनो का सर्वार्थ लगभग 2200 करो का वार्षिक पत्र एवं यात्रियों का जोखिम शीमा करवाए जाने के लिए टेंडर आई डी 2019.RSRTC. 169963 1 एवं सूचीन नं. RAC/19205LOB00331 के द्वारा अपवोड की गई थी। टेंडर बोली आमंत्रण की दिनांक को 09.12.2019 से बढ़ाकर दिनांक 16.12.2019 समय 15:00 बजे तथा बोली खोलने की दिनांक को भी वदनुसार 10.12.2019 से बढ़ाकर दिनांक 17.12.2019 समय 15:00 बजे किया जाता है। शेष समस्त शर्तें संधागत रहेंगी।
राज. संवाद/सी/4135/2019-20 वि. सं. 130/2019-20 वित्तीय सलाहकार

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E-TENDER-NOTICE
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Detailed information such as E-Tender forms, pre-bid meeting, submission of tender, opening of Technical Bids & Financial Bids etc. will be available in NIIFT Jodhpur website www.niift.ac.in/jodhpur & <https://niiftenders.eproc.in> The date of issue/receipt of E-tenders etc. will be valid as per the tender uploaded on website. In future any information regarding corrigendum/addendum, extension of time etc. of above tenders would be updated in above mentioned website only. **Purchase Officer**

Citizenship Act

BJP assures Sena support on Act

PN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Advancing its erstwhile ally Shiv Sena to go ahead and implement Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 in Maharashtra, the BJP said on Saturday said it was ready to make a "political compromise" and support the Sena in the event of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government's collapse over the implementation of CAA in the State.

"We are all for the implementation of the just-enacted Citizenship amendment law in Maharashtra. Two State Congress Ministers may have opposed the implementation of the CAB, but Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray should go ahead with the implementation of the CAB in the State," State BJP leader Ashish Shelar said.

"If I am apprehending that the Shiv Sena might hesitate to implement CAA in Maharashtra it is because Sena supported the bill in Lok Sabha and walked out in Rajya Sabha under pressure from the Congress. Our advice to the Sena is that in the fear of the Congress withdrawing its support to its government in the state, it should not change its pro-stand on CAA," Shelar said, while talking to a regional television channel.



"Decisions taken keeping in mind power and Government need not always be in interest of the nation. If Sena decides to implement CAA in the national interest, then BJP is ready to compromise and cooperate with Sena in preventing collapse of its Government in State. It is because for us in BJP, it is nation first, then party and then the individuals," Shelar said.

He said that the CAA was in the interest of both the country and State. "This law will come in handy for the State Government to remove the infiltrators from Pakistan and Bangladesh residing in Maharashtra. The Modi Government is attempting to

provide citizenship to persecuted Hindus, Parsis, Shikhs and Jain immigrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. We want Sena to support our Government at the Centre in its efforts," the BJP leader said.

Shelkar's overture to the Shiv Sena came a day after State Congress Minister Balasaheb Thorat and his party's Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Nitin Raut opposed the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB).

While Thorat said that his party had opposed the bill in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and that he was awaiting instructions from his party high command, Raut said that his party would ensure that the new law was not implemented in Maharashtra.

NCP Spokesperson Nawab Malik has said that though his party had opposed the CAB in both the Houses of Parliament, the leaders of the three parties in MVA government - Sena, NCP and Congress - would sit across and take a decision collectively on the issue.

On its part, the Shiv Sena has said that its president and chief minister Uddhav Thackeray would speak on the issue at an appropriate time.

Cong, AIUDF urge Assam Speaker to call spl session

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Opposition Congress and the AIUDF have separately requested the Assam Assembly Speaker to call a special session to discuss the concerns expressed by the people of the State on the amended Citizenship Act.

Assam has been on the boil for the past several days as thousands of people have come out on the streets to protest against the amended Citizenship Act. Two persons were killed in police firing on Thursday, while an oil tanker driver was charred to death when the vehicle was torched on Saturday.

"You must be aware of the situation in Assam following the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 by the Lok Sabha," Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Debabrata Saikia of the Congress wrote to Speaker Hiten Goswami.

He said people including students and senior citizens took to the streets across Assam to express their pain and grievances over the Bill that threatens the existence of the indigenous people.

"The situation became serious when the Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha leading to imposition of curfew in various parts of the state," Saikia said in his letter on Friday.

The amended Act will negate the Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people as enumerated in the Assam Accord, the Congress leader claimed.

There is a possibility that the demographic pattern of Assam will be changed following the implementation of the amended Citizenship Act and the people will lose their right to decide their political fate in their own state, he said.

"As States in India have been constituted on the basis of language and not religion, the existence of Assam will be threatened," Saikia said.

Another opposition party, the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), also sought a special session of the Assembly to discuss the issue.

RJD calls for Bihar bandh on Dec 21

PTI ■ PATNA

Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal has given call for a Bihar bandh on December 21 in protest against the amended Citizenship Act, alleging that it has blown the Constitution to smithereens.

Tejashwi Yadav, Prasad's younger son and heir apparent, made the announcement late on Friday night, urging all political and non-political outfits having "faith in the Constitution and the principle of justice" to take part in the bandh which was initially scheduled for December 22, but was later preponed so that the police recruitment exams next Sunday were not affected.

"The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is a black legislation that has blown the Constitution to smithereens. As a mark of protest, Rashtriya Janata Dal will organize a Bihar bandh on Sunday, December 22.

"We appeal to all secular parties, non-political outfits and common citizens who have faith in the Constitution and the principle of justice to wholeheartedly support the bandh and help us make it a success," he tweeted.

The 30-year-old leader of

opposition followed it up with another tweet

"Correction: Bihar bandh will now be on Saturday, December 21 because police recruitment tests are scheduled on December 22. The rescheduling is being done so that young aspirants are not inconvenienced on account of the bandh."

Founded in 1997 after which it ruled Bihar for eight more years, the RJD is known for using strong arm tactics to enforce shutdowns which bring normal life to a standstill, sometimes even resulting in violence and massive disruptions of rail and road traffic.

The party has been going through a rough patch since the Lok Sabha polls this year wherein it put up its worst-ever performance and failed to win a single seat.

Turmoil in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) over supporting the Bill in Parliament, which is expected to dent his popularity among the State's Muslims, has prompted the opposition party to come out of torpor and bring itself back into the reckoning with assembly polls less than a year away.

Left parties appeal to RJD to advance 'Bihar bandh' to Dec 19

Patna: The Left parties on Saturday appealed to RJD to advance its 'Bihar bandh' by two days to December 19 to combine it with their proposed nationwide joint protest against the amended Citizenship Act on that day.

Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal has given call for a Bihar bandh on December 21 to protest against the legislation, alleging that it has blown the Constitution to smithereens.

The Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)—Liberation, All India Forward Bloc and the Revolutionary Socialist Party, in a joint statement, alleged that the Act would destroy the secular democratic foundations of India. PTI

Cong, CPM join hand for Kerala agitation

PNS ■ CHENNAI

In what is being described as a major political development in Kerala, the ruling CPI(M) and the principal Opposition party Congress would join hands on Monday to launch a major State-wide agitation against the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019 that was passed in both houses of Parliament last week.

The decision to hold the joint agitation comes immediately after the declaration made by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of the CPI(M) that Kerala would not accept the

CAB-2019 and oppose the Centre's move tooth and nail. The Congress in Kerala, which is in a buoyant mood after its impressive performance in the Lok Sabha election by winning 19 of the 20 seats walked the extra mile to show its solidarity with the Muslim community in their opposition to the Act.

The Muslim League in the State is apprehensive of the Bill because of the denial of citizenship to hundreds of thousands of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in the State, said an intelligence official. "There are nearly 2 lakh Bangladeshi Muslims in

Perumbavoor, a small town. Once they get citizenship and voting rights, the Muslim League and the Congress are the major beneficiaries," said the official.

The question being asked in the State is whether the new found bonhomie between the Congress and the CPI(M) would lead to a new alliance to face the 2021 assembly election. KVS Haridas, former chief editor of Jammabummi and a leading political commentator in the State is of the view that the alliance would not last. "The Congress has decided to join the agitation as part of its minority appeasing

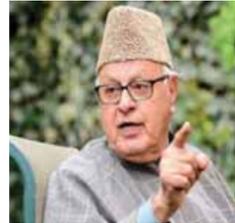
policy. But this move would boomerang on the party as the Hindus in the State would not take it lightly. It is a truth that nearly 50 per cent of the Congress votes come from the Hindus in the State," said Haridas.

The electoral alliance between the CPI(M) and the Congress is nothing new in the State. Last time the parties fought the election together was in 1980 when a faction of the Congress led by A K Antony which was vehemently opposed to Indira Gandhi had joined hands with the CPI(M).

Farooq's detention extended by 3 months

Srinagar: The detention of Farooq Abdullah, a three-term Chief Minister of erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, was extended on Saturday by three months and he would continue to remain at his residence that has been declared a sub-jail, officials said here.

The case of Abdullah, also a five-term parliamentarian, was reviewed by the advisory board of the Home Department of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir which recommended extension of his detention under the PSA, they said.



Gupkar Road, has been declared a sub-jail by the union territory's Home Department. Eighty-two-year-old Abdullah, who became the first Chief Minister against whom the stringent public

safety law was invoked, has a heart pacemaker implanted and had undergone a kidney transplant a few years ago.

Reacting to the move, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted, "Farooq Abdullah detention extended by three months under Public Safety Act... This is a very sad state of affairs. In our democratic country this is happening. These are unconstitutional steps."

Abdullah was among a host of leaders and activists who were detained on August 5 when the centre abrogated Article 370 and divided the

state into two union territories - Ladakh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The PSA has two sections - 'public order' and 'threat to security of the State'. The former allows detention without trial for three to one year and the latter for two years.

The PSA is applicable only in Jammu & Kashmir. Elsewhere in the country, the equivalent law is the National Security Act (NSA).

Besides Abdullah, his son and former chief minister Omar and ex-CM Mehbooba Mufti, several other leaders have also been under detention since August 5. PTI

Chola Enter a better life
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
 Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001.
 Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005 Contact No: 9899245509, 9818460101

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE (To be treated as notice u/s 8(6))
 Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the Possession on, 'As is where is basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis' particulars of which are given below:-

S.N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding as on 14.12.2019	Type of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No. X0HELD00001649893 Delhi Branch) LALIT KUMAR BABULAL TATER (BORROWER) SONIA TATER, BABULAL TATER, KALPESH B TATER, SARLA DEVI, RIBS EXIM CONSULTANTS PVT LTD (CO-BORROWER) All are having address for communication at :- E-21 3RD FLOOR KIRTI NAGAR, WEST DELHI, NEW DELHI - 110015 ALSO AT- ALSO AT-24 A BLOCK TAGORE MKT KIRTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110015, ALSO AT- ALSO AT-NO-1-17, THIRD FLOOR, LAUPAT NAGAR-IV, NEW DELHI-110024.	15-05-2017 Rs.1,73,12,921/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Three Lakh Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One Only)	PROPERTY ADMEASURING 200 SQ.YDS., BEARING PROPERTY NO.-1-17,THIRD FLOOR, LAJPAT NAGAR -II, NEW DELHI-110024	Rs. 1,45,80,000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Five Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs.1,55,45,266/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only)	Rs.1,55,45,266/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Five Lakh Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Six Only) + further interest till realization of payment.	Physical
2.	(Loan Account No. X0HEDE00001107249, X0HEDE00001162337 & X0HEDE00001371151 Delhi Branch) RAVI PRAKASH SADIH(BORROWER) SANDEEP SADIH, SUNITA RANI SADIH, RAVI PRINTS (CO-BORROWER) All are having address for communication at :- HOUSE NO B-45,1ST FLOOR BLOCK -B EAST KRISHNA NAGAR NEW DELHI 110051 ALSO AT- C-11 1ST FLOOR EAST AZAD NAGAR, KRISHNA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110051 ALSO AT- E- 228 SECTOR -63 NOIDA-201301	19-10-2018 Rs 2,08,81,790.41 (Rupees Two Crore Eight Lakh Eighty One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Rupees and Forty One Paise Only)	ENTIRE SECOND FLOOR PROPERTY BEARING NO B-45 (OLD NO 46-B) AREA ADMEASURING 100 SQ YDS OUT OF KHASRA NO 1048/824/3 SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE CHANDRAWALI ALIAS SHAHRA IN THE ABADI OF EAST KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI	Rs.72,50,000/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)	Rs.7,25,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Only)	Rs.2,54,17,878.08/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Four Lakh Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight And Eight Paise Only) + further interest till realization of payment.	Physical
3.	(Loan Account No. X0HEDE00001239641 & X0HEDE00001091630 Delhi Branch) RAJESH KUMAR YADAV (BORROWER) NEETU YADAV, REWATI YADAV, MRS SAROJ, MRS SARITA (CO-BORROWER) All are having address for communication at :- H.NO-164-P SEC-15 PART-1 VILL-JHARSA, GURGAON, GURGAON - 122002 ALSO AT-PLOT NO-11 AKASHNEEM MARG DLF, PHASE-II GURGAON, GURGAON - 122002 ALSO AT-J-3/32/DF II, SECOND FLOOR GURGAON, HARYANA-122022. ALSO AT- PLOT NO-6, ROAD NO-N-12, DLF CITY PHASE-II GURGAON HARYANA -122022.	24-10-2016 Rs.3,20,21,630.73/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Lakh Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty And Seventy Three Paise Only) and Rs.1,74,94,680.11/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Four Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty And Eleven Paise Only)	PROPERTY NO-164-P, SECTORE-15, PART-I, URBAN ESTATE GURGAON HARYANA-122002. ADMEASURING 220 SQ.MTS., (2368.06 SQ.FT.) WITH A BUILT UP AREA OF 4852 SQ.FT.	Rs. 2,55,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Five Lakh Only)	Rs.25,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)	Rs.8,42,91,111.4/- (Rupees Eight Crore Forty Two Lakh Ninety One Thousand One Hundred Eleven and Forty Paise Only) + further interest till realization of payment.	Symbolic

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION
 1). Last Dat of Submission of Sealed Bid/Offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is 30.12.2019 within 5.30 Pm at the Branch Office:- 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005 mentioned herein. Tendres that are not filled up or Tendres received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
 2. Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 31.12.2019 at the above mentioned branch office address at 10.00 A.M. The tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorised Officer.
 3. Date of Inspection of the Immovable Property is on 18.12.2019 between 10.00 am to 3.30 pm.
 4. Further Interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expense, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization.
 5. The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and Gurantor/s, to remain present personally at the time of sale and they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale.
 6. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given 15 DAYS SALE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction falling which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
 7. The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mntioned branch office.
 8. The Immovable property will be sold th the highest tenderer. However the Authorised Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary. The property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price.
 9. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The property shall be auctioned on 'As is Where is Basis', 'As ia Waht is Basis', and 'Whaever ia There is Basis'.
 10. The Total Loan Outstanding amount is not the loan foreclosure amount. All other charges (if any) shall be calculated at the time of closure of the loan.
 11. The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of 'Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited' Only.
 For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address. Sd/- Authorised Officer Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited Place: Delhi/NCR Date : 15-12-2019

Dhinakaran's AMMK gets EC recognition

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

TV Dhinakaran, nephew of jailed V K Sasikala, the close aide of late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa got a shot in the arm as the Election Commission of India gave recognition and registration to his political outfit Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) as a political party. Dhinakaran had launched the party after he was eased out of the AIADMK by the Edappadi Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam factions. While according registration to the AMMK, the ECI also overruled the AIADMK's objection against the term Amma in the name of the party. The ECI said that there was no similarity in the names of the two parties.

The EC rejected AIADMK's objection against the AMMK in using the word 'Amma' in its name, saying it did not find any merit in that as it was a commonly used word to refer to the mother. In Tamil Nadu, AIADMK cadres normally refer to former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa as "Amma".

The EC order, signed by its secretary Dilip K Verma, was sent to AMMK general secretary Dhinakaran on Friday. Though the AMMK could not make any big impact in the by

elections to 22 assembly seats held along with Lok Sabha elections, the recognition it received from the EC has reenergised the outfit, according to a close confidante of Dhinakaran.

The AMMK was in crossroads after the Lok Sabha election because of its failure to make any impact in the State politics. Dhinakaran shot to fame when he won the R K Nagar Assembly constituency in Chennai in a bye-election after the death of Jayalalithaa in December 2016.

Jayalalithaa was elected from the seat earlier. But immediately after the victory of Dhinakaran, who is the lone independent member in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, the rival EPS-OPS factions joined hands in 2017 to oust him fearing Sasikala clan would hijack the party.

The split in the party reflected clearly in the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year when opposition DMK swept 387 out of 39 seats in the state forcing prominent faces to quit the party. But EPS-OPS duo made gradual progress in the party with the help of power and BJP at the centre and Dhinakaran who failed to recapture the control of the parent party launched AMMK to counter the duo 2018 March.

EC sources said since AMMK had become a registered political party, preference would be given to it in the allotment of symbols among the free symbols during polls. However, it would not be applicable in the forthcoming local bodies poll in Tamil Nadu as it was conducted by the state election department.

On AIADMK's objection that Dhinakaran was expelled from it and disowned by Jayalalithaa when she was alive and hence he had no locus standi to start a party in her name, the EC said the claim had nothing to do with the eligibility of a party to get registered.

The AMMK had cited precedents of political parties with similar names being registered. But there are some hurdles to overcome for AMMK to become a recognised state party. All the candidates fielded by it should get at least six percent of the total votes polled in an election to the Lok Sabha or state Legislative Assembly.

Considering its dismal performance in the by elections in the recent history, that could not be an easy task. Moreover several senior leaders deserted Dhinakaran after the debacle.

OFFICE OF THE SUPRINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE-MORADABAD.
 Address :- TA-1, ashiana Phase-1, MDA Colony, Moradabad.

E-Procurement Notice
 Letter No: 1437/RED/Tender Notice /File No. 11/ Bond Clerk/2019-20 Dated:- 10/12/2019

1. THE SUPRINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MORADABAD CIRCLE MORADABAD on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with U.P. R.E.D. in appropriate class A, B, & C as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.

2- Name of work as per table.

Sl. No.	District	Name of work	Total estimated cost including G.S.T. (in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) in Lacs	Cost of Bid including GST (if any) (in Rupees)	Period completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Bijnor	Construction of One Staff Center in District Hospital Bijnor Campus.	40.20	0.81	2354.00	06 Month

3. Date of availability of Bid document of website:- 19/12/2019
 4. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement :- 08/01/2020 up to 12.00 Noon
 5. Date of opening of bids through e-procurement:- 08/01/2020 at 12.30 pm
 6. The Employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per ITB clause-10 on-line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly.
 For further details please log on to http://etender.up.nic.in and download the bid document

SUPRINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MORADABAD CIRCLE MORADABAD For and behalf of Governor of UP

U.P.: 146507, Date : 12.12.2019
 किसान पंचाईत www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Not fair that I am being impeached: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Friday said it was unfair that he was being impeached as he had done no wrong and the country under him was doing quite good.

