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SHOT DURING ARREST

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TO BORROW, INVEST IN ECONOMY

IN THIRD ODI TODAY



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USUALSUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Bottled up feeling triggered CAA stir he term 'tyranny of distance' has come to define what is

peddled as news, what is regarded as important and what is relegated to a footnote. In simple terms, it means that happenings in the metros — and more specifically, Delhi is accorded exceptional treatment while those in the hinterland gets pushed to the margins. There is also a regional bias: North India and the Hindi belt gets more attention than the rest of the country. For example, the quantum of coverage of elections in Uttar Pradesh and maybe. Bihar is disproportionate.

This particular feature of what is disseminated as news and what determines the hierarchy of news has a large bearing on how the recent wave of protests against the changes in the Citizenship Act and a yet-to-be-defined National Register of Citizens is being perceived.

Chronology may serve as an important guide. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill cleared its final parliamentary hurdle on the evening of December 11, 2019. Even while the debate was underway in Parliament there were protests against the CAB in different parts of Assam and the North East. Although the protests were by and large peaceful, they were also anticipated. Even during the sittings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the CAB in 2018, the most vocal opposition to the measure had come from civil society groups in Assam, Meghalaya and even Arunachal Pradesh Their concerns centred broadly on two themes: The reality of demographic change triggered by the influx from East Pakistan/Bangladesh and concerns over the cultural and linguistic identities of the region. Many of these concerns were addressed by the exemptions to the CAB in the modified legislation passed by Parliament. However, some misgivings persisted although the attempts by some radical leaders to exploit these to created civil unrest were firmly nipped in the bud. Today, Assam and the North-East are gradually returning to normal. Last week there was even a large pro-CAB rally in Assam organised by Assam's Finance

Triple talaq, Article 370,

apex court verdict for

construction of Ram

temple among other

issues have triggered

this explosion

Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma

However, the protests took a very different turn on December 13 when the epicentre shifted to West Bengal. There are suggestions that this wave of protests were either instigated or organised by the Trinamool Congress However even if it is

conceded that the role of the TMC was tangential and the protests were either spontaneous or stemmed from community organisations, some features were clear Beginning from December 13 when crowds blocked the streets in and around Kolkata after the Friday prayers, the hecame large Muslim in character the pattern on the next two days when mobs in the districts vandalised railway property and burnt more than a dozen buses plying on the highways. The police response to the attacks was either feeble or non-existent and it was soon clear that the TMC had little control over the crowds Anecdotal evidence suggests that a large part of the crowds that engaged in vandalism was made up of Muslims who many described as the 'infiltrators' from Bangladesh who

had settled in the areas over the past two decades

Whether the protests in West Bengal was the trigger for the next round of protests in Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia and the Aligarh Muslim University is still uncertain. My guess is that the same networks that operated in West Bengal got to work in these two institutions that are predominantly Muslim in character. However, while the administration in West Bengal chose to not confront the protesters, the Delhi Police went overboard and probably overdid things, quite impervious to the fact that everything gets filmed these days and is disproportionately covered by the media. That being the case, the police action in Jamia became the focus for a larger mobilisation that now included liberals, Left radicals and sundry others looking for a stick to beat the Government with

This shift is important to note. What began as a Muslim protest and still remains essentially a Muslim protest against its growing political irrelevance under the Narendra Modi dispensation was embellished by the inclusion of all those who were smarting from the devastating defeat in the general elections of 2019. It is interesting to note that the notables and media activists who have taken the lead in fanning the flames and conferring respectability to a sectarian uprising are exactly those who were in the forefront of the anti-Modi campaign during the general election. There is no difference and no new social groups have been added to the protesters

Where the liberals and Left activists are in short supply as in Kanpur. Gorakhpur and Mangalore — note, all the areas located in States where the BJP controls State Governments — the protests have been concentrated in Muslim areas. This is not to suggest that the Government's response should only be dictated by political calculations. However, it is best to also acknowledge the real nature of the protests. It is principally one community taking out its anger on a State that it is detached from emotionally and politically