"It's not fair that I'm being impeached when I've done absolutely nothing wrong!" Trump said in a tweet on Friday night as a key Congressional committee, earlier in the day, approved the two articles of impeachment against him.

The impeachment against Trump now moves to the House of Representatives, where the opposition Democratic Party enjoys a majority. Once passed by the House, the trial for impeachment would be carried out in the 100-member US Senate, where Trump's Republican party has a majority.

"The Radical Left, Do Nothing Democrats have become the Party of Hate. They are so bad for our Country," Trump said in his tweet.

Earlier in the day, he described the impeachment as a hoax and politically motivated.

"The impeachment is a hoax. It is a sham. It started a long time ago, probably before I came down the escalator with the future First Lady. It started a long time ago," Trump told reporters earlier in the day at the White House.

"It is a witch hunt. It is a sham. It is a hoax. Nothing was



done wrong. Zero was done wrong. I think it is a horrible thing to be using the tool of impeachment, which is supposed to be used in an emergency. And it would seem many, many, many years apart," he asserted.

"To be using this for a perfect phone call, where the president of that country said there was no pressure whatsoever — did not even know what we were talking about. It is perfect; the relationship is perfect. I have done much more for the country than Obama did for them. It is a scam. It is something that should not be allowed. And it is a very bad thing for our country," Trump said.

The Democrats, he said were trivialising impeachment.

"I tell you what, someday there will be a Democrat president and there will be a Republican House, and I suspect they are going to remember it. Because when you use impeachment for absolutely nothing, other than to try and get political gain," Trump said. He asserted that his poll numbers had gone through the roof.

US Supreme Court to hear Trump tax return case next year

Washington: The US Supreme Court agreed Friday to hear cases next year over the release of Donald Trump's tax returns and financial records, setting the stage for a ruling during the presidential election campaign.

Trump has been seeking to block access to his tax returns and other financial records in lawsuits involving New York prosecutors and the US House of Representatives.

Lower courts have ruled that Trump must turn over the records but lawyers for the president appealed to the nation's highest court, arguing that as president, he has blanket immunity.

The Supreme Court — where conservative judges are in the majority — said it will hear arguments during the March session with a ruling to be issued before the session ends on June 30.

Trump, a New York real estate tycoon, is the first American president since Richard Nixon not to make his tax returns public, claiming they are under audit by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). **AFP**

Boris Johnson goes north to celebrate election win

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited northern England on Saturday to thank voters and newly elected Conservative Party lawmakers in the working class heartland that turned its back on the opposition Labour Party in this week's election and helped give him an 80-seat majority.

Speaking in Sedgefield — the constituency once held by Labour former prime minister Tony Blair — Johnson acknowledged the seismic shift that helped sweep him to victory in Thursday's election.

"I know that people may have been breaking the voting habits of generations to vote for us," he told supporters.

"And I want the people of the northeast to know that we in the Conservative Party and I will repay your trust."

In a victory speech outside 10 Downing Street on Friday, Johnson called for an end to the acrimony that has festered throughout the country since the divisive 2016 Brexit referendum, and urged Britain to "let the healing begin."

Johnson's campaign mantra to "get Brexit done" and widespread unease with the leadership style and socialist policies of opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn combined to give the ruling Conservatives 365 seats in the House of Commons, its best performance since party icon Margaret

Thatcher's last victory in 1987. Labour slumped to 203 seats, its worst showing since 1935.

While Johnson was on a victory lap Saturday, Corbyn — who has pledged to stand down next year — was under fire from within his own party, where there was little sign of healing starting any time soon.



Former lawmaker Helen Goodman, one of many Labour legislators to lose their seat in northern England, told BBC radio that "the biggest factor was obviously the unpopularity of Jeremy Corbyn as the leader."

Another former Labour lawmaker criticized the election campaign more broadly as muddled.

Anna Turley told the BBC that the party put forward an overwhelming number of policies and voters "just didn't believe we were the party that could deliver on any of it."

Armed with his hefty new majority, Johnson is set to start the process next week of pushing Brexit legislation through Parliament to ensure Britain leaves the EU by the January 31 deadline.

Once he's passed that hurdle — breaking three years of parliamentary deadlock — he has to seal a trade deal with the bloc by the end of 2020.

"We've just been going over the timetable we can definitely get it in before Christmas, and we're out on January 31," Johnson said.

While Johnson's large majority means he has relatively clear air ahead on Brexit, he faces turbulence over renewed calls for a referendum on Scottish independence following the strong election showing of the Scottish National Party. **AP**

'Brexit election' raises hopes, fears in Northern Ireland

Belfast: Prime Minister Boris Johnson's crushing election victory gives Britain a chance to move past years of gridlock over Brexit — especially in Northern Ireland, where social and political divides run deep.

"We're leaving limbo," said Orlaith McKeever, preparing food for the lunchtime rush at St. George's Market in Belfast, a redbrick rabbits' warren of stalls and kiosks.

Brexit-voting music trader Lawrence John, 69, also reflected relief that the stalled process of extricating Britain from the European Union after nearly five decades was finally moving ahead.

"Like many, many people I'm sick of all this Brexit stuff. Three-and-a-half years ago there was a referendum to decide whether we were going to leave," he told AFP.

"We're just finally getting news that it can actually happen after all this time," he said after Johnson's Conservatives won their biggest majority since the heyday of Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

Thursday's snap general became a re-run of the 2016 EU membership referendum in which Johnson championed the Brexit cause.

The Prime Minister ran this campaign on the promise to "get Brexit done" — a simple but effective message with profound implications for Britain's most politically volatile region.

Northern Ireland voted by 56 percent to remain in the European Union in 2016.

Since then, it has become central to a Brexit deal with Brussels.

Unease spread about the prospect of a no-deal Brexit and the re-emergence of a hard border with EU neighbour Ireland to the south.

Border checks are associated with three decades of sectarian violence over British rule of Northern Ireland that left some 3,500 people dead.

The potential removal of an open border — a plank of the 1998 agreement that ended "The Troubles" — has been seen as an unwelcome return to the past.

It also reopened the issue of Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom with England, Scotland and Wales, and the potential of a united Ireland.

For the first time, the election returned more Irish republican than British unionist lawmakers to the UK House of Commons. The largest republican party Sinn Fein even took the seat of North Belfast from unionist hands for the first time since it was drawn up in 1885. Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald called it a "historic moment".

"The discussion around constitutional change is now underway," she told old Irish broadcaster RTE Friday.

"It's safe to say that Irish unity will be firmly on the agenda in a way that it has never been before," Queen's University Belfast politics lecturer Jamie Pow told AFP.

"Mr Johnson commands a majority, but there is a palpable sense of fear amongst Muslim communities around the country," said MCB Secretary General Harun Khan in a statement released on Friday.

He said: "We entered the election campaign period with long standing concerns about bigotry in our politics and our governing party. Now we worry that Islamophobia is 'oven-ready' for Government."

"Mr Johnson has been entrusted with huge power, and we pray it is exercised responsibly for all Britons."

Palpable sense of fear over Johnson win, says British Muslim group

PTI ■ LONDON

A prominent British Muslim representative organisation has issued a statement expressing a "palpable sense of fear" within the Muslim community in the UK following Prime Minister

Boris Johnson's massive victory in the country's General Election this week.

Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), which has been calling for a full-fledged inquiry into anti-Muslim conduct within the Johnson-led Conservative Party, used one of the key slogans from the election campaign to express fears that the strong majority in the House of Commons could mean that, like Brexit, Islamophobia is also "oven-ready" for the new government.

"Mr Johnson commands a majority, but there is a palpable sense of fear amongst Muslim communities around the country," said MCB Secretary General Harun Khan in a statement released on Friday.

He said: "We entered the election campaign period with long standing concerns about bigotry in our politics and our governing party. Now we worry that Islamophobia is 'oven-ready' for Government."

"Mr Johnson has been entrusted with huge power, and we pray it is exercised responsibly for all Britons."

Pak Court adjourns hearing in terror financing case against Saeed

Lahore: After his indictment, the trial against Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed in the terror financing case failed to be held for the third consecutive day on Saturday due to a country-wide strike by the lawyers.

Saeed, who has been indicted along with three close aides in terror financing case, could not be produced before the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) here on Saturday because of the lawyers' strike. The lawyers are protesting for the last three days against the arrest of their colleagues in a case of hooliganism at a hospital in Lahore.

The ATC Lahore adjourned the hearing of the terror financing case against Saeed and others till December 16.

"Except the arrested lawyers, no other suspect or witness in any other case were presented before the ATC due to the lawyers strike during the last three days," a court official told PTI on Saturday.

He said the prosecution which was to present witnesses against Saeed and others also could not bring them to the court.

The ATC court on Wednesday indicted Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JdD) chief and his aides Hafiz Abdul Salam bin Muhammad, Muhammad Ashraf and Zafar Iqbal in the terror financing case and directed the prosecution to produce witnesses.

The ATC on Wednesday framed the terror financing charges on the four suspects in their presence. Deputy



Prosecutor General Punjab Abdur Rauf had told the court that founder of terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba and others were involved in terror financing case and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police had 'solid evidence' in this regard.

The CTD had registered 23 FIRs against Saeed and his accomplices on the charges of "terror financing" in different cities of Punjab province and

arrested Saeed on July 17. He is detained at the Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore.

The cases have been registered in Lahore, Gujranwala and Multan for collection of funds for terrorism financing through assets/properties made and held in the names of Trusts/Non Profit Organisations (NPO) including Al-Anfaal Trust, Dawatul Irshad Trust, Muaz Bin Jabal Trust.

According to the CTD, investigation launched into financing matters of proscribed organisations - Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JdD) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) - in connection with implementation of UN sanctions against these designated entities and persons as directed by NSC (National Security Committee) in its

Meeting of January 1, 2019 chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan for implementing the National Action Plan.

"These suspects made assets from funds of terrorism financing. They held and used these assets to raise more funds for further terrorism financing. Hence, they committed multiple offences of terrorism financing and money laundering under Anti Terrorism Act 1997. They will be prosecuted in ATCs (Anti Terrorism Courts) for commission of these offences," the CTD said.

The US Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, and the US, since 2012, has offered a USD 10 million reward for information that brings Saeed to justice. **PTI**

Ex-Sudan strongman al-Bashir gets 2 years jail for corruption

Khartoum (Sudan): A court in Sudan convicted former President Omar al-Bashir of money laundering and corruption on Saturday, sentencing him to two years in a minimum security lockup.

That's the first verdict in a series of legal proceedings against al-Bashir, who is also wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and genocide linked to the Darfur conflict in the 2000s.

The verdict comes a year after Sudanese protesters erupted in revolt against al-Bashir's authoritarian rule. During his three decades in power, Sudan landed on the US list for sponsoring terrorism, and the country's economy was battered by years of mismanagement and



American sanctions.

Al-Bashir has been in custody since April, when Sudan's military ousted him after months of nationwide protests. The uprising eventually forced the military into a power-sharing agreement with civilians.

Sudan's military has said it would not extradite him to the

ICC. The country's military-civilian transitional government has not indicated whether they will hand him over to the The Hague.

The Sudanese Professionals' Association, which was the backbone of the protest movement, welcomed Saturday's verdict as a "moral and political conviction" against the former president and his regime.

Under Sudanese law, al-Bashir, 75, will be sent to a state-run lockup for elderly people who are convicted of crimes not punishable with death. But he will remain in jail amid an ongoing trial on separate charges regarding the killing of protesters in the months prior to his ouster. **PTI**

Pompeo warns Iran of 'decisive response' if harm in Iraq

Washington: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday warned Iran of a "decisive" response if US interests are harmed in Iraq, after a series of rocket attacks on bases.

"We must... Use this opportunity to remind Iran's leaders that any attacks by them, or their proxies of any identity, that harm Americans, our allies or our interests will be answered with a decisive

US response," Pompeo said in a statement.

"Iran must respect the sovereignty of its neighbours and immediately cease its provision of lethal aid and support to third parties in Iraq and throughout the region," he said.

The United States has expressed mounting concern about the flurry of attacks on Iraqi bases used by US troops, several of which it has blamed on Iranian-backed Shiite paramilitary groups.

Two rocket attacks this week targeted a compound near Baghdad International Airport, which houses US troops, with an incident Monday wounding Iraqi troops.

"We hope and pray these brave Iraqis will quickly and fully recover from their injuries," Pompeo said.

Pompeo, who has repeatedly warned Tehran, pinned the blame for the latest attacks squarely on "Iran's proxies". Iran has gained overwhelming influence in Iraq, its neighbour with which it shares a Shiite



majority, since the 2003 US invasion brought down Saddam Hussein.

President Donald Trump's administration, which is close to Iran's adversaries Saudi Arabia and Israel, has been trying to counter Tehran's influence around the region, including through sanctions aimed at blocking all its oil exports.

The United States last week imposed sanctions on three leaders of the Shiite paramilitary force Hashed al-Shaabi, accusing them of taking part in the deadly crackdown on nationwide protests.

Iraqi prime minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, a close ally of Iran who also enjoyed cordial relations with the United States, resigned after the two months of demonstrations in which around 460 people have died. **AFP**

Thunberg calls for 'fight for tomorrow' at Italy protest

Turin (Italy): Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg on Friday asked young people to fight for their future in the next decade, as she joined a demonstration in the northern Italian city of Turin.

"Adults are behaving as if there's no tomorrow," Thunberg told young protesters at a Fridays for Future demonstration, the global movement inspired by her activism. "But there's a tomorrow. We have to fight for that tomorrow as if our lives depend on that, because they do."

Thunberg traveled to Turin in an electric car after attending the COP25 climate conference in Madrid, where she had given a speech accusing world governments of "creative PR" over their climate change stances.

The 16-year-old, who this week became the youngest person to be named Time magazine's Person of the Year, warned that the decade that is about to start will be the one that "will define our future," and will have a key impact over the rest of our lives.

"For sure her tenacity, her determination, is an example to everybody that reminds us that we need to fight every day for this climate crisis," said Laura Vallaro, a climate activist who joined Turin's demonstration. **AP**

UN climate talks in limbo as rifts among countries remain

Madrid: Countries remained deadlocked Saturday in talks over combating climate change as UN talks dragged on beyond the official deadline with no end in sight.

Chile's environment minister, Carolina Schmidt, who is chairing the two-week talks in Madrid, urged officials from almost 200 countries to recognize the "overall balance" of the latest draft agreements hammered out overnight.

"We must show the outside world that we deliver," she said.

Environmental activists staged protests inside and around the venue during the talks, as they have around the world in the past year, to demand leaders take bolder action against global warming.

Many nations and observers said the latest draft agreements risked backtracking on existing commitments made in the 2015 Paris climate accord and didn't reflect the urgent warnings from scientists that greenhouse gas emissions need to fall sharply, and soon.

"If this text is accepted, the low ambition coalition will have won the day," said David Waskow of the World Resources Institute, a Washington-based environmental think tank. Among the issues at stake are aid for poor countries suffering the impacts of climate change and efforts to agree rules for international markets to trade carbon emissions vouchers. **AP**

Bomb explosion in south Nepal home kills 3

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Three people, including a police officer, have been killed in a bomb explosion at a house in southern Nepal's Dhanusha district.

The bomb was planted at one Rajesh Shah's house in Kshreshwar Nath Municipality by unknown persons, police said.

Rajesh (42) and his son Ananta Shah (17) died on the spot, while Police Inspector Amir Dahal, in charge of Sakhuwa Mahendranagar-based Area Office, was seriously injured in the explosion. Dahal died undergoing treatment.

Rajesh's father Bhikhari Shah (73), his daughter Nikki Shah (21), son Prakash Shah (14) and another police officer Rijan Mahatto were also injured in the incident and were hospitalised.

Upon seeing the bomb at his home's gate, Rajesh Shah alerted the police late on Friday night.

Police personnel were checking the improvised explosive device when it exploded, officials said.

Police have arrested two elderly women in connection with the explosion.

Untiring protesters come up against immovable elite in Algeria

AFP ■ PARIS

Algeria's unpopular presidential election was meant to reset the country's politics after months of crisis, but it exposed a rigid system determined to perpetuate itself, analysts say.

"You get the impression of two parallel Algerias: a ruling class which congratulates itself on organising elections and a populace that holds protests," said Maghreb expert and historian Karima Direche.

The North African country plunged into crisis in February when veteran president Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced he would seek a fifth term, sparking mass demonstrations.

Bouteflika quit under popular pressure in April, but the Hirak protest movement has kept up the pressure with weekly mass rallies to demand sweeping reforms.

Thursday's presidential vote was bitterly opposed by Hirak, which saw it as an establishment ploy to cling to power.

Anti-election rallies rocked major cities and in the Berber-dominated region of Kabylie, protesters ransacked polling stations and clashed with police. Fewer than four out of ten Algerian voters cast their ballots on Thursday, according to election officials.

Direche suspects the real figure may be less than half that. Officials "stuff the ballot boxes, they fix the numbers.

They don't even make the effort" to hide their manipulations, she said.

On Friday, vast crowds descended onto the streets of Algiers to reject newly elected president Abdelmadjid Tebboune, a longtime government insider and former premier under Bouteflika.

But the opposition to the poll "matters little to a regime committed to a sham election intended to prolong its tenure," said Anthony Skinner, regional director at risk analysis firm Verisk Maplecroft.

Algeria's elite, dominated by army chief Ahmed Gaid Salah, sees the turnout as "enough to bestow what it sees as legitimacy on the next president," he said.

"Gaid Salah will probably still treat the election as a success." Yet with the protest movement showing no sign of abating, that calculus may be wrong, said Jean-Pierre Filiu, a professor at Sciences Po university in Paris.

"Gaid Salah failed in his bid to stifle popular protest through imposing this election," said Filiu.

The protesters on the other hand "succeeded in making participation the only real issue in this poll, rather than the identity of the future president," he said.

"By sticking to a non-violent approach... The Hirak is continuing to erode military decision-makers' stranglehold on the country. There will be no going back" to the status quo.

Insider attack kills 9 Afghan militia, say officials

Kabul: At least one member of an Afghan militia opened fire on his fellow militiamen early Saturday, killing nine, in what the country's interior ministry called an insider attack.

The Taliban however claimed the attack was actually a coordinated insurgent assault on the checkpoint where the shooting took place, killing over two dozen militiamen, according to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy, but the Taliban often exaggerate their claims.

Details were sketchy and investigators were still looking into the attack in central Ghazni province's Karabagh district, said Interior Ministry spokesman Fawad Aman. The number of attackers was also not immediately clear.

Afghan militias operate in remote regions and are under the command of the country's National Security Forces, which suffers near daily Taliban attacks. The Taliban now control or hold sway over half the country.

Insider attacks have been steady throughout the 18-year conflict, with U.S. and NATO troops most often targeted. But when Afghan security forces are targeted, the casualty rate is often much higher.

In July, two US service members were killed by an Afghan soldier **AP**

Tea growers feel pinch of Assam protests

Farmers fear less production, sales

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Tea growers in Assam have started feeling the pinch of the ongoing protests with partial disruption in production at many gardens and sale of the crop at the Guwahati auction centre being hampered, industry insiders said on Saturday. Transportation of the produce has also been affected due to the ongoing stir, they said. "Though winter months are not the peak season, plucking and manufacturing operations in many gardens across the state have been affected amid widespread protest," North Eastern Tea Association adviser Bidyandana Barkakoty told PTI. Compared to last few years, the weather condition was favourable during this December and the growers were able to produce relatively better quality tea but operations at several estates have been adversely affected by the protests, he added. "During Tuesday's shutdown, gardens were mostly closed. Plucking activities took place on Friday but not in a

Violent protests broke out in the Assam earlier this week with agitators engaging in pitched battles with the police, forcing the administration to impose curfew in several places. Planters also said the Tea Board has extended the plucking time till December 19 on account of shortage and non-availability of workers

full-fledged scale as many workers could not come due to lack of transport," All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association general secretary Karuna Mahanta told PTI. The legislation has put the state on boil as people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration.

Violent protests broke out in the State earlier this week with agitators engaging in pitched battles with the police, forcing the administration to impose curfew in several places. Planters also said the Tea Board has extended the plucking time till December 19 on account of shortage and non-availability of workers. The board had earlier asked them to shut plucking and manufacturing operations by mid-December to prevent production of inferior quality tea, according to growers.

Suspension of internet services has also affected their business. "Due to the internet suspension and violent protests, several tea growers are apprehending that they may face difficulties to pay wages to workers as banking services might be affected. Usually, payments to labourers are made either on Friday or Saturday," Barkakoty said. Sales of tea at the Guwahati auction centre have also been disrupted. "Every week, around 40-45 lakh kgs of tea is sold. But, only 15 lakh kg has been sold so far this week," Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers' Association Secretary Dinesh Bihani said. Barkakoty said planters are also apprehending that if the ongoing protests continue for a prolonged period, the pruning activities and other agri-



cultural processes which usually happen during the winters might get disrupted. "Several agricultural processes, including pruning,

are done during the winters to ensure quality of tea for the upcoming season. These are time-bound activities. If the protests continue longer and

such cold-weather agricultural activities are affected, the industry will face severe impact next season," he added.

BUSINESS CORNER

WORKSHOP ON FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS HELD AT SRM



M Kamruddin addresses the gathering at the inauguration of 'Advanced Functional Materials and Devices (AFMD-2019)' at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur

New Delhi: International workshop on Advanced Functional Materials held at SRM Nanotechnology Research Center (NRC) and Department of Physics and Nanotechnology jointly organized a two-day international workshop on 'Advanced Functional Materials and Devices (AFMD-2019)' at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur. The focus of the workshop is on energy sectors, fuel cell, hydrogen storage and so on. Dr. M. Kamruddin, Associate Director, Accelerator & Nanoscience Group MSG, IGCAR, Kalpakkam was the chief guest for the second edition of the event. Prof K Ramasamy, Director (Research), SRMIST presided over. Prof R Murugan, Pondicherry University was the guest of honour. In his presidential address, Prof K Ramasamy said, "We have had three Nobel physicist from India such things should motivate students to take up more research. To facilitate this we should reorganize our approach towards education. Students need to be interactive and subjects should be multi-disciplinary. Students should also realize your deficiency and work towards it. Such workshops will give you a hands on training on the latest technology and expertise that is available. They should also focus on creating new product." Dr. M. Kamruddin in his speech said, "New technology and new devices are need to innovate often to meet new demand. The trend is to make small products that are more efficient. I am happy that SRMIST is encouraging research and the facilities here are world class." Guest of honour, Prof R Murugan said, "Almost all the breakthrough in nanotechnology is related to India. Battery storage devices is the next technology that we are heading to."

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Ishwar Singh S/o Sh. Nurbheen Singh R/o Village - Umreti, PS. Barla, Distt. Barwani, MP** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 290/19 U/s 380/411/34 IPC P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ishwar Singh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ishwar Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Ishwar Singh** of FIR No. 290/19 U/s 380/411/34 IPC P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **18.01.2020**.

By Order
DP/8535/WD/19 Sh. Jagminder Singh
(Court Matter) Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, West Distt.
Room No. 146, First Floor Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Jeevan Jangra, S/o: Late Kundan Lal Jangra R/o: H. No. WZ 48, Shadipur Village, near Badi Chopal, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **01.12.2019** at 3:00 pm from the area of P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 26A dated 02.12.2019** has been registered at P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing person are as under: **Age: 67 years, Height: 5' 9", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Normal, ID Mark: Mentally Disturbed/ A cut mark on right eye brow, Wearing: Red colour checkdar shirt, grey colour pant and black colour sleeper in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/6787/CD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Nazrana W/o Pappu R/o H.No. 134, Opposite Tiranga Market, Bulla Colony, Village-Kanjhawala, Delhi, Age-26 years, Height-5'3", Face-Round, Complexion-Sallow, Wearing-Pink Colour T-Shirt, Violet Lower, Black Burka & White Colour Sandal in her feet** has been Missing since 11.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No.24 Dated 13.11.2019** has been lodged of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/3488/RD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Nandlal Kumar Mirdha S/o Mahadev Mirdha R/o Village: Kura, P.O. Baratand, PS: Chitra, Distt: Deoghar, Jharkhand**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 278/15 Dt.: 01.06.15 u/s 420 IPC, PS Naraina, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Nandlal Kumar Mirdha** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Nandlal Kumar Mirdha** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person. **Nandlal Kumar Mirdha** of FIR No. 278/15 Dt.: 01.06.15 u/s 420 IPC, PS Naraina Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.02.2020**.

By Order
Sh. Manoj Kumar
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 28,
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi
DP/8531/WD/19

Jewellery segment sees silver lining

FIANS ■ JAIPUR

The gems and jewellery segment sees a silver lining after a long slump as the number of queries has increased since last month, said former chairman of Gem and Jewellery Exports Council and Jaipur Jewellery Show secretary Rajiv Jain. Jain was speaking at a press conference called to announce the dates of 16th edition of Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS), which is the largest business to consumer show and second largest business to business show in India, attracting around 40,000 visitors including buyers from India and abroad.

This year, JJS is putting up its best foot forward with 800 booths for exhibitors. Out of 800 booths, 188 shall display gemstones, 535 will showcase jewellery, 62 will display allied machinery, costume jewellery and artefacts. Many new exhibitors too are showing interest in the 'December Show,' said JJS chairman Vimal Chand Surana. Jain further said that the present Hong Kong crisis can benefit India if India amends the present SEZ rules. "Recently Union commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan and representatives of industry had an interaction where Wadhawan was

informed that many players from China and Hong Kong are looking to shift their manufacturing base to India. In fact, many Jaipur players have also been receiving calls with queries," said Jain. "Many of us in the Sitapura gem and jewellery special economic zone received queries from Chinese manufacturers who want to relocate their manufacturing facilities to Jaipur. However, the present SEZ laws prohibit any kind of renting or selling out facilities. If this law is amended, it can benefit state government as well as stakeholders," he further said. Jain said that Wadhawan promised to look into the issue during the meeting, adding that the Chinese entrepreneurs have their running facilities and they want to shift in shortest time to ensure their operations do not suffer.

Apart from this, there will also be a stall of 'Museum of Gem and Jewellery Federation' in Jaipur. This time JJS will be attended by 100 new participants. JJS is also called the 'December show', where products are not only limited to Jaipur but feature merchandise from exhibitors worldwide. The Department of Tourism, government of Rajasthan, has listed the event on their annual calendar for the tourists and visitors.

US-China trade deal gets tepid reception

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US officials announced a truce in the trade war with China with much fanfare, but economists and trade experts call it largely a victory for Beijing.

After a dispute that raged for close to two years, with several fumbled efforts at a resolution, the US agreed to cancel planned tariffs and rollback others immediately, without a similar commitment from China to lift tariffs it imposed on the US.

"Pardon me if I don't pop champagne, but aside from a cessation of continued escalation, there is not much worth cheering," leading China expert Scott Kennedy said in an analysis of the agreement.

"The costs have been substantial and far reaching, the benefits narrow and ephemeral." The US Trade Representative office said they expect to sign the phase one agreement in the first week of January, and issued a fact sheet highlighting key points, including enforcement provisions and improved protection for American technology.

In addition, it includes a Chinese commitment to buy \$200 billion more in US goods and services over two years, USTR said. That would be a significant

increase: China imported just shy of \$190 billion in goods and services in 2017, so if the target is met it would cut the US trade deficit with China by a third.

President Donald Trump has long railed against the trade imbalance, citing it as proof China is using distorting policies to gain an unfair advantage.

Trump tweeted that Beijing "agreed to many structural changes and massive purchases of Agricultural Product, Energy, and Manufactured Goods, plus much more." Alliance for American Manufacturing President Scott Paul said agreeing to remove tariffs amounted to "giving away much of our leverage, while kicking the can down the road on the most meaningful trade issues with China."

And trade economist Mary Lovely said the deal could only be viewed as a "partial win" which "didn't move the needle very much." "We were kind of on a brink, and we saw the negotiators reach a deal that pulled us back, and I think that is important," she said of the news Trump canceled the 15 percent tariffs on electronics that were due to hit Sunday.

But the gains in the deal do not compensate for the damage to US farmers and businesses, she told reporters.

Pak, WB sign agreement for financing Khyber Pass Economic Corridor project

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the World Bank has signed a project agreement worth \$406.6 million for financing the Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project with an aim to promote economic development. The signing ceremony was held on Friday at the Economic Affairs Division, Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported. The project is aimed at constructing a 48km four-lane,

dual carriageway, high-speed and access-controlled motorway from Peshawar to Torkham border point with Afghanistan in a bid to promote economic development and ensure uplift of the areas adjoining the expressway and falling in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

The project envisages public-private partnership and private financing for developing clusters of economic activity, economic zones and expressways.

Up to 25% of FASTag lanes to be temporarily converted to hybrid lanes at NH toll plazas

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To avert inconvenience to citizens, the Government on Saturday announced to convert up to 25 per cent of FASTag lanes at national highway toll plazas to hybrid lanes for a month. The hybrid lane will accept FASTag and other modes of payment.

The government earlier had announced rollout of mandatory FASTag under electronic toll collection from December 1, which was later extended to December 15, 2019.

Adani Transmission gets Lol for project in Maha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) on Saturday said it has received a Letter of Intent for a power transmission project in Maharashtra.

The Letter of Intent (LoI) to ATL has been awarded under a tariff based competitive bidding model from Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (MSETCL).

"ATL has received the LoI from MSETCL to build, own, operate and maintain a transmission project in Maharashtra for a period of 35 years," a company statement said.

The project 'Kharghar Vikhroli Transmission Pvt Ltd' comprises approximately 34 km of 400 kV and 220 kV transmission lines along with 400kV GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) Substation at Vikhroli in Mumbai.

According to the statement, this will be the first ever 400 kV substation facility in Mumbai. The project is critical to Mumbai as the existing capacity of transmission corridor is not sufficient to carry further power into the city. It would enable additional power to be brought into the city, thus helping in meeting the future demand of Mumbai.

India among top 10 nations on climate change performance index: Power Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is among the top 10 nations as per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) which is based parameters like renewable power and energy use efficiency, Power Minister RK Singh said on Saturday.

This assumes significance in view of India's resolve to reach 175 GW of clean energy capacity by 2022. The country has already achieved around 84 GW of clean energy capacity, including 32 GW of solar and 37 GW of wind energy.

At present, India's total installed power generation capacity is around 365 GW.

"I am happy to share that as per CCPI report, released during COP 2019 at Madrid, India is ranked among the top 10 countries in CCPI, which was released after analysing four parameters, that is green house gases emission, renewable energy, climate change and energy use," Singh said while addressing the 29th National Energy Conservation Awards ceremony.

The minister said 355 industrial units and other establishments have partici-

pated in the awards and have collectively achieved savings of Rs 5,283 crore by saving 105.66 billion units of electricity.

This year, energy conservation was celebrated through week-long activities culminating in the National Energy Conservation Day on Saturday.

Singh highlighted the importance of energy conservation in the country's sustainable development approach. He emphasised the need for taking measures in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions so as to minimise the adverse impact of climate.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Gourav Duva S/o Vishambhar Duva R/o G-6/282, Ground Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS KNK Marg, since **06.11.2019**. In this regard DD No. 17-A dated **07.11.2019** has been registered at **PS. KNK Marg, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 34 years, Height: 5'6" ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Shirt, and Black Pant.
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph. No.: 011-270061294, 27061295
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No.: 8750870327
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/3503/RD/19

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that Mr. Sonu is the owner of the Second Floor, (as per technical R/S) "said floor" built on Property Bearing No. 45, area measuring 55 sq. yds. out of Plot No. 38, Killa No. 9, P.O. 21/22, 3, Situated at Abadi of Gali No. 6, Sarojini Park, Shastri Nagar, Village - Kurug Khas, Shandara, Delhi. Mr. Sonu has misplaced the Original General Power of Attorney dated 11.12.2000 along with AT&S & Will, Original Registered General Power of Attorney dated 02.05.2005, along with AT&S Will and Original Sale Deed dated 01.06.2007. Any one who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Hero Housing Finance Limited having its office at Mehra Estate, New Delhi. Sonu Kumar has availed loan on this property from Hero Housing Finance Limited by mortgaging the said property. We have been made to understand that no other person has any interest, right or title in the above said property. Vise this notice we wish to inform that in case anyone has any objection regarding mortgage of the said property, the same may be raised within 15 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanraj/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Ventures, Unit no. 405, 4th Floor, GID/ITL, Northex Tower (A-09), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/981828636 (M).

Office of the Executive Engineer (Distribution)

Jaipur Power Distribution Corporation Limited Electric Division Kathua
Email: xeemrekhathua123@gmail.com

Extension Notice-01

In view of limited response, the last date for submission of e-bids of following e-NIT is hereby extended as per below mentioned details:
S.No.1 e-NIT No. :- e-NIT No. KED/23 of 2019-20 dated 03.12.2019
Name of work :- Creation of 250KVA Substation along with 11kV Line of Gov Degree College at Bani falling under the jurisdiction of Electric Division, Kathua (JPDCL) on turnkey basis.
Last date for submission of e-Bids (Extended) :- 23.12.2019 01.00 P.M.
Opening of Technical and commercial bids :- 23.12.2019 01.00 P.M.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Distribution)
No. DP/19-07419 JPDCL, Electric Division Kathua
Dated :- 14-12-2019

Chela Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Branch Office: Plot No.5, 2nd Floor, Opp Metro Pillar No.81, Pusha Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE

An advertisement was published under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 for the above mentioned company. In this advertisement of Symbolic Possession (For Immovable Property) on 28/11/2019 and Sale cum Auction Notice on dated 11/12/19 in hereby recall and stand cancel for the below mentioned property.
Property Address:- Property Admeasuring:- Entire Upper Ground Floor with 1/4th roof right of property bearing No G3/39 area measuring 145.44 sq.Yards. Situated in Model Town Delhi-110009. (Borrower Name-RAMA RANI, Loan A/c No-XOHEELD00001718711 & XOHEDES0002242525)
Auction of all remaining properties remains same and auction shall be done on the date, time and venue scheduled on 31/12/19. Sd/- Place: Delhi-110009. (Authorised Officer) Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

WESTERN RAILWAY

DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, PROGRAMMING, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF NEW ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEMS
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Const./Field/W.Rly, 8th floor, Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-20 invites offer through e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in through Two packet system for the following tender. Tender Notice No. Dy.CSTCE/CBCT/334 (Two packet system). Name of work with its location: Design, Supply, Installation, Programming, Testing & Commissioning of New Electronic Interlocking (EI) systems, Alteration in existing Route relay interlocking/ Panel Interlocking/Auto huts at various sub-urban stations including modification in Train Management System (TMS)/interlocking of EI with TMS in connection with provision of 6th line work in BCT-BVI section of Mumbai division, Western Railway. Approx. NET COST of the work: ₹50,05,07,769.71. EMD: ₹26,52,500/- e-Bid Submission closing on: 16.01.2020 at 15:00 hrs. e-Bid opening date: 16.01.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Instructions to the Tenderers: 1. Only e-tendering online through www.ireps.gov.in will be considered. Please note that printed offer will not be entertained. 2. The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available in electronic format on our website www.ireps.gov.in. Like us on: www.facebook.com/WesternRly

MASTER OF THE MIND

VISWANATHAN ANAND speaks with **HARSHIT BISHT** about his three-decade long career that includes highs and lows, memorable matches and how did it feel to remain at the top



What's the first thing that comes in mind when you hear the word chess? For most of the people in India, it is Viswanathan Anand. And that's so because he's there at the top since forever. Right from being India's first Grand Master in the year 1987 to becoming the first Asian, who won the World Chess Championship in 2000 and repeating the same in the year 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. It's been 31 years since he first arrived at the top and today he is still there, as strong as he was then and arguably on the greatest.

He is the only person to have won the world championship in tournament, world and knockout formats, as well as rapid time controls and was the fourth player in history to pass the 2800 ELO mark in FIDE rating list, and occupied number one position for 21 months.

Recently he has come up with his book *Mind Master* which was launched on December 13, 2019 in which he has discussed about various moments of his long successful career, the challenges he came across, tour of his greatest games and some of the worst losses.

Anand who turned 50 on December 11, 2019 says that writing the book was like a walk down the memory lane. "For me it was a trip down the memory lane. When you write a book, you are forced to think hard and keep your focus clear on what you want to tell people. You have to think of each and every moment that was special and pen it down correctly," he tells you.

One just can't share the highlights of the journey, you have to recollect all the moments that happened no matter small or big.

"Remembering each and every thing was interesting because I have realised that when you have a big success you forget all the little difficulties that you faced all through," he says.