It is also prudent to also recognise that the Citizenship Act changes or even the fear of a future NRC constitute the only grievance. There is a bottled up feeling inside the Muslim community over its helplessness to thwart the changes in the Muslim Personal Law after the Triple Talag legislation, the abrogation of Kashmir's special status and the Supreme Court's sanction for the construction of the Ram temple. All these issues have come together in the past week to trigger this explosion

How the Government proposes to tackle this volatile situation is worth a serious consideration. There are also issues centred on any future NRC that warrants rigorous exploration. However, any approach cannot ignore the grim and awkward reality of India's largest minority group having taken to the streets, expressing anger at their loss of their strategic importance in national life. This is a matter between the Government and the Muslim community; the liberals are incidental extras, those Lenin once dubbed the 'useful

Citizenship stir toll at 15 in UP

Police post torched in Kanpur, 57 cops receive gunshot injuries; internet curbs extended in 15 dists till Monday



A vehicle torched by protesters during a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Act in Kanpur on Saturday

PNS LUCKNOW

The death toll in continuing clashes during protests in Uttar Pradesh against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) rose to 15, including an eight-year-old, on Saturday even as violence erupted in Rampur and Kanpur.

The Yogi Adityanath Government, for its part, initiated the process of identifying those guilty of damaging public property in Lucknow and tasked four Additional District Magistrates with the disposal of cases related to the losses.

UP DGP, OP Singh, reiterated that the police did not open fire anywhere in the State and claimed all deaths were due to cross-firing between the

protesters. "Women and children were used as shields by the protesters. If anyone died due to our fire we will conduct a judicial enquiry and take action. But nothing happened from our side," the DGP said. IG (Law and Order)

Praveen Kumar said over 260 policemen were also injured, of whom 57 received gunshot wounds. "Since December 10, when the protests erupted in the State, 705 people have been arrested and around 4,500 persons were released after preventive arrest. Fifteen casualties have happened," he said.

Politics over the CAA, however, continued with the Trinamool Congress announcing the visit of a four-member party delegation to meet the families of those who were killed in violence that broke out during the protest in

The Home Department extended internet restrictions till Monday noon in 15 districts of Lucknow, Saharanpur, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Agra, Aligarh, Bareilly, Mau, Azamgarh, Agra, Sambhal, Kanpur, Unnao, Moradabad, and Prayagraj. In 12 other districts where internet was stopped, a decision to further restrict the services would be taken by respective District Magistrates.

The bandobast and UP CM's renewed appeal for peace notwithstanding, protesters set ablaze Yatimkhana police post in Kanpur and indulged

in heavy brick-batting, leading to injuries to many people including policemen. Police used canecharge and tear gas to chase them away. Clashes were also reported from Rampur district.

Samajwadi Party MLA Amitabh Bajpai and former MLA and SP leader Kamlesh Tewari have been arrested as a precautionary measure and their vehicles have also been seized. On the composition of protesters, the UP DGP said, "I myself saw women and young girls present during protests at Parivartan Chowk in Lucknow and asked them to go. A child died in a stampede in Varanasi where children were present with the protesters when police lathi charged them. These children do not know what citizenship is and they were present with stones.

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Sonia, RaGa to sit on dharna at **Rajghat today**

New Delhi: On a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to address a rally in Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, the Congress will stage a silent protest (satyagraha dharna) at Rajghat against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC). Congress president Sonia Gandhi along with Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior leaders will participate in the "satyagraha dharna" till the

Rail, traffic disruption, vandalism mark Bihar Bandh called by RJD



PNS NEW DELHI

After Uttar Pradesh, it was Bihar's turn to witness large-scale vandalism and disruption of rail and road traffic on Saturday. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supporters blocked roads and disrupted movement of trains at different places in the State during the "Bihar Bandh" call given by it against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and National Register for Citizens (NRC). West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya were relative-

ly peaceful. Hundreds of RJD supporters — among whom children of not more than 10-15 years of age and some of the agitators in their underwear could also be seen carrying bamboo sticks and party flags. The bandh supporters gathered at bus stands, railway tracks and other vantage points the winter fog and chilly winds. They sat down on railway tracks and blocked bus terminuses at various places to enforce the day-long bandh. In Patna, the protesters reached Dak Bungalow "chowraha" (intersection) and

in all districts of the State since

the crack of dawn, unfazed by

blocked traffic while raising anti-Government slogans. The supporters also pelted stones at Government buses, breaking glass windows.