Anand has narrated many stories from his journey in the book. One such is from his match with Kramnik in 2008. "Right before the game was about to start, I had a panic attack. I started angsty because of something that I was not able to recall at that time. I tried calling my trainers but couldn't connect with any. I didn't know what to do next. It was then when my wife told me: 'Nothing can be done now, just forget about it and see what happens.' I agreed and went ahead with the game. But at the end the game went well and we all celebrated," he recalls.

One thing that he has learnt from that experience is that everything is unpredictable. One just have to work hard and aim for success. "Luck too plays its part in such games," he says.

Anand started playing the game at a young age. However, it was his mother who introduced him to the game. "My mother taught me how to play the game. I was just six then. After some time, I joined a chess club and it was one of the most important experiences of my life. Not because I learnt the game there, but

because I went there solely to have fun. And that's what got me interested in the game. It was a natural way to learn," he tells you.

The major step was when his father shifted to Philippines for a while and it was then when he got the chance to get exposed to a lot of chess players and he got engaged with the game like never before.

Anand got his early success in 1983 when he was crowned as the National sub-junior champion with a perfect 9/9 score which was followed by winning several other tournaments and earning International Master (IM) norms in the following years. His rise was such that by the time he was 18, Vishy became India's first Grand Master in the year 1988.

During his illustrious career, Anand has come across the likes of Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov, Magnus Carlsen to name a few and has developed healthy rivalries many of them.

Playing chess is not everyone's cup of tea. There are many factors that one has to keep in mind. One of them is to know your competitor in and out. "The main thing was to be familiar with who you are playing, you prepare for your opponent and then you have to assume that they will do the same with you and then it becomes a guessing game," he tells you.

Try to anticipate what they might do next and how do you will deal with that, along the way you want to do is strengthen your skills, you need to keep practicing it to be ready for any new development.

"The more technically proficient you are, the less easy it is for people to catch your weakness. You need to keep working on your weakness constantly, and also brush up your strong points because anything you don't keep improving and keep adapting will fall behind," he says.

Playing in the world championship matches was all about controlling yourself. "In chess, the only thing that matters is who makes the last mistake. So you should do the best you can. It is a constant struggle," he says.

There were times when things used to get tricky and lead to tension during the match, which used to affect the proceedings. But Anand handled them all. "It's about how you master your emotions and deal with the constant tension. It's interesting because all these tension and how you deal with it in chess is probably one of the things that fascinate people outside of chess. How do you deal with all that? That's why you often say it's a mind game because in a sense you are really vulnerable with how you feel and the struggle is what I have discussed in the book," he tells you.

It is not possible for anyone to get success in whatsoever he attempt, there might be cases when the luck favours one, but it cannot happen always and when it comes to sports when a strategy fails it can have immediate impact. In team sport, the other member can cope up for the other one but in individual it gets

slightly worse. "The most important thing is to forget the disappointment and also to forget the happy moments, if there are more games to be played," he says.

For Anand the most important thing is to focus on the next game. "Whether you are euphoric after a good result or depressed after a bad one, what you have to do is try to keep that aside. Calm yourself down and play the next game as if nothing has happened. That's the ideal way of dealing with such situations," he says.

In his book he has highlighted one instance where it was very difficult even to get a flick. Nothing he normally did worked out then. "The whole night I couldn't sleep. When I came to the working room next day, I found my team had been working the whole night. I was happy that they were putting themselves up for me and I felt a little better. Eventually I forgot what happened and started getting ready for the next game," he tells you.

Refreshing the memories of his greatest opponents and memorable matches he tells you that when he was young, it got an opportunity to play against players like Karpov (Anatoly) and Kasparov (Garry). It was a matter of great honour. The early match with Karpov in 1991—my first big candidate match. Also the big World Championship match with Kasparov in 1995 were some of the main highlights of his early career.

"I think in terms of maturity and the results and the way I approached the match, the best match I played in my life was the match against Kramnik (Vladimir) in Bonn (2008). It was simply my biggest success in a match," he says.

The worst was in Chennai against Magnus Carlsen in 2013.

Vishy also has a say on the current world number one Magnus Carlsen, who has touched FIDE's highest-ever ELO rating of 2882.

"He is obviously incredibly strong. I got to know him about 17 years ago for the first time in some tournament and it was clear that he had great talent," he says and tells you that Carlsen has grown suddenly.

"Till 2008, I generally had good results against him. He had this breakthrough in 2009, he started to climb up. He is very good at starting the game. That I am not probably good at, especially slow positions, technical positions he is incredibly strong and it's been quite difficult to learn how to deal with that," Anand tells you.

He says that it is difficult to compare Carlsen and himself since he is 20-21 years older than Carlsen. "I met him when he was starting and I was trying to learn how to add up to his new approach at a different stage of my career, so it is very difficult to compare," Anand says.

It is often assumed that in individual sports like shooting or chess there isn't much pressure unlike cricket or football

where the crowd gathered in the stands make it all the more typical to concentrate. But Vishy don't agree with this and says that it gets all the more difficult to concentrate in the closed room because if you are slightly nervous than it can cost you dear by distracting your focus.

With great matches come great expectation and it becomes tricky to handle that. "It's a big challenge and all sportsman go through it. The bigger challenge is how you can thrive under pressure, how you deal with expectations because all these things are distracting you from concentrating and focus on what you want. If you start thinking about what comes next, I have found that the moment I start thinking about results rather than the game, generally you are punished," he tells you.

The constant struggle is to block out the thought of what people are saying about you, what are their expectations and how can you meet that.

It is very easy for an outsider to give an advice about keeping your nerves calm before a tense situation but the person who is going to deal with that, only knows how it is to be like and when it comes to the 8X8 board, it is the most important aspect to mentally prepare yourself so that one doesn't feel the burden.

"It's very difficult. In fact it is one of the things that you aim for and almost never succeed completely. But you try your best to find the things that worked for you in the past, you need to develop good understanding for yourselves," he says and tells you that stress is a sequence of memories, you have positive memories from winning a game, negative experiences of playing badly. You often learn more from failures than you do from success but we constantly see what works for us what doesn't and try to apply the correct principle in the future.

"In the book, I talk about what to do when suddenly you hit a wall. Nothing seems to work, how do you find way to motivate yourself again? The method I found was, when my own expectation have sunk very low, then I was just free to enjoy chess and not think about what my expected score was and then I felt much better," he tells you.

"How do you put yourself in the right place against every opponent? "Different oppositions call for different approaches and strategies. So it's basically about applying past experiences, learning what works and try to apply in future. But it's very hard to get it right because as we say the same problem will keep on coming but in slightly different versions every time. And so it's very hard to apply the lesson like that," Anand tells you.

A rule that Anand abides by is to think what went wrong the last time and modify it. "One such instance mentioned in the book that I found that I would often make a blunder when I got influenced by events before the game. In chess we have time control and move 40 and after that you get an extra hour. So the good chance to take a break. And one of the thing I found is that, there is no bet-

ter than 40s to get up from the board, go to the players area, just relax for 5 minutes and then come back and think again. So this was very interesting application of the experience I was having, disconnecting the past and current situation," he tells you. If you are winning on move 30 and then you blundered on move 35 and then you arrive on move 40 and you are slightly worse now. The only thing that matters at the end is that you are worse on 40.

"So, on move 40 if you can go to the players area and get yourself away from the chess board, you try to get used to the new situation and then you come back and tell yourselves that It's Okay! It doesn't matter that I was winning before, I need to put it on the back," he tells you.

One need to read the situation and make the fresh break and that was successful for Anand. "We take inspiration from some negative experience and then try to correct it," he tells you.

When you are at the highest level of anything it becomes very important for you to maintain that consistency because even a slight dip in form will be enough for people to question your caliber and who knows it better than Anand himself who is just not there at top for more than three decades but also time and again proved that he has got everything in him to be placed right there and proof of which is his World Rapid Chess Championship win in 2017.

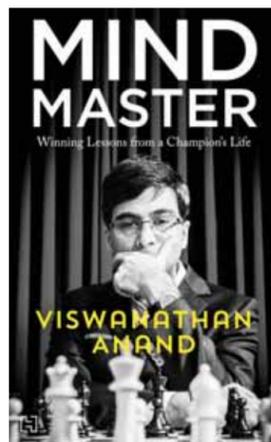
Anand tells you the method that he has applied all these years to keep himself motivated for the challenges that came across. "The most important thing is to find what are the circumstances under which, you play best. I found that I learn new things in chess and I played the best when I am enjoying myself and so that is what you aim for," he says and tells you that you have to enjoy yourself and learn new things.

"One of the problem in rapid and blitz is that you can have these little streaks during the tournament because there are so many games. So if you play 9 blitz games there is enough room to have one good streak and one bad streak in the same day. And it goes very fast so you don't have time to settle after games and it calls for different approach when you play classical tournaments. But this is not some big long term problem, I try to solve it out," he says.

But at the end the grandmaster is too a normal human being who wants to relax and take some time out for his family. "At home, I am like any other normal person. When I am with my family, I just try to relax and have a good time," he tells you.

For Anand one of the nicest way to recover after bad disappointment is to come back home and play with his son because for a few minutes it takes him into a completely different world.

"It's important to have hobbies, friends and things that distract you. I have mentioned in the book that the quickest way to forget disappointment is to change your subject. And that is what I try to do," he tells you.



“WHETHER YOU ARE EUPHORIC AFTER A GOOD RESULT OR DEPRESSED AFTER A BAD ONE, WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IS TRY TO KEEP THAT ASIDE. CALM YOURSELF DOWN AND PLAY THE NEXT GAME AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED. THAT'S THE IDEAL WAY OF DEALING WITH SITUATIONS”



India start favourites against WI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India will have their tails up when they play West Indies in the first One-day International of the three-match rubber in MA Chidambaram Stadium today, seeking a 10th straight bilateral ODI series win against the side from the Caribbean.

The home team will miss the services of seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, ruled out after his sportsman hernia symptoms resurfaced, and Shikhar Dhawan, who is yet to recover from knee injury.

Mumbai's Shardul Thakur, who represents Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, has been called up as the replacement for the injured Bhuvneshwar.

Virat Kohli's men have the momentum after winning the T20 series with a splendid batting performance in Mumbai where Rohit Sharma and K L Rahul, who is expected to continue as the opener in the absence of Dhawan, and the captain himself displayed terrific form.

It remains to be seen if the team decides to hand Mayank Agarwal a debut after he was drafted in as replacement for Dhawan.

Shreyas Iyer has done well in the opportunities he has received and is likely to be slotted at No 4.

The focus will be on wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who has been under fire for his unimpressive performances with the bat and the big gloves. The first ODI could be another chance for him to justify the faith shown by Kohli and the team management.

It will be interesting to see if the spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav reunite after last playing together in the World Cup, as the Chepauk surface is expected to aid the slow bowlers.

The experienced Mohammed Shami and Deepak Chahar will most probably form the pace attack and would face a stern test against the aggressive West Indies batting line-up.

The visitors will be hoping that big-hitting opener Evin Lewis, who suffered an injury while fielding in the Mumbai T20, will be able to play a part in the ODI leg of the tour. Team officials said he was being assessed ahead of the series opener.

The Windies batsmen have had a lot of success in the T20s thanks to their ultra-aggressive approach but ODIs will be a different ball game and as assistant coach Roddy Ewstick stated the batters need to focus on rotating the strike, which



Rohit Sharma, center, chats with Indian teammate Shreyas Iyer, left, as batting coach Vikram Rathour watches the proceedings

PTI

India vs Windies
Live from 1:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK



West Indies' Brandon King, left, and Sheldon Cottrell attend a training session

they did well in the series against Afghanistan recently.

The onus will be on the batsmen to not only go on attack mode first up but also keep wickets in hand to accelerate in the back-end.

Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran have showed their abilities in the shortest format and need to display the same in the 50-overs game too if the West Indies hopes to give India a run in this series.

All-rounder Roston Chase is likely to figure in the XI and could provide some stability to the line-up boasting of several power-hitters.

INDIA-WINDIES IN ODIS					
Venue	P	WI	Ind	T	N/R
In India	55	27	27	1	-
Total	130	62	62	2	4
Day matches	97	53	40	-	4
Last 5 matches	4	-	4	-	1

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS		
India	418-5 in 50 overs (Indore)	08-12-2011
Windies	333-8 in 45 overs (Jamshedpur)	07-12-1983

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS		
India	100 in 28.3 overs (Ahmedabad)	16-11-1993
Windies	104 in 31.5 overs (Trivendrum)	01-11-2018

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES		
India	219 Virender Sehwag	08-12-2011
Windies	152* Desmond Haynes	21-03-1989

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES		
India	6-12 Anil Kumble (Kolkata)	27-11-1993
Windies	6-19 Patrick Patterson (Nagpur)	08-12-1987

Skipper Kieron Pollard, who has a rather modest record in the ODIs, will have to lead by example and provide the thrust in the slog overs. Sheldon Cottrell will lead the Caribbean bowling attack and will need to strike early if the team hopes

to restrict a formidable Indian batting unit with Rohit, Kohli and Rahul in ominous form. The other pacers including former captain Jason Hoder will have to step up as would the spinners. Leggie Hayden Walsh Jr bowled

well in the T20s and has a big task at hand to contain Kohli & Co, known to be adept at tackling spinners.

An intriguing battle is on hand with the Indian team favourite to add the ODI series to the T20 win but the unpredictable West Indies can spring a surprise or two.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (WK), Shivam Dube, Kedar Jadhav, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Shami, Shardul Thakur.

West Indies: Kieron Pollard (captain), Sunil Ambris, Shai Hope, Khary Pierre, Roston Chase, Alzarri Joseph, Kieron Pollard (Captain), Sheldon Cottrell, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran, Shimron Hetmyer, Evin Lewis, Romario Shepherd, Jason Holder, Keemo Paul, Hayden Walsh Jr.

Mayank knows how to switch between formats

PTI ■ CHENNAI

His place in India's Test squad cemented, opener Mayank Agarwal says it is easy to switch formats if the game-plan is clear.

Agarwal has been picked in the team for the ODI series as a replacement for the injured Shikhar Dhawan.

"The more I play like this, the better it is for me as a cricketer because I rather play cricket than not play cricket. When it comes to mindset (switching formats), the basics remain the same. It's easy to switch formats if your game-plan is clear and your understanding of the game is clear," Agarwal said on *Chahal TV*.

Since making his Test debut last December in Australia, Agarwal has made rapid strides, ending the 2019 season as one of the top-run-getters in the format.

Irrespective of whether he is playing Test or limited overs cricket, Agarwal is always focussed on the task.

"Regardless of wherever I play, I always think about how I can become an asset to my team and how I can contribute to the team. Even if I don't score runs with the bat, I think about contributing on the field, bringing in more energy on the field," he said.

Agarwal has two double tons and a century under his belt for India in Test cricket.

"I want to win each and every match, each and every tournament. When you come in with that attitude, your mindset will be good. There's no guarantee that you'll get the results 100 percent but you will be giving yourselves a good chance to perform," he said.



WI captain Kieron Pollard, right, & Nicholas Pooran interact in the nets during a training session

We are on mission to do better in ODIs: Pollard

PTI ■ CHENNAI

West Indies captain Kieron Pollard on Saturday said his team is "on a mission" to do better in the one-dayers but insisted that favourable results may not come immediately.

"We are on a mission and have a clear plan of how to approach 50-over cricket. There is a process and it is something we are actually going through. The results might not show straightaway. We had a good series against Afghanistan. Now, we are coming up against a better side in India," Pollard said.

"It's a matter of what we need to do going forward. There are things internally which we are working on. Success will not come overnight. Winning is always good. Sometimes, you play well but the result would not go your way. The Afghanistan series was good and we want to continue in that track. That's the ultimate goal," he added.

Asked how his team plans to go about handling the middle overs in ODIs, he said it has been discussed and the players were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

"We have discussed how we want to go about playing middle overs, be it batting and bowling and how we want to play this format. Obviously, we can't reveal what our plans are going to be. The guys are aware of their roles and responsibilities, now it's about executing them," the captain said.

He said the inclusion of Roston Chase in the ODI side brought a good balance to the team.

"He (Roston) brings a good balance to our team. He is a great asset, he is someone who bats in the middle order in Tests and has centuries too. He can bowl as well. With him in the side, it gives us an opportunity to field another specialist player."

"He has been very valuable for us. He is sort of a left-field selection, but I think that has worked for us. He will play a key part going forward," the skipper added.

'Once Pant gets runs, he'll be massive player'

CHENNAI: Batting coach Vikram Rathour on Saturday said Rishabh Pant will be a "massive player" for the Indian team once he starts getting runs, backing the under-fire wicket-keeper to the hilt.

Asked why the Delhi keeper-batsman kept getting chances despite low scores, Rathour attributed it to his "immense ability".

"The reason why we keep discussing him is that he has got an immense ability. Everybody believes he can be an X factor. All of us believe he is a good player who can come good. He is working hard on his game and fitness."

"... Because he has done well in the past in this format. Once he starts getting runs, he can be a massive player for the Indian team, he can be a match-winner," Rathour told reporters on

the eve of the first ODI.

When asked if it was time to give him a break, Rathour said it has not come yet.

"I don't think the time has arrived yet. Again he is working on certain things. He is looking good in the nets. He has been decent in the T20s."

"He was asked to do a certain job in the last T20 which he did. That's what the team looks for."

About K L Rahul who did well in the recent T20s and if any changes had been made in his technique, Rathour said there was no doubt he would do well.

"He went through a lean patch which every cricketer goes through. A couple of technical changes and change in mindset and the result shows."

"He has always been a good player. There was absolutely no doubt he will do well," the batting coach added.

PTI

Dhoni will play World T20: Bravo

PIANS ■ CHENNAI

West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo believes that his Chennai Super Kings team mate and captain MS Dhoni will be at the World T20 that will be held in Australia next year.

"Dhoni has never retired. So I think he will be there at the World T20. MS has never let things outside cricket influence him and he has taught us the same and told us to never panic and trust our abilities," Bravo was quoted as saying by *Times of India*.

Bravo recently reversed his international retirement and made himself available for T20s. The 36-year-old former ODI captain said that he still has a lot to offer and it was the change of leadership both on and off the field that convinced him to make the comeback.

"I feel good physically and I still have a lot to offer. I had retired because of off-field politics. But there is a change of leadership both on and off the field. So I felt that it is a good time to come back."



DJ Bravo & MS Dhoni in file photo

Guwahati T20I: BCCI, Assam CA to 'monitor' situation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI and Assam Cricket Association (ACA) will be "closely monitoring" the security situation in Guwahati in the wake of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, keeping in mind the January 5 T20I between India and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka are coming to India for a short three-match T20I series, which starts at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, but the prevailing security situation has cast a shadow of doubt.

"Right now, we cannot comment on whether the T20I in Guwahati will happen or not. All the authorities (state Police, Home Ministry) will be monitoring the situation. We have to wait for some time. There is still three weeks to go so we have to be hopeful," Assam CA vice-president Parikshit Dutta said.

Both BCCI and ACA need to be extra cautious as it involves the security of an international team.

Due to the protests in Guwahati, the fourth day's play in the Ranji Trophy match between Assam and Services was cancelled, and the players remained in their hotels.

The BCCI officials are, however, hopeful of normalcy prevailing in Guwahati within the next three weeks.

"At this point, it will be premature to comment that the India versus Sri Lanka game will be shifted. Yes, we are all monitoring the security situation and close to the date, we will take a call. For the time being, BCCI will 'wait and watch'," a senior BCCI functionary said.

Asked if the BCCI will be ready with an alternate venue if Guwahati is unable to host the match, the official said: "Right now, we haven't zeroed in on any alternate venues but we always keep back-up options ready in case of unforeseen circumstances. For now, let's hope that normalcy returns and we can have the match as per schedule."



Tim Paine, left, is bowled by Tim Southee, right, on Day 3

Australia's lead balloons to 417

AFP ■ PERTH

Australia was in a commanding position despite a late batting collapse on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand at Perth Stadium on Saturday.

Having led by 250 runs on the first innings, the home side were 167 for six at stumps, with Matthew Head on eight and Pat Cummins on one — an overall lead of 417.

Cruising at 131 for one when Marnus Labuschagne (50) and Joe Burns (53) were at the crease, the Australians lost five for 29 under lights later in the day against some spirited bowling from the Kiwis, with Tim Southee claiming 4-63.

Labuschagne, dropped on four by Colin de Grandhomme from the bowling of Neil Wagner (2-40), missed the chance to join elite company when he pulled a short ball straight to Mitchell Santner at mid-wicket from the same bowler.

Without a Test century only a month ago, he was on

track to become just the second Australian batsman, and fifth overall, to score four Test centuries in succession. The only Australian to do so previously was Jack Fingleton in 1936.

Smith's relatively lean summer continued when he holed out to a short ball from Wagner for 16, the first time in his entire 71-Test career he has gone three matches without a half-century.

After the home side made 416 the Kiwis were dismissed for only 166 in their first innings as Australian paceman Mitchell Starc terrorised their batsmen in continued sweltering conditions.

Australia didn't enforce the follow-on given the extreme heat and the absence of front line pacer Josh Hazlewood due to injury.

Starc claimed 5-52 and troubled the New Zealanders with his pace and bounce. Only Ross Taylor offered meaningful resistance with 80, but he was caught at slip by Smith off the bowling of Nathan Lyon.

Rahul 'serious keeping option' for T20 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Only Mahendra Singh Dhoni knows whether his body will be able to cope up with rigours of international cricket after a break, KL Rahul could be a "serious keeping option" for next year's T20 World Cup and Rishabh Pant needs to "calm down", feels India head coach Ravi Shastri.

With Pant not doing well and mystery surrounding Dhoni's international future, Shastri didn't rule out the possibility of Rahul doing multi-tasking during the marquee tournament *Down Under*. "It's sensible (the break by Dhoni). I like the time (around IPL) when he will be starting to play again. I don't think he is too keen on the one-day stuff. He is finished with Test cricket. T20 is an option. It's a format that is tailor-made for him. But will his body be able to cope with the demands, only he will answer," Shastri told *India Today* during its programme *Inspiration*. "The rest would have done him a

world of good, mentally. That mental fatigue would have gone away by now. If he decides to play, which he will because he will play the IPL, then he will start training with a very fresh mind. Then you have got to see form," said Shastri, who has already said that no one should "fool around" if the legend decided to play the T20 World Cup.

However, he also believes that Rahul could emerge as an option as he keeps in the IPL as well as for Karnataka in domestic white-ball tournaments.

"It is an absolute option. You got to see where your strength is. Tomorrow, there could be a couple of guys in the middle-order who are firing with unbelievable innings in the IPL. And then if you have a guy who can multi-task, who could be used at the top, because there's some firepower at the back who are doing extremely well, then why not," when asked if Rahul could be an option.

Asked what he expects from Rishabh Pant, Shastri said, "a bit of calm". "You have got to cash in. Your work



KL Rahul arrives for training session

Have lot of respect for Sourav: Shastri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"To hell with those who don't understand" was Ravi Shastri's inimitable response to the sceptics, who have constantly made conjectures about his alleged frosty relationship with BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

A week back, it was Ganguly who had cleared the air on his part making it clear that rumours of bad blood between him and the head coach of the Indian cricket team are merely "speculations". "As far as the Sourav-Shastri 'game' goes, that is a brilliant *chaat* and *bhelpuri* for the media with all *mirch* and *masala*," Shastri said.

The Ganguly-Shastri relationship became a topic of discussion after the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman preferred Anil Kumble over him in 2016, with both having a public fallout.

"What he (Ganguly) has done as a cricketer, I have got utmost respect. He took over Indian cricket at the most troubled times, post the match-fixing era when the Indian cricket was in shambles. You needed the faith of the people to comeback and I respect that. And if people don't respect that, to hell with them," Shastri, known for his plain speak, said.

The Ganguly-Shastri relationship became a topic of discussion after the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman preferred Anil Kumble over him in 2016, with both having a public fallout.

ethic should be solid. You have to have a solid approach to your batting. You can't think everything is going to happen the way I want it to happen from ball 1. No, it won't happen like that. This game teaches you. There's a method to madness as well. So, he has to learn that method."

MAGIC MO

Salah punishes wasteful Watford to open up 10-point Liverpool lead

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp hailed his side's resilience to keep winning during a draining December schedule as Mohamed Salah's double beat bottom-of-the-table Watford 2-0 at Anfield to open up an 10-point lead at the top of the Premier League table as second placed Leicester City played 1-1 draw at home against Norwich City.

The Hornets remain six points adrift of safety, but will wonder how they headed home empty handed after enjoying the vast majority of the chances against the European champions.

Salah produced the two moments of real quality from Klopp's men by finishing off a rapid counter-attack from a Watford corner to open the scoring before flicking home a second a minute from time.

"It's true, it was not the pretti-



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah, 3rd left, celebrates with teammates after scoring his sides first goal during the English Premier League match between Liverpool and Watford at Anfield stadium in Liverpool

AP

est game, but I am more than happy with that," said Klopp. "At this stage you have to show resilience and I believe we did that today."

Liverpool are now seven games into a run of 15 matches in 50 days across five competitions and the

strain on Klopp's squad was obvious in a jaded display.

Nigel Pearson was taking charge of Watford for the first time and the impetus of a new manager showed with the 40-point difference between the sides at opposite ends

of the table not in evidence in their performances.

However, the big difference was obvious in both boxes as the league's lowest scorers passed up a host of huge opportunities, whilst Salah was deadly.

"We created some excellent chances and unfortunately today we could not make the most of them," said Pearson.

"That performance, as an identity moving forward, I think will serve us very well indeed because

we've got a huge fight on our hands."

Only Watford's profligacy allowed Liverpool to keep a first clean sheet at Anfield.

Abdoulaye Doucoure missed the first golden chance when com-

pletely miscued with the goal at his mercy from Etienne Capoue's clever cut-back with what incredibly was only the second most embarrassing mishit of the half from Watford.

The visitors were made to pay by the ruthless runaway leaders as 15 seconds after a Watford corner, the ball was in their net.

All three of Liverpool's attacking trident were involved as Roberto Firmino's pass over his head freed Sadio Mane down the left. He fed Salah who cut inside on his weaker right foot to bend the ball brilliantly into the far corner.

Watford should still have been level before the break when Ismaila Sarr somehow also failed to connect with Alisson Becker grounded after parrying Gerard Deulofeu's cross.

Sarr was wasteful again at the start to the second half as he blasted straight at Alisson with Deeney pleading for a cross.

Liverpool's extra quality in the final third was in evidence once more when Mane headed in from Xherdan Shaqiri's cross, but the Senegalese's celebrations were cut short when the goal was ruled out by a VAR review for the most marginal of offside calls.

That handed Pearson's men a lifeline, but again they failed to take their chance to capitalise when Deulofeu broke clean through on goal only for Alisson to save once more.

"Ali was there and that is why we have 11 players not only 10," added Klopp.

Georginio Wijnaldum limped off on the hour mark and could now be a doubt for the Reds' attempt to win the Club World Cup in Qatar later this week.



Real not thinking about Clasico



Real Madrid players train ahead of La Liga game against Valencia

RMFC/Twitter

AFP ■ MADRID

Zinedine Zidane has brushed off suggestions Real Madrid could be distracted by the upcoming Clasico when they play in-form Valencia in La Liga today.

Madrid face a difficult game at Mestalla, just three days before taking on Barcelona at Camp Nou in a match that could decide who goes top of the table.

But Zidane's team cannot afford to underestimate Valencia, who have registered three consecutive victories, including one away at Ajax on Tuesday that secured qualification for the Champions League last 16 as group

winners.

Valencia sit eighth, while Barcelona and Madrid are level on points in first and second respectively.

Asked about the Clasico, Zidane said in a press conference on Saturday: "I'm not thinking about that at all and I include everyone who works here at the club in that."

"Our only concern is tomorrow's game. The rest may be close but at the same time it's far away. Tomorrow's game has all my energy and about Wednesday, I'm not interested."

After Barcelona, Real Madrid play at home to Athletic Bilbao, to complete a tough week before La Liga's Christmas break.



Zidane admits it will be "difficult not to rotate" in the three fixtures and it remains to be seen whether Gareth Bale is given some minutes against Valencia, after he was left on the bench against Club Brugge on Wednesday.

Bale has just recovered from a thigh injury sustained earlier this month.

"The other day Gareth didn't play but he is here and I am counting on him," Zidane said. "The important thing is he is available and ready."

Zidane also has a dilemma over whether to select Casemiro against Valencia, given the Brazilian will be suspended for the game against Barca if he picks up a yellow card.

Madrid are short of other options in defensive midfield.

"I have to pick a starting line-up thinking only about tomorrow's game — if I think about Wednesday, that would be a mistake," said Zidane.

"I always talk with the players because I'm interested in the feelings they all have. And with Casemiro, it's the same. We know his importance and what he gives to the team."

Ferland Mendy is banned against Valencia and Marcelo is out with a calf injury, meaning Nacho Fernandez or Eder Militao are likely to fill in at left-back.

James Rodriguez trained alone on Saturday as he continues his recovery from a knee problem and will not be ready this weekend. Eden Hazard (ankle), Lucas Vazquez (toe) and Marco Asensio (cruciate ligament) are all out.



Plainclothes security officers stand under a huge scoring board, displaying message that match called off due to wet out field during the fourth-day of the 1st Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in Rawalpindi on Saturday

AP

'Beware a wounded buffalo' warns new SA coach Boucher

CAPE TOWN: Former Test wicket-keeper Mark Boucher was on Saturday named as South African team head coach until 2023.

An upbeat Boucher said South African cricket had been through "trying times" but added that he was confident that the national team could be successful against England.

"Beware of a wounded buffalo, especially in Africa," he said. The announcement was made by Cricket South Africa interim director of cricket, former Test captain Graeme Smith, who only took up his post on Wednesday.

Boucher, 43, played in 147 Tests, 290 one-day internation-

als and 25 Twenty20 internationals for South Africa before a serious eye injury ended his career in 2012.

He has coached the Titans franchise for the past three seasons, winning five of a possible nine trophies.

Enoch Nkwe, who was previously interim team director, was named assistant coach, also with a contract until the end of the next Cricket World Cup in 2023.

Faf du Plessis was confirmed as captain for the Test series against England which starts at Centurion on December 26, while former Test batsman Ashwell Prince was named coach of South Africa. AFP

IPL auction table is always unpredictable: Ponting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting has said that a lot of focus will be on "overseas fast bowlers" in next week's IPL auctions as the franchise deliberated over the potential targets.

Ponting met members of the management to discuss the team's targets for the upcoming season.

"We've had several discussions over the last few months, and have put in a lot of time and effort to make sure that we're well prepared," Ponting said.

"You can do all the planning in the world, but at the auction table, the unpredictable always happens."

Delhi Capitals might not win an IPL trophy yet but over the years, they have had some of the top players in the world among their ranks.

"There's going to be a lot of focus and attention on fast bowlers, overseas ones in particular," the former Australian captain said.

"Pat Cummins could go for big money, as could Chris Woakes. All-rounders are always interesting in my opinion. Players like Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Marsh,



Ricky Ponting and Sourav Ganguly in a file picture

Delhi Capitals/Twitter

Jimmy Neesham, Colin de Grandhomme could all be big picks."

"Going into the auction you have to be very specific about the kind of players you need," he said.

"For instance, we've got three openers, so we don't need to look for one. You need to identify the problem areas in your starting eleven, and essentially plug the gaps."

On the addition of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ajinkya Rahane to the side, Ponting said, "They are the kind of players who are likely to do well on the Kotla wicket, and of course, bring tremendous experience with them."

Top guns all confirm for Aus Open



Rafael Nadal in a file picture

ATP

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

All the world's top 50 men and women players, bar Victoria Azarenka, have confirmed they will start the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the season, at Melbourne Park in January, organisers said.

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal and Ashleigh Barty lead the field at the 115th edition of the tournament from January 20-February 7, which will mark the return to action of former world number three Juan Martin del Potro.

The Argentinian has a protected ranking of 22 as he makes a comeback from a six-month injury break.

Seven-time winner Serena Williams will play as she targets an elusive 24th Grand Slam title to match the all-time haul of

Margaret Court. The controversial Australian, who has upset some players with her views on homosexuality and gay marriage, will be honoured during the tournament to mark the 50th anniversary of her calendar-year Grand Slam. Williams' 39-year-old sister Venus will also be back for another year.

Missing among the top 50 is two-time champion Azarenka, who withdrew prior to the entry deadline Saturday for unspecified reasons.

"We are delighted to welcome this extremely strong player field to Melbourne in what promises to be a once in a generation event," said tournament director Craig Tiley.

Over the past decade, with the exception of Swiss Stan Wawrinka in 2014, the men's event has been dominated by Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, while Nadal won his first and only crown in 2009.

Djokovic is the defending champion and is gunning for an eighth title while Federer, at age 38, is looking for his seventh. The women's event has been far more open with seven different champions in the past 10 years, including Japan's Naomi Osaka in 2019.

Former winner Caroline Wozniacki recently announced that the tournament would be her last before retiring.

Momota one win from 11th title of the year



Kento Momota celebrates after defeating Wang Tzu Wei in their men's singles semifinal

AP

SHANGHAI: Kento Momota will play Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in today's final of the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals as the Japanese closes on an 11th title of 2019.

World number one Momota has reigned over badminton this year and defeated Taiwan's Wang Tzu-wei 21-17, 21-12 in their semi-final on Saturday in Guangzhou.

He is enjoying a spectacular season, with the World Championships, Asia Championships and prestigious All England Open among his haul of tournament victories.

Momota will be hot favourite in southern China against Ginting having defeated the Indonesian 10 times in their 14 meetings.

The world number eight Ginting sealed his place in the championship match with a 21-15, 21-15 victory over China's reigning Olympic champion Chen Long. In the women's final, China's world number two Chen Yufei faces Taiwan's top-ranked Tai Tzu-ying.

Chen defeated Akane Yamaguchi 21-18, 21-9 in their semi-final while Tai beat another Japanese, Nozomi Okuhara, 21-15, 21-18. AFP

All-Indian final in Asian Jr c'ship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian shuttlers Tasnim Mir and Tara Shah made their way into the final of the Asian U-17 & U-15 Junior Badminton Championships in Surabaya, Indonesia, on Saturday following their dominating victories in the U-15 women's singles semifinals. Tasnim will take on Tara for Gold medal in the all-Indian final today.

While, top-seeded Tasnim thrashed Japan's Sora Ishioka 21-16, 21-11, Tara also beat her Japanese opponent Kazune Iwato 21-18, 21-14 in straight sets.

Earlier in the quarter-finals played in the morning, both Tasnim and Tara claimed easy wins against Japan's Maya Taguchi and Mei Sudo respectively. Gujarat girl Tasnim won the match 21-11, 21-13 while Pune's Tara registered 21-11, 21-17 win.

However, apart from Tasnim and Tara, other Indian shuttlers could not manage to progress. In the men's U-15 singles quarter-finals, top-seeded Tanmoy Boruah and Ankit Mondal suffered defeats. While, Tanmoy went down 21-12, 21-12 against local boy Indonesia's fifth-seed Alwi



Farhan, Ankit lost to Malaysia's Low Han Chen 21-12, 21-13.

In the women's doubles category, Pranavi Natarajan and Sarumathi Venkatesh lost their U-17 quarter-finals match 21-18, 21-19 against Indonesian pair of Mellysa Trisas Pusputa Sari and Rachel Allesya Rose while, in U-15 Ganabhadra Karthikeyan and Sania Sikkandar went down fighting 21-19, 19-21, 21-16 against Korea's Yeon Ju Oh and Seul Park.

However, in the men's double U-15 quarter-finals, Tanmoy and Lakshay Sharma lost to Chinese Taipei pair of Lai Po Yu and Tsai Fu Cheng 21-15, 21-10 while, Lokesh Reddy and Ankit suffered 21-17, 21-13 defeat against Japan's Yudai Okimoto and Daigo Tanioka.

Focusing on service and receives, says Sathiyian

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Terming them as "boring and neglected" areas of table-tennis, ace paddler Gnanasekaran Sathiyian on Saturday said he was focussing on "services and receives" to improve his overall game.

"Service and receives, we have been focusing on, that's the area which is neglected quite a lot in Indian TT. That is the only stroke which is in your control. At the top-level I have realised that you don't get to play your game at all if you don't serve and receive well," Sathiyian told reporters.

"That is a very boring part of sport, but I think the more boring thing you play, the better you get in the sport. That is why we started working on that and looking forward to get aggression on my receives and not just try to put the ball into play," he explained.

Sathiyian said compatriot Sharath Kamal also has a very good serve and third ball attack and most of the Indians have a very good rally game.

"In India most of the players have a good game when actually the ball gets



Indian table tennis player Sathiyian in a file picture

G Sathiyian/Twitter

into play. With the Asians we have realised that it does not go to that extent at all if the serve or receive is not up to the mark," he said.

Sathiyian, the first Indian to break into top 25 of world rankings, also said he would be training in Korea and Germany.

"Heading to Tokyo Olympics, I will be going to Korea. It would be the first kind of initiative and we have already spoken to the Korean

Federation, I will be training with the Korean national team from December 22-30.

"It is the first time that an Indian player will train at the national centre of an Olympics medalist team, so I am looking forward to that. And after that the Indian team will be training in Dusseldorf, Germany.

"Heading to Tokyo Olympics, I will be going to Korea. It would be the first kind of initiative and we have already spoken to the Korean Federation, I will be training with the Korean national team from December 22-30. "It is the first time that an Indian player will train at the national centre of an Olympics medalist team, so I am looking forward to that. And after that the Indian team will be training in Dusseldorf, Germany. Germany has already qualified (for the Olympics) and that is why we chose it," he added.



SWEET TREATS

With only nine days left for Christmas, it is time to whip up some tasty and sweet treats for friends and family. SUNDAY PIONEER brings you some exclusive recipes for the festival



TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING

HISTORY: The pudding originated as a 14th Century porridge called frumenty. It was made of beef and mutton with raisins, currants, prunes, wines and spices. By 1595, it slowly changed to plum pudding and became the customary Christmas dessert around 1650.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Mixed dried fruit (raisins, currants, sultanas)	350g
Ready-to-eat prunes, chopped or left whole	100g
Sugar	100g
Dark rum	4 tbsp
Walnuts (chopped)	100g
Almonds (blanched)	100g
Almonds (ground)	100g
Fresh white breadcrumbs	100g
Plain flour	50g
Frozen butter (grated) plus a little extra for greasing	100g
Nutmeg	½ tsp
Cinnamon	1 tsp
Mixed spice	2 tsp
Cherries (chopped)	100g
Free-range eggs, beaten	03

METHOD

- Combine the mixed fruit, prunes, sugar and rum in a mixing bowl. Stir well to mix, cover and leave for 24 hours to soak.
- After 24 hours, mix the walnuts, almonds, ground almonds, breadcrumbs, flour, butter, spices, cherries and eggs along with the soaked fruit mixture in the same mixing bowl, making sure you include all the soaking liquor from the soaked fruit.
- Mix well until completely combined (let all the members of the family have a stir and make a wish).
- Cover with cling film and leave to stand in a cool place for 24 hours.
- After 24 hours, grease a 1.2 litre pudding basin with butter.
- Cut a circle of baking paper and place into the bottom of the pudding basin and then grease it with a little more butter. Pack the pudding mixture into the pudding basin, pressing as you add it. Fold a pleat into the middle of a large piece of baking paper and place over the pudding. Cover with a large piece of pleated foil, ensuring the pleats are on top of one another.
- Secure tightly with kitchen string tied under the lip of the pudding basin.
- Place an upturned saucer into a large saucepan one-quarter full of water. Fold a long piece of foil into quarters lengthways to create a long strip and place the pudding basin in the middle of the strip. Bring the sides of the strip up the sides of the pudding basin and lower into the saucepan. Ensure the water in the saucepan comes one-third of the way up the side of the pudding basin, but nowhere near the top of the basin. Leave the ends of the foil strip hanging over the side to make it easy to remove the pudding later.
- Bring the water to a boil and then reduce the heat to a gentle simmer. Simmer gently for 5-6 hours, topping up the water level as necessary throughout cooking (do not allow the pan to dry out).
- Once the pudding is cooked, remove from the pan and set aside to cool. The pudding can be stored in a cool, dry place. To serve, reheat the pudding by steaming again (in the same way) for two hours, or until hot all the way through. Alternatively, remove the foil and reheat in the microwave.

— By pastry Chef Abdul, The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi



HERB CHICKEN, ROASTED BEETS, BRUSSELS

HISTORY: It is said that original Christmas meal consisted of roast swan, pheasants and peacocks. It was Henry VIII, sometime in the 15 C who enjoyed eating turkey. But it was Edward VII, in the 19th C, who made eating turkey fashionable at Christmas.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Kosher salt	1 tablespoon
Paprika	2 teaspoon
Dried thyme	1 1/2 teaspoon
Freshly ground pepper	1 teaspoon
Whole chicken	1 No
Lemon	1 No
Large celery rib	1 No
Red onion	1 No
Clove garlic	4 No
Baby carrots	1/2 lb
Small assorted beets	3/4 lb
Large brussels sprout	12 No
Dijon mustard	1 1/2 teaspoon
Fresh rosemary leaves	5-6 No

METHOD

- Stir together first four ingredients. Remove and discard neck and giblets from chicken. Sprinkle chicken with salt mixture.
- Place lemon into cavity of chicken. Tie legs together with kitchen string, and tuck wingtips under.



- Place celery, onion, and garlic in a single layer in a lightly greased 6-quart slow cooker. Place chicken on top of onions, breast side up.
- Arrange and tuck remaining vegetables around chicken. Sprinkle vegetables with any remaining salt mixture.
- Cover and cook on low 8 hours or until done.
- Remove chicken to a serving dish. Rub skins from beets and cut into quarters; arrange with other vegetables around chicken.
- Garnish with rosemary.
- Whisk mustard into remaining cooking juices in slow cooker; season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve sauce with chicken. (3 lines more)

— By Chef Shibendu Ray Chaudhury, Executive Sous Chef, Renaissance Mumbai

CORN CHOWDER

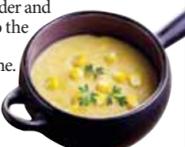
HISTORY: In the US, the recipes for corn chowder date back to at least 1884, at which time a corn chowder recipe was published in the *Boston Cook Book*. Another corn chowder recipe was published in the *Boston Cooking-School Cook Book* in 1896, which was authored by Fannie Farmer, Lincoln's successor at the Boston Cooking School. After Lincoln's published recipe in 1884, myriad recipes for corn chowder began circulating in various cookbooks in the US, with many types of recipe variations.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Sumeru's frozen corn	4cups
Water	8cups
Refined sunflower oil	2 tbsp
Potatoes (peeled and chopped)	1 large
Red onion (peeled and chopped)	1large
Thyme sprigs (washed)	4sprigs
Garlic cloves (crushed)	3large
Salt	3tsp
Black pepper (crushed)	1tsp
Fresh coriander (finely chopped)	2tbsp
Lime juice (freshly squeezed)	1each
Fresh cream	1cup

METHOD

- Measure all the ingredients according to the recipe and set aside.
- Thaw Sumeru's frozen corn according to instructions on the packet.
- In a heavy-bottomed pan, pour oil, add crushed garlic cloves and sauté until golden. Add half of the chopped onions, thyme sprigs and cook on a low flame until transparent.
- Add Sumeru's fresh frozen corn, chopped potatoes and sauté for 15 minutes. Pour water and let it boil. Add salt, Reduce the flame and cook for about 1 hour until the potatoes are cooked through. Add water if necessary.
- Ensure the stock is half evaporated. Turn off the flame and let it cool.
- Remove half of the chowder in a blender and process it roughly. Add the puree to the remaining chowder and let it boil.
- Add fresh cream and turn off the flame.
- Divide evenly and serve.

— By Inderjit Singh, Chef Incharge Innovations, Innovative Foods Ltd, Brand Sumeru



MULLED WINE

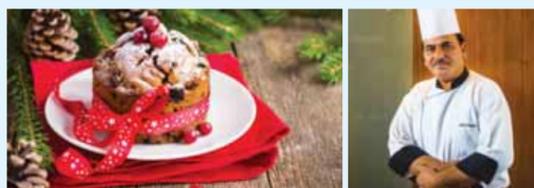
HISTORY: The earliest known winery is the 6,100-year-old Areni winery in Armenia. One of the earliest known traces of wine are from Georgia (6000 BC), Iran (5000 BC), and Sicily (4000 BC) although there is evidence of a similar alcoholic drink being consumed earlier in China (7000 BC). Wine reached the Balkans by 4500 BC and was consumed and celebrated in ancient Greece, Thrace and Rome. Throughout history, wine has been consumed for its intoxicating effects.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Cloves	10
Cinnamon sticks	2
Caster sugar	1/4 cup
Roughly grated nutmeg	1
Water	2 cups
Roughly grated rind of orange	1
Roughly chopped apple (skin on)	1
Light, fruity red wine (such as a merlot)	750ml

METHOD

- Heat cloves, cinnamon, sugar, nutmeg, water, orange rind and apple in a large saucepan over medium heat.
- Bring to the boil and then reduce heat to low and simmer for 10 minutes.
- Add red wine and simmer for another 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Strain and serve immediately.

— By Chef Satyaseelan, La Uppu, Grand Mercure Mysore



EGGLESS FESTIVE CAKE

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Mixed dried fruits and nuts, roughly chopped	2 cups
Orange juice	1.5 cup
Butter	½ cup
Rum	150 ml
Flour	2 cups
Baking powder	1 tsp
Cinnamon powder	1 tsp
Ginger powder	½ tsp
Grated nutmeg	¼ tsp
Fresh orange zest	1 tbsp
Butter, softened	250gm
Castor sugar	200gm
Brown sugar	70gm
Eggs	04

METHOD

- Place the roughly chopped fruits and nuts in a bowl. In a saucepan set over medium heat, bring the orange juice to a boil. Add butter and let it melt.
- Set it off the heat and add rum. Mix well. Pour the rum mixture over the fruits. Cling wrap it and let it sit overnight. Next day, preheat the oven to 180C and line a 9" cake pan with parchment paper.
- In a medium down, whisk flour, cinnamon, ginger powder, nutmeg and orange zest. In another bowl, beat both sugars and butter until the mixture is light and fluffy.
- Add eggs, one at a time and beat well after each addition. Combine the wet and dry ingredients. Mix in the rum soaked fruits along with the liquid. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake at 180C for 40-50 minutes.

— By pastry Chef Abdul, The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi

APPLE CINNAMON MUFFINS

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Apples	3 big
	(500 Gram approximately)
Wheat Flour	1cup
All-Purpose Flour	1cup
White Sugar (Crushed)	1cup
Baking Soda	½ teaspoon
Baking Powder	2 teaspoon
Cinnamon Powder	½ teaspoon
Milk	1 cup
Melted Butter	150 grams
Oil	1tablespoon

METHOD:

- Pre-heat Oven to 180 degrees.
- Prepare a muffin tray with muffin liners. Spray the liners with oil.
- Puree 2 and a half apples in a blender. Reserve the half apple for use later on.
- Melt the butter and keep aside.
- Sift all the dry ingredients and mix together in a bowl.
- When the butter has cooled down slightly mix the apple puree in it. Add milk to this and mix well.
- Add all the dry ingredients to the above butter, milk & puree mixture. Add oil to this and mix well.
- Pour the mixture into the prepared muffin tray.
- Slice the reserved apple into extremely thin slices (preferably with skin on).
- Put one slice each, slightly bending into each muffin.
- Bake for 12-15 minutes or until slightly brown on top and skewer inserted comes to clean.
- Take out the tray and let the muffins cool on a wire rack.
- Store in a container & refrigerate for up to 5 days. (The recipe yields 20 medium-sized muffins)



— By Unwind Cafe, Saket, New Delhi

I think that people should absolutely be allowed to do whatever they want with their bodies and to live the life they want to lead
— Elisabeth Moss



FROM THE INSIDE

The unending Baloch saga

A book that traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948

2



4

Correct your weaknesses

Identify, acknowledge, and address your own fault lines, and things will change sooner than later

Our textiles are our communiqué. These bear imprints of diverse cultures and their traditions. There is deep history and heritage attached to what we wear and re-create over and over again, writes SAYALI GOYAL as she shares her impressions from



TEXTILE JOURNEY THROUGH BENGAL

When talking about Bengal, one must start the narrative from a weaving cluster village as the textile heritage of the region boasts of some of the finest weaving traditions of the country. Upon reaching Bengal, about four hours north of Kolkata, lies Shantipur, a village of Jamdani weavers, who migrated from Bangladesh during partition. Traditionally, these weavers made *dhotis*, a drape worn by Bengali men, now reduced to occasional wear. Which is why they mostly weave saris for the local women.

A master weaver, who hosted us at his workshop, shared with us how weaving involves the critical labour of his family members — his wife and his brother's family weave for nearly six to eight hours a day. Sometimes it takes up to a week to make one sari which they sell for ₹1500. An average of ₹10,000 is what a weaver makes per month, which is slightly above the minimum wage. The information is enough to make you sit up and wonder: what is the fair price for a traditional craft? Where does the difference lie between a skilled labourer and an artisan? Our host explained that they visit the *melas* organised by the ministry that provide a platform to sell directly to customers; at other times, boutiques from the city commission their pieces. He shared that for him, this is the best job as he can stay close to his artisanal tradition and family. Working in the city, he said, that would require him to live alone.

It was pleasing to see the community spirit in the weavers and that women held an equal position in the trade. There are 50,000 weavers in Shantipur who mostly work on handlooms, but the market demand has been in the hold of power looms as well. He talked about the use of natural dye only on request or when the weavers are specifically provided with naturally dyed yarns by the boutique. Chemical dyes are cheaper to produce, thus making it a competitive product. The community has now formed a weavers' society to bring more structure to the craft village where they try to solve issues of daily business. They hope for bigger, more concrete support from larger organisations in buying more looms and raw materials like threads. For the weavers, the biggest challenge is the money circulation, as they are only paid at the end of the month; most of their cash is invested in raw materials by that time. A common complaint is that the larger buyers work on consignments and refuse to pay for raw materials in advance, which for them is a big risk.

My rendezvous with the weavers in Shantipur and interactions with the master craftsmen left with me questions but also ideas. My visit to Mahamaya, a third generation Kantha artist and a National Award winner proved insightful. Some of her masterpieces include scenes from

Ramayana with Kantha stitch work.

"Illustrations make for a *naksha* on Kantha which is the stitched layered fabric", explained Mahamaya. Kantha stitch is typically a long running stitch; however, there is innovation today and Herringbone, Satin, and Button stitches are also used. Browsing through her pile, I came across one that her grandmother had made, a 70 year old piece with natural colours.

Kantha is a way of storytelling through geometric patterns, figurative narratives, and floral illustrations. Mahamaya talks about her process and shares that she like to draw first on the fabric and then go by her instinct to fill colours into the piece of work. "Some of these works take years to make. Sometime I do the border and then another artisan fills the space inside. Reds and black were traditionally used but now there are more options in colours. I look for inspiration in other forms of art as well as in books and museums. During my mother's time, they used to pull out threads from old saris to embroider but now I use anchor thread. I also collaborate with other artisans like Kashmiri, who I have worked with for sixteen years. She is in the craft for tradition and it is a skill that gets her money as well".

Mahamaya has trained artists and taught them to preserve the art. Speaking of innovation, Mahamaya likes to experiment with the base fabric like cottons and tussars. There is a lot of scope where the artist could bring themselves in the work with experimentation within the technique. Some of her new projects include graphic inspiration and also a mix of techniques like applique. A new series is being developed under her, which is inspired from the panels of *Kamasutra*. Mahamaya shares that most of the works are commissioned art pieces such as the ones recently sold to Reliance Foundation at the Swadeshi Bazaar, but a lot of orders in the form of wearable art such as *dupattas* or bed linen keep the workshop running.

The textile documentation trip to Kolkata would be incomplete without a meeting with Namrata, Founder of Biome Conscious Textiles. Her story of entrepreneurship came together as she was looking out of the window of life for inspiration to make her financially independent while also staying true to her values. She was at that time questioning consumerism. So, there she was, with no prior experience in business other than having some entrepreneurial DNA by virtue of belonging to the Rajasthani Marwari community. Then, she encountered someone who was invested in herbal dyeing process for almost a decade. Naturally, it was the opportunity she was waiting for, to work in a social impact space through the world of clothing and fashion that she understood very well ever since her childhood. She finally found a product in her hands that was in harmony with nature and did not promote consumerism.



Au Naturelle

Indigo process that Biome follows and shares at workshops:

Take 2 parts of refined lime powder and mix some warm water and stir for almost 10 minutes. Now add 1 part of indigo sweetened powder and mix slowly and cover, removing all oxygen supply and light exposure for 3-4 hours. Open and check if the top is metallic purple and bottom is green. If yes, your indigo is active, alive and ready to go. Dilute if needed and put your fabric inside. Let it soak the dye, and as you bring it out, it magically comes out green turning blue on exposure to sun's light and oxygen. In time, it's bright blue. Wash it after it's dry with a mild soap and rinse in vinegar water and dry again. Ready to wear!



"I am but a tool in the hands of this movement," she said. "I like to think, and question, and that is what makes me act the way I do. I love clothes but not the indulgence".

Namrata believes that clothes are a symbol of need, comfort, artistic expression, dignity, celebration, attraction, and more but they must not become the reason for environmental degradation and human exploitation. Her organisation represents the idea of a communiqué — of a clean present and a cleaner future that is invested in the welfare of everyone involved in the process.

Working with bio-degradable products is what keeps her going ahead in her journey. Endorsing, embracing and collaborating with other like-minded people are her sources of joy. Biome makes natural-dyed fabrics and customised garments. It identifies with the movement of integrating with nature. As part of that process, Biome also sells natural dyes and Namrata travels with natural dyeing workshops throughout the country.

She believes that work should not be for one person's fancy but instead should be collaborative and transcend differences. "In the end, work should unite, not divide". Revolution starts with an individual but it must expand to the community as we are parts of one big whole. Nature is the intelligent system that has prevailed ever since life started, we can only grow and survive in harmony with it.

Namrata realised that we as humans need to engage our senses to relate to our physical presence in life. And only listening or reading are incomplete ways of sharing, understanding and experience the beauty of natural dyes. Through workshops, Biome facilitates spaces and guidance to dye your own fabrics, engage with the look, smell and feel of the dyes, and know how real and alive it is. Just like us.

Biome is interested to adopt 'grow local, buy and sell local and decentralise'. Hence, they have been exploring work with the strong weaving heritage of Bengal and introduce natural dyeing to the weavers. Also, instead of thinking of 'export', the focus is on spreading awareness amongst Indians, who form a significant hub of consumers and can afford the best fabrics. Biome also concentrates on natural fibres, sustainable man-made fibres, and hand woven fabrics along with naturally dyed threads and fabrics. Natural dye is the boundary that does not limit, but instead creates a balance between environment and our need for colours.

Namrata makes it a point to collaborate with

other sustainable field workers when she is touring for her workshops, especially with those who are working in education, food, lifestyle, and the like.

A piece of textile is a symbol of creation. So much has been created, imagined with warp and weft and has been an expression of art and design. Our textiles are our communiqué, our language various cultures marked it with their sense of aesthetics and there is deep history and heritage with what we wear and re-create over and over again. Design has been evolved in textiles in rhythmic dance with our lifestyle, socio-economic conditions, geography of a place and now it marks globalisation. Another important driver has been 'fashion' and it has both pros and cons as anything in excess can result in.

Biome has always loved and learnt from collaboration and sharing. That's been the constant motivation and satisfaction. "This one time, we happened to meet this bright, young student from Srishti School of Design and we came in touch with her work on flora and fauna, and a very imaginative expression of human mating a flower and the resultant evolution of life. When we interacted with her more, we discovered that she loves trees, can communicate with them and sketching plants alive is her passion. We took a look at her sketches and decided to convert them on our clothes through batik and herbal dyes. Thus started this experimental project of batik and painting with herbal paste. On board was the batik artist, Sushanto and Ghana, an artist from Chennai who was with us for that period. We released a collection and it was like a dream come true", Namrata reminisces.

Paramita Kar Choudhury is a batik and block printing artist who also dabbles in shibori and clamp techniques. She started her journey with synthetic dyes but soon found the calling for natural dyes. She took her training from an experienced practitioner from Shantiniketan. Then she opened her unit and heart to embrace Biome as a collaborating partner to use our herbal dyes and process orders together in batik, block printing, and dyeing.

As I traversed through the landscape of Bengal, it was heartening to see skilled craftsmen dedicating their time to keep the age-old traditions alive. So many ideas bubbled inside my mind after all the interesting conversations, but for the moment I treated myself to a naturally dyed blue and white Jamdani.

The writer is the founder and cultural curator at www.cocoonandjasmine.com



ARNOLD BENNETT, THE AUTHOR OF *THE OLD WIVES' TALE* AND *CLAYHANGER*, HAS AN OMELETTE NAMED AFTER HIM. THE OMELETTE WAS INVENTED AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL WHERE BENNETT OFTEN STAYED

With his keen understanding of the region, the author traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of the princely state of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The unending struggle of the Baloch

The statement by General Rawat, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is controlled by terrorists and Gilgit-Baltistan and POK have been under illegal occupation of Pakistan is to be noted seriously. A perusal of history shows that many such provinces in the North West region as well as North East region of the country were part of India and the country was forced to surrender the rights over them as part of a ploy by the British rulers.

One such independent country that existed during the colonial rule of the British and enjoyed the status of a sovereign nation was Balochistan. Ironically, nothing much has been written or taught in India about Balochistan, its glorious past and communal amity (which is in stark contrast to that of Pakistan). One of the TV news channels in Kerala had telecast a programme about Hinglaj Mata Temple in Balochistan which is being preserved with utmost care by the tribal community. Every year, the Mandir draws thousands of Indian devotees to this country and the pilgrims are treated with respect by the tribal communities. In modern times, the term Balochistan was heard in the Indian narrative for the first time in 2009 when the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani that India was doing nothing in Balochistan. "Indeed nor should it be doing anything there," the economist-turned-politician is reported to have said in the joint statement with Gilani issued on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in Egypt.

An attempt has been made to unravel the hitherto untold and unpublished details about Balochistan. "Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum" authored by Tilak Devasher, a former senior official of the Cabinet Secretariat. Devasher is an authority on Pakistani politics which could be understood from his first book "Pakistan At The Helm", published by HarperCollins. His lucid style and articulation are the reasons why readers prefer his works. Devasher tells the required facts in a straightforward manner. His intentions are clear because he wants people to get enlightened and educated. The style is as elegant as Devasher himself.

The author takes the readers straight to Balochistan and gives us



some important facts which would kindle passion in the mind to know more about the subject. The population of Pakistan is 21 crore while that of Balochistan is 1.23 crore. Balochistan constitutes 44 per cent of Pakistan's landmass. This is just one of the reasons behind Pakistan's avarice for this once sovereign country. Balochistan is a treasure house of minerals and energy resources. "Had there been no Balochistan, there would not have been any Pakistan," felt the British rulers who had manipulated the geo-politics of the region before they lowered the Union Jack and gave way to the national flags.

The British colonialists wanted to manipulate and influence the sub-continent by remote controlling from London. They had a fear that the ever increasing influence of the then Soviet Union was detrimental to their political, commercial and other strategic

interests. Hence they felt the need to have a region, a long strip from the Gilgit to Balochistan administered directly by the Britain. This was what suggested by a British army officer R C Money in charge of strategic planning in India during the period.

"However by 1947, the British felt that instead of locating a base in a weak Balochistan, such a base could be established in Pakistan that was more than willing to accommodate the British. Hence it was in British interests to ensure that Balochistan was kept within Pakistan and did not become an independent entity," writes Devasher (Page 85).

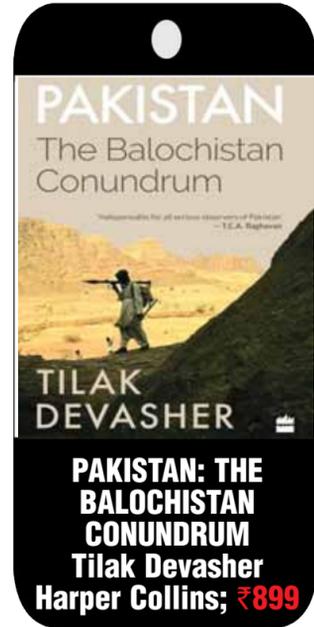
As per various treaties entered into by the then rulers of the princely State of Balochistan (the Khans of Kalat) with the British government, the former had been assured by the colonial masters that Balochistan would remain a

sovereign country with no obligation of any kind either to India or Pakistan. What Devasher has done is to bring to light the palace coup staged in Kalat with the political script authored in the corridors of power in Lahore, New Delhi and London. It shocks us and further embarrasses as because it was another *faux pas* committed by Jawaharlal Nehru which resulted in Mohammed Ali Jinnah annexing Balochistan to Pakistan.

This backstabbing came within weeks of Jinnah issuing a statement declaring that "the Government of Pakistan recognises Kalat as an independent sovereign State, in treaty relations with British government with a status different from that of Indian States." Needless to tell, Jinnah's statement was issued immediately after a well publicised meeting the former had with the Khan of Kalat and his aides.

Jinnah was a visionary as well as an Islamic fundamentalist. As on date, '36 per cent of Pakistan's total current natural gas production, as also reserves of coal, gold, copper, silver, platinum, aluminium and uranium are in Balochistan. Reko Diq, Saindak, Sui and Chamalang produce a wealth of resources like copper, gold, natural gas, coal and other minerals. Reko Diq is a copper and gold mine in Chagai district with an estimated mineral resource of at least 54 billion pounds of copper and 41 million ounces of gold,' writes Devasher. All these details establish the fact that Pakistan without Balochistan is a big zero. Jinnah and the subsequent rulers of Pakistan have made use of all games in the trick to keep the people of Balochistan in perpetual poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. This is what the Grand Old Party did in India too.

Devasher has revealed the details of



how the then Prime Minister Nehru rejected and refused the offer from the Khan of Kalat to merge with India. What the author has stated in pages 81 and 82 is sufficient to expose the then Prime Minister's inefficiency, failure to read the writing on the wall and his larger than life image hyped up by the media.

This book is a must read for all those who are interested in the history of the sub-continent, prior to and after the exit of the British rulers lest we are cheated by manipulated and distorted history. Balochistan is waiting for India. India's safety and security could be ensured only through the liberation of Balochistan and Tilak Devasher is an author who has to be taken seriously by our policy makers and those who want to excel in the game of diplomacy.

While reading the book, what crossed the mind was the football teams from Balochistan, namely Makran United and Makran Sports Club which used to figure in the Sait Nagjee Football Tournament which was held at Kozhikode in Kerala. They were favorites of Malabar's football lovers. Balochistan is loved by people who know about the country.

NEW ARRIVALS

KHANTASTIC: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BOLLYWOOD'S TRIO
Sanjukta Nandy Rupa, ₹295



Did Shah Rukh Khan reject *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*? Did Amir Khan audition for *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*? Was Salman Khan's voice dubbed by another in *Maine Pyar Kiya*? Did Salman's and Amir's film rejections give Shah Rukh Bollywood on a platter? KHANTASTIC answers all these questions. Destiny binds together this charismatic trio. Three different, yet magnetic personalities—they form the three points of the invisible Bandra Triangle in Mumbai.

NAKED
Papa CJ Westland, ₹499

Papa CJ is able to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. And then destroy it. Only to rise again like a phoenix.

As Papa CJ lays bare his life, from the streets of Calcutta to the University of Oxford and stages across the world, you will bask in nostalgia, laugh your guts out, feel your heart ache, and find a new lens with which to look at your own life. A lens that allows you, like Papa CJ, to always see the positive. And of course, the funny.

PAPER MOON
Rehana Munir HarperCollins India, ₹299



When her estranged father passes away, Fiza, fresh out of college, discovers that he has left her a tidy sum in the hope that she will open a bookshop... Overnight, Fiza's placid life is thrown into a whirl of decor decisions and book-buying sprees, unconventional staff and colourful patrons, small pleasures and little heartbreaks, as the store - Paper Moon - begins to take shape in a charming, old Bandra mansion...

In a refreshing departure from stereotypical portrayals of muslim women, their helplessness and ignorance, the book *Resilience: Stories of Muslim Women* explores the lives of 11 women who fought against all odds to shine, once they got the opportunity to study in a tiny adult education centre. The author, Shubha Menon, has documented life of girls and women of Nizamuddin Basti, Delhi, in a manner that makes the reader a partner in her adventure. The reader is taken through the winding *gullies*, narrow staircases and tottering houses, right into the homes of the girls.

The Seher Centre was an experiment in education started by social activist Shabnam Hashmi. At the time, Shabnam herself was a young girl studying in Russia. She was home for the summer holidays and went with a friend to Nizamuddin Basti to volunteer as a teacher for young girls. When it was time for her to go back to Russia, two of the girls begged her not to, as they had seen hope in their lives after she had started teaching them. Shabnam could not turn her back on the girls. She stayed back and started the Seher Education Centre. From 1980 to 1985, about 400 girls studied in the Centre. The book encompasses the stories of 11 girls whose stories unfold one by one.

The girls' stories are poignant and real. There is Farida, who started wearing a burqa at 9, got married at 12 and was a mother of two, divorced and abandoned by 16. Today, she runs a non-profit, teaching other young girls like her. Mussarrat, who was virtually a prisoner in her own home, forced to do domestic chores all day. She is now a health supervisor with the Aga Khan Foundation. And Parveen, who was turned away from the Gandhi residence because she

Hope lives behind the veil

Resilience is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. It brings out stories untold. There are so many layers to examine, writes JAYSHREE M SUNDAR



couldn't write her name in the entrance register. Today she a Sewa Dal worker and political voice for a political party. The stories of Syeda, Asma, Ishrat, Shahjahan, Najma and Ayesha also show the transformation that the Seher Centre brought about.

The writer recreates the tiny room where classes were held. We learn about the rivalry between the girls, their favourite teachers and how their thoughts are gradually changed, till from burqa-clad silent citizens they become agents of change in their own right. We also learn about the various forces at play in the *basti*, those that opposed girls education. There are the elders

of the *basti* who disapprove of girls going to school. There are the Pirzadas who want Shabnam to teach their kids exclusively because they do not want their children to share space with lowly 'Ghosis'. There are opposing forces in the *basti* and old mores are at loggerheads with new thinking. The Shah Bano case is at the centre of this dichotomy. The author dwells upon the case at some length.

The writer has included conversations with eminent, educated Muslim women — Syeda Hameed, Warisha Farasat, Zarina Bhatti, Seema Mustafa, Noor Zaheer — who talk about the state of Muslim women in the country. These conversations

are a good counterpoint to the conversations with the Seher girls. The Markaz versus the Dargah is another contradiction of the *basti*. The Markaz propagates pristine orthodox Islam which is strident and austere. The author does not deride one practice at the cost of the other. Their parallel existence may occasionally clash but seldom becomes a major flare-up. The reader is gently led through this labyrinth of contradictions and incongruities which are both literary and figurative. A hidden world is revealed in easy flowing prose. What gives the book its unique flavour is the anecdotes and tales about the Nizamuddin Basti, the *dargah*, the *Auliya*, the



graves, monuments, etc. The book is full of interesting details that lend colour to the stories of the girls.

It was not just the old and new that were clashing in the *basti*. There was Shabnam Hashmi herself, a communist-atheist, ultra-liberal rebel of sorts. She never wore a burqa and sported short hair and spectacles. Just the way she looked, raised the red flag for many in the *basti*. Subjects like sex, reproductive rights, gender parity, taboo for Basti dwellers, were freely discussed in the Seher Centre. Shabnam's total lack of fear against a menacing, threatening phalanx of Basti old men, guardians and gatekeepers of the

'izzat' of their women and girls, was cause for alarm. Girls, who were not allowed to uncover their heads in their own homes or sit on a chair in front of their elders, began to learn alphabet of rights. The Seher teachers who included Shabnam's mother and sister, were berated because of the fear that they would make the girls 'azaad' and 'la mazhab'. Underlying this popular slogan verbiage was the larger fear that *Basti* women may begin to think and assert their rights.

This book brings out the unique world of the Nizamuddin Basti. One which you may not find on a map. Where, in the by lanes of crowded homes with limited means women broke out of the shackles of stereotypical roles and fearlessly fought their way to an education. Where women helped women. The book has interesting anecdotes about the ghosts that coexist with human beings there and the sounds of urdu, the music from the *dargah*, and the fragrance of *kebabs* which create the unique atmosphere of this area.

Resilience is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. There are so many layers to examine. And, Seher comes out as a unique experiment, which not only transformed all those women who studied there but their future generations.

The writer is a senior advertising professional and a visiting professor at B-schools

What do Iraqi protesters strive for?

Iraq has once again descended into an abyss. Since the downfall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, the country has not witnessed peace for almost two decades now. Modern Iraq was established in 1932 from the amalgamation of three provinces of Baghdad, Basra and Mosul that formed Mesopotamia. This new country was primarily centred around tribes purely external to the main city centres. Thus from the very beginning, Mesopotamia was vulnerable to both security and unity.

The Ottomans overestimated their ability to control Iraq and did not emphasise on domestic development and the existing tribal structures. Like many other ancient empires, the Ottomans were forging ahead with the concept of "the strong do what they want, they have the power to do" and thus committed remarkable errors in their handling of the West Asian sojourn. What historians say is that the Ottomans failed to understand the existing cultural, ideological and ethnic divisions existing in the Mesopotamian region. From 1299 to 1921, the mighty Ottomans ruled this region and lost it during the First World War. And henceforth, the British and the French established the political boundaries of Iraq, bordering the Persian Gulf between Iran and Kuwait.

In 1920, the UK was awarded a League of Nations mandate over Iraq. This heralded a western style governance structure in Iraq. In 2014, Tim Marshall described the geographical division of this region in his book, *Prisoners of Geography* this way: "When the Ottoman Empire began to collapse, the British and the French had a different idea. In 1916, British diplomat Colonel Sir Mark Sykes took a grease pencil and drew a crude line across a map of West Asia. It ran from Haifa on the Mediterranean, what is



now Israel, to Kirkuk now in Iraq in the northeast. It became the basis of his secret agreement with his French counterpart Francois Georges Picot to divide the region into two spheres of influence. North of the line was to be under French control, south of it under British hegemony."

This grease pencil drawn boundary lacked the acknowledgement of all the existing demographic arrangement of the region, which later came to be known as the historic Sykes-Picot Agreement. This arbitrary demarcation of boundaries of states in West Asia brought complete anarchy to the entire region. Clearly, all the states that were created by the Sykes-Picot were not based on the logic of socio-economically driven conditions but purely out of the ruins of the empires. Thus the competing aspirations of different communities and ethnic groups could not be fused into a melt-

ing pot and, hence, schism has been remained as a potent anomaly in Iraq and the rest of West Asia.

The current crisis in Iraq has emerged due to entrenched corruption in public offices and the rising gap between the elites and the ordinary citizens. The demonstrations which started since October 1 have already taken more than 400 lives of ordinary Iraqi citizens. Probably the international community is too used to hear Iraqis being killed in huge numbers, whether it was under the horrific Saddam regime, the US-occupied Iraq or under their own leadership in the post-Baathist era. Today the young protesters highlight the way the Adel Abdul Mahdi Government made appointments to Government services on ethnic lines or sectarian quotas which is popularly known as "Muhassasa" in Iraq.

The aggrieved citizens air their anguish that this spoils

system is sharpening the divides among the Shias, Sunnis, the Kurds and the rest of the ethnic minorities across Iraq and bringing no benefit to the ordinary folks. But definitely a small section of the party sympathisers, supporters and cronies extract rich benefits from the Government.

Since the departure of the US forces, the youth of the country has been utterly frustrated with the façade of reforms and with the political class who promised but failed to deliver the basics and introduce much-needed reforms in public offices.

However, what is worrying the global community is that this saga of mass demonstrations is purely leaderless. The protesters are not backed by any organisational structures and ideological narratives. Only common chord among them is a strong sentiment of anti-Government agenda. Therefore, the guardians of

the system have got enough courage and stamina to quell them down with very brute force. It may so happen that the protests may lead to a quick political transformation but the political establishment may consolidate further and rely more on authoritarian methods than engaging the aggrieved ones with dialogues.

For now, Mahdi has resigned as Iraq Prime Minister. But his resignation will not bring an end to the raging protests across the country. In fact, he was forced to leave only after grand Iraqi Shia cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani issued a call for changing the Government leadership.

Around the same time, powerful Shia leader Moqtada al-Sadr, who leads the largest political faction in the Parliament, Sairoon, called for Mahdi's resignation. He also warned that if the Mahdi Government does not do so, it would be "the beginning of the

end of Iraq".

We need to enquire into the recent political history of Iraq to find out the malaise that is killing the country today. It all started with the deposition of the Saddam rule and the American invasion of Iraq. Besides, subsequent political upheavals accompanied by regime changes in the West Asia and fast-changing global political scenario had a strong impact on the future course of action in Iraq. Saddam was no more a nincompoop, as the western leaders thought, as he was able to maintain a stable political rule for more than two decades. Of course his authoritarian streak spearheaded the systematic persecution of the minorities and fast marginalisation of the majority Shias.

In addition to Sunni-Shia divide, the third major political player in Iraq is the Kurds, mainly concentrated in the north and north-eastern provinces of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk and their surrounding areas. The Kurdish people inhabit a swath of land through northern Iraq, Syria, Iran and Turkey. They are primarily a people without their own homeland, a major victim of the Sykes-Picot deal.

The way the global liberal order is crumbling under the leadership of Donald Trump, the world could hardly look for any respite from the volatile political atmosphere raging in West Asia. With the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq in 2011, gradually the country has fallen into a complete anarchy. And this has happened because Washington wanted to dislodge the erstwhile political regime, secret forces and security forces of the Saddam era. The coming of a Shia regime, after the fall of Saddam, has completely changed the power structure of almost three decades of Sunni political establishment, its entitlements and its beneficiaries. Thus many of the elite guards, offi-

cers and former army commanders have quietly joined the Islamic State, an affiliate of the al-Qaeda.

The US Army in Iraq knew very well that these officers joined various insurgent groups and offered tactical support to the al-Qaeda.

What could be seen from the ruins of Saddam empire is a pure chaos. And in this anomie has brought more differences and violence back to the Iraqi society. Much beyond these, Iraq has become a playground for many big powers, such as Iran and the US.

Iran's influence in Iraq is of great importance. But in the last few months, this Iranian led Shia coalition has been largely fractious as the Government forces killed Shias who were demanding better social services, mainly basic needs. It is coming out in public space that Iran is seriously trying to repress the civil rebellion in Iraq. Its elite Quds Force, the foreign arm of the Revolutionary Guard in Iran, view these protests as masterminded by foreign hands. The outcome of the counterproductive attempts by the Iranian backed forces to repress the protesters may trigger a new Arab Spring to the entire West Asia in the days to come.

The impending departure of Mahdi is symbolic victory of the protesters. But unfortunately too many people were killed and it could be regarded as a mass uprising of the Shia community against their own leadership. Mahdi has proved himself to be an ineffectual leader.

It seems the ruling elite of Iraq are simply interested in sticking to power at any cost. Therefore, it is truly doubtful whether the demands of the protesters for sweeping changes in the Iraqi political system could be agreed upon by the opportunist leadership.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

What is worrying the global community is that the saga of mass demonstrations in Iraq is leaderless. The protesters are not backed by any organisational structures and ideological narratives. The only common chord among them is a strong sentiment of anti-Government agenda



MAKHAN SALKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Iraq protests: A terrible political-economic predicament

Post-Saddam Iraq has graduated from the demands and desires of the generations which felt satisfied with whatever the Government gave them. The younger generation knows that the exchequer is earning enough revenue from oil but the Government is unwilling to spend the same for their welfare. Till the Government delivers on its promises, there is no end to protests in Iraq



YASIR ALI MIRZA

The world witnessed a spate of violent protests in Iraq, Lebanon, Hong Kong and Chile in the last few months. However, the Iraqi protests stand out in terms of intensity of violence: over 300 young protesters have been killed and thousand others injured in the crackdown by the Government security forces. After the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003, it has been the largest popular demonstration across Iraq, mainly in Shia south.

Protesters have blamed the successive Governments for large-scale unemployment, rampant corruption, and poor civic services, despite the exchequer getting easy revenue from the lucrative oil businesses. However, the authorities claim that Iraq does not get reasonable chunk of its share from the complex and unfair system of international oil markets to revive its fractured economy. Majority of the people lack access to adequate healthcare, schooling, water or power supplies as the promises made by successive Governments have remained unfulfilled. According to a World Bank report, nearly three-fifths of its 40 million people live on less than \$6 a day. The Iraqi protesters, primarily comprising the economic poor class, are venting their anger against some filthy rich political leaders and businessmen who are pillaging the country's wealth, pushing the commoners into further poverty.

The trigger for the latest round of protests was the news of demotion of Lieutenant General Abdul Wahhab al-Saadi, the Commander of the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Force (ICTF). He gained wide popularity during the anti-ISIS military campaign and became a national hero. Protests in Baghdad jog the memory of



Anti-Government protesters gather in Tahrir Square, Baghdad on November 29. Celebrations erupted following the announcement of resignation by Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi AP

Arab Spring in 2011, where the protesters had swarmed the streets in the Arab world. The year-long Prime Minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi, has witnessed the most tumultuous phase of his tenure as protesters are demanding his immediate removal from office and fresh elections.

Sistani calls for reform

The initial response of the Baghdad authorities, using unnecessary lethal force, was shockingly unscrupulous that made matters worse. Iraq's most revered Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussaini al-Sistani, who holds unprece-

dent moral authority among the Shia believers, had called upon the ruling clique to initiate major political reforms. He issued the statement through his representative in a Friday prayer gathering. He urged, "The marjiayya (Shia religious authority) has made clear its position calling for reform in the last Friday sermon. It stressed that the demonstrations must be peaceful and free from violence and vandalism. It also underlined the sanctity of Iraqi blood, and the need for political forces to respond to the rightful demands of protesters." While influential Shia leader Sayyid Moqtada al-Sadr too called for reforms and

urged protesters to continue to press for their demands.

Show of solidarity

One of the significant features of the anti-governmental protests in Iraq is that it has an element of cross-sectarian or ethnic identity i.e. Iraqi nationalism. Unlike previous protests, symbols of Shia piety have not taken a central place in the demonstrations which signifies the gravity of the demands which entirely stick to its legitimate socio-economic demands. It reflects the growing disenchantment of Iraqi people towards the religious parties who have been ruling

for 16 years. It is an alarming curve for the ruling elites and they need to pay heed to the people's voice. It also signifies a new turn of events in country's beleaguered history which only experienced repression by ruthless dictators and started craving for the idea of social justice and citizenship. However, despite having a broad nature of the protests largely participated by young and poor social class from Shia background, the Sunni and Kurdish areas haven't extended solidarity with the protesters. Sunni and Kurdish leaderships are suspicious that any break in the status quo will

dismantle their positions in the power structure what they are enjoying in the unofficial mohassasa system (confessional system) introduced by the Americans after 2003.

External factors

There is no denying the fact that after the US occupation, the CPA-led administration had created such mayhem in the country. The menace of terrorism and sectarianism gained enormous foothold among multi-confessional society. There is an ample evidence of external intervention by regional actors in fomenting political unrest in Iraq. The attacks on Iranian consulates and embassy substantiate this argument. Since 2003, arch rival Iran has turned Iraq's staunchest ally.

Iran's ties with Shia political groups which have been at the helm of power irked the regional actors led by Saudi Arabia, and they perceived it as the revival of Shia politics in West Asian and North African (WANA) region. Iran's role in repulsing the rise of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) further brought these two neighbours closer. Most of the Iran-backed factions like Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Saraya al-Salam, Badr Corps, Harkat Hezbollah al-Nojaba constitute the backbone of Hashd al-Shabi (Popular Mobilisation Forces, PMF), an umbrella group of militias which came into existence after the ISIS' blitzkrieg attacks, further alarmed the US, Israel and other regional powers. Displaying extraordinary courage in countering the ISIS tide, PMF achieved pre-eminence in the society. By virtue of its popularity, the political bloc of PMF, called al-Itilaf al-Fatah (Conquest Alliance) led by Hadi Amiri, secured a sizeable chunk of

seats in the parliamentary elections last year. However, al-Hashd has kept restraint despite anti-social elements camouflaging into the crowd to sabotage the peaceful protests. However it had vowed to crush any coup attempt with malicious intent.

Tuk tuk, a vehicle of change: Indian connection

There is a little Indian connection with the ongoing protests in Iraq i.e. Tuk-Tuk. The three-wheeled Tuk-Tuk, a word referred in common parlance to autorickshaw has its origin in India. It was being manufactured by a prominent automobile company Baja Auto and exported to Iraq. It functions as frontline ambulances, ferry protesters and supplies necessary stuff. The most interesting part is that some activists started a tabloid named after it in order to circumvent information blackout by authorities. Iraq's once marginalised Tuk-Tuk drivers took a centre stage in Iraq and the vehicle become a symbol of resistance called 'Markabat al-Thawra' (vehicle of revolution).

Despite the resignation of the Prime Minister, people are still angry and protests will go on until new political and economic reforms are introduced. But what comes after these demonstrations will not be the same as before. Iraq is going through a phenomenal phase. The new opposition that is emerging can play an important role to lead status quo towards change. The authorities should initiate a process for structural changes and must pay heed to their legitimate demands.

(The writer is a PhD student at Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)



LETTING GO MEANS TO COME TO THE REALISATION THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE A PART OF YOUR HISTORY, BUT NOT A PART OF YOUR DESTINY —STEVE MARABOLI



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

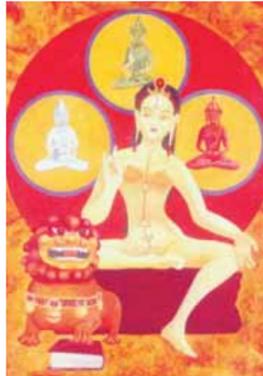
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You need to manage your stress level in order to stay in good health. Face your problems rather than avoid them. Those looking for spiritual healing, ensure you get adequate rest. Avoid temptations or addictions; otherwise you may face health hazards. Your dream job may come your way. Your accomplishments will make your peers look bad. That's mostly their problem, but don't be oblivious about it. Some of you may attain a position where you can exert power and authority. Control your temper when dealing with subordinates at workplace. You may feel the negative vibes in the relationship as well. Conflict with near and dear ones is predicted. Think calmly and carefully about the person you are in a relationship with, before you react.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You will witness a complete change in your health. Those suffering from serious ailments will be surprised by the unexpected changes such as improvement in their test results. A disciplined and controlled lifestyle is always welcome. Curb your craving for sweet and fried food. On the career front, be careful of the source you are making money with. An unfair deal to get quick success might put you in legal action. Be cautious, as this is the time when you can use your power in a negative way. On the relationship front, your love life seems to be going very well. Those who are committed, a strong relationship that is mutually supportive and beneficial will bring you happiness. Singles, this is a good time to meet new people.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Health may cause worry this week. Those awaiting test results, need to stay calm as there is nothing much you can do. Relax, things are not as bad as you fear. You will experience a spiritual strength that will help you gain good health. Connect with deeper joy and love for living. It is advised you do breathing exercises and meditation now. On the work front, you may feel stagnated. You don't have to stay in a situation that is unhealthy for you. Those who wish to pursue higher studies and simultaneously work may go ahead. Love life looks promising. Singles, a new and very positive, romance is on the horizon. Just, don't get carried away. Keep your balance and perspective. Those in a committed relationship will enjoy a new level of understanding.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Confusion about a medical test/result is foreseen. Go for a second opinion. Any health changes are likely to take place slowly. This may be for the best, regardless of how fast you would like things to move. Take things one day at a time and note small changes. Professionally, you can win any situation with your skill and intelligence. Your logical and analytical skills will help you to overcome any difficulties. This is the right time to appear for an interview, or write a competitive exam. Your writing and communication skills could give you an extra edge over others. Relationship wise there could be explosive arguments with the near and dear ones. This is not the time to look for love as you may take wrong decisions. Existing relations could suffer due to misunderstanding.

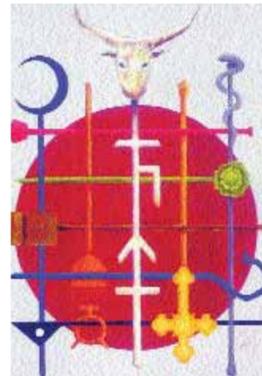
Lucky number 33
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Confront your dark side. This is a good time to explore your fears, limitations, and unhealthy attachments. Addictions and indulging in material pleasures in order to forget about your worries are foreseen. Be aware and avoid falling into any material traps. Career-wise, beginning of a project is indicated in which a great deal of creative energy will be invested. This is the time when you need emotional support to go forward in life. Try to meet your immediate demands at the workplace with maturity and sensitivity. On the love front, you may get hyper on small things with the people who matter to you. Your mind will empower your heart and emotions will take a back seat. Remember words speak louder than action.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Stay grounded to do justice to your body this week. It is important you take rest and relax. Stay away from spicy and junk food. You may experience stress due to certain unavoidable factors. Stay calm and avoid anger or aggression. Release your frustration to express it rather than keep it to yourself. Professionally, you will find stability after a long time. Those who are looking for a job change, you need to disconnect yourself with the current company. People sitting for an interview or a competitive examination will be successful. Any pending work needs to be completed now. Relationship wise, this is a highly emotional time. Situations can instantly become heated or uncomfortable. Take a break if you need to. Don't hurry to end or to begin a relationship.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week your health regime will move to the next level and so will your maturity and intelligence. You will not think twice before spending money on health. Your views in terms of health are conventional and practical and will pay you rich dividends. On the career front, clear communication will bring changes in your work life. Travel to a foreign land on account of the job is likely. Your initiatives blend with your people skill. Explore and see where it takes you. Your finances will improve considerably and you may plan a deal in property. On the romantic front, this week you are all charged and lovable. Online love messages will revive your energy and passion. Singles may find a suitable partner or get marriage proposals.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Those dealing with a health problem, need to look for treatments beyond your family doctor. What you need is a vacation or a change of environment. Focus on your dreams. You are likely to find spiritual answers that will help you a lot. On the career front, new opportunities will tempt you. New projects, deals or assignment could be signed this week. Those in business would be able to increase their networking and convert them into benefits. Securing a big deal is on the cards. At a personal level, new friendships or bonding is likely to turn into a loving relationship for you. An existing relationship will become more intense. If someone is interested in you, give him/her a chance. This relationship could be just what you are looking for.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week your health will be good. You are in the right place, doing the right thing. You are likely to achieve what you have wished for. The week holds new beginnings that naturally emerge out of the accomplished cycle. To balance your energies, avoid rich food and oversleep. Work life may not be very satisfactory. You may feel uncomfortable at your work place. Your seniors may feel that you are not putting your 100 per cent effort into a project or task. Your honest nature may fetch you a suspension or some kind of displeasure. Avoid any kind of investment or a new deal in business/property. Those in love may face conflict and difficult phase. However, a balanced approach will work in your favour.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Your perseverance and hard work on the health front will bear results. Your self-confidence will draw people to you like a magnet. Those who are worried about health need to relax. Things are not as bad as you fear. There is an underlying, spiritual strength that will sustain your health. Career-wise good news is on the cards. You are likely to use your power and leadership for the benefit of others. Success in the project is foreseen. Those who are looking for a transfer, or job change, should approach an authoritative person to help you in your endeavour. On the love front, doubts about a relationship may nag you. This is the time to be very clear about what you want out of life and your relationships and accordingly, plan your actions.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will enjoy good health. This week there will be occasions when three generations of the family will get together. The youngsters may receive a gift in form ancestral property, it could be money or invaluable advice. On the career front, your insight and mental clarity will generate good results. This is a good time to act and achieve your target. Be alert as new opportunities will knock at the door. You are likely to get promoted. Draw upon your creativity and mental ability for making more money. In love life, relations will blossom and may materialise into marriage. You will feel at ease with your spouse/partner, and take important decisions with regard to your family. This is a good week for family reunions and to bask in the bliss of love and relations.

Lucky number 5
Lucky colour Dark Grey/ Grey
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Change is inevitable. You will seek spiritual answers that have eluded you for some time. This week you will experience high energy and self-confidence. You may plan a vacation or time out in nature. Someone new and exciting will make a move in your direction. Be prepared for a surprise. Relax as everything is under control. Career-wise you will be exerting yourself for a job change. Those in arts fields could collaborate for the first time on a project that will give a boost to your career. Good opportunities are coming your way. Promote your ideas. Make sure to seek intelligent advice before accepting an invitation. Romance is likely to be bloom this week. Extension in the family, the birth of child or news of conception is indicated.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Monday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Correct your own weaknesses

It is in human nature to improve one's lot, which tempts one to look towards a better tomorrow. So, invariably we begin life with high hopes and aspirations. Accordingly, we set our dream destination. Dreams are necessary for reaching heights one is capable of, as they serve a focus to reach an objective. Since time immemorial the Moon fascinated and evoked man's curiosity, seen every day — yet unknown. A longing to know and understand it, led scientists to send man on the Moon. Yet, not everybody's dreams get fulfilled. Non-realisation often brings in frustrating experiences. Why? Are we so helplessly fated?

Not really, provided we optimally use our indwelling empowerment tools. Remember, we are all born carrying limitless potential, which if unfolded would know no limits. The paradox, however, is that major part of our mind-power remains untapped, as it remains clouded by lot of inherent limitations. Truth be told — ordinary mortals are hardly able to use five to seven percent of their mind power. The irony, however, is that even this, if judiciously used, can enable one to negotiate life with relative ease and comfort. Bear in mind; even people like

Einstein are said to have used just 10 to 14 percent of their mind-power to create history.

You need to strive to unfold your full potential. It may then spontaneously lead you through. You may then discriminate between 'What you want' and 'What is worth' before you take any call. Also, you would be able to put forward your best foot. So, the real challenge is to overcome limitations of our mind and expand its outreach. The way forward is to get into self-search mode. The process helps identify, acknowledge and then rise above the limitations of mind.

It is pertinent to note here that we seldom remain conscious about invoking one's most profound empowerment tool — *Buddhi* (the faculty of discriminate intelligence) — before jumping into action. Not to say anything about getting over the limitation of mind. And *buddhi* won't come into play by itself. Consequently, we blindly submit ourselves to indwelling desire trends, coming as they may with karmic imprints carried over from the past. We neither try to figure out whether the desires pursued are worth it or not, nor do we care whether we are geared up for the



purpose. When we meet failure, either we try to shift the blame on others, or our destiny. Truth, however, remains that we do not strive sufficiently to unfold the immense power within. So said Swami Vivekananda: "The history of the world is the history of few men who had faith in themselves. Faith calls out divinity within. You can do anything. You fail because you have not sufficiently strived to unfold immense power within."

Here is the case of someone, who came asking the other day: "Sir, since last year, I am having a tough time both in terms of career as well as my personal life. I get lot of offers but at the last moment, they all fizzle out. I am afraid, those envious of me have been playing foul with my life. My wife is self-centric and is least bothered about my sensibilities and concerns. The worst is she discourages me from pursuing spirituality. When do you think the situation may change?"

Don't try to rationalise peculiar beliefs you carry, coming as it may with Jupiter ill-disposed off to Neptune. Before blaming others, better identify, acknowledge, and address your own fault lines, and things will change sooner than later. Look at your astrological

pointers. You are born in Aries *lagna*, with its lord Mars, erratic *Rahu* and the Sun firmly placed in *lagna bhava* itself. That makes you, impulsive, aggressive, arrogant, irritable, intolerant, and impatient. You wish to live in a demanding mode, expecting from all others to follow your dictates. You have the tendency to jump into action without applying proper forethought. If that would not be enough, both the luminaries, the Sun and Moon as well as Mercury, all locked in adverse formation to Uranus, makes you self-willed, tactless, eccentric, and opinionated. Mercury ill-disposed off to Saturn and Moon, brings in a rigid one-track mind, and makes you resentful of others. Moon placed adverse to Saturn brings in a negative mindset. Also, you would be jealous and over critical of others. Let me add here that the calling of spirituality is to first set the thought process right, which doesn't anyway reflect in your conduct. It means you are simply hallucinating over your illusionary perceptions.

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