The protesters smashed windshields of taxis and threewheelers and damaged cyclerickshaws that plied on the roads in defiance of the call for the shutdown in Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur and outskirts of Patna. Schools, colleges and most Government offices remained closed as it was a

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Support pours in for Act: Over 1K 'academics' sign statement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 1,100 academics and research scholars from various universities across India and abroad as well as prominent persons released a statement in support of the amended Citizenship Act on

The signatories to the statement include Rajya Sabha member Swapan Dasgupta, IIM Shillong Chairman Shishir Bajoria, Nalanda University Vice-Chancellor Sunaina Singh, JNU professor Ainul Hasan, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies Senior Fellow Abhijit Iyer-Mitra and journalist Kanchan Gupta.

The statement comes in the amid of countrywide protests against the new citizenship law. Turn to Page 4

BJP plans outreach to expose 'Opp lies'

Will contact over 3 cr families, hold rallies in every dist over next 10 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of countrywide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the BJP on Saturday announced a massive public outrooch to massive public outreach to expose the "lies" being spread by Opposition parties and apprise the people of the details about the legislation. The BJP will contact over three graph formulaes. tact over three crore families and hold rallies in every district over the next 10 days.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by BJP working president JP Nadda and convened to formulate the party's strategy over the issue amid protests in various parts of the country against the Act

and the proposed creation of a
National Register of Citizens.
Party general secretary
Bhupender Yadav told reporters
that the BJP will organise rallies in every district and hold
over 250 Press conferences across the country to inform masses about the new law.

The new law seeks to give citizenship to minorities from three neighbouring countries, who arrived in India before December 2014 due to religious persecution. He also accused Opposition parties, especially the Congress, of spreading misinformation in a bid to disturb peace across the country during recent protests which have claimed several lives. Yadav said the party will also involve beneficiaries of the amended law in its information campaign about the statute.

27 arrested for Daryaganj, Seemapuri violence in Delhi **Capital sees many**

demonstrations. students protest outside Jamia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Saturday witnessed multiple peaceful protests throughout the day. The situation in Old Delhi and Seemapuri areas which were hit by violence during protests against the Citizen Amendment Act (CAA) saw heavy deployment of security personnel in the area.

The Delhi Police arrested 27 people in connection with the violence that took place in Daryaganj and Seemapuri areas. Police has arrested 16



Protesters hold placards as they raise slogans during a demonstration against the CAA outside Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi on Saturday Ranjan Dimri I Pionee

people, including Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar, in connection with the violence that took place in Daryaganj on Friday evening and 11 were arrested from Seemapuri.

Thousands of students of Jamia Millia Islamia on Saturday staged a demonstration yet again outside the cam-

The protesters were joined by women, Jamia alumni and local residents. Some protests against the CAA were also observed at India Gate, Jantar

Mantar and Rajghat.

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CAPSULE

MAHA GOVT WAIVES FARM LOANS OF UP TO ₹2 LAKH

Nagpur: The Maharashtra Govt announced a loan waiver of up

to ₹2 lakh for farmers, with a cut

PM REVIEWS MINISTERS' WORK IN LAST 6 MONTHS

off date of Sept 30, 2019.

HC orders re-postmortem of 4 Hyd vet rape-murder accused

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Saturday directed the State Government to hold a re-post-mortem on the bodies of the four accused who were killed in an alleged encounter on December 6 in the veterinarian's gang-rape and murder case. The HC set December 23

as the deadline for the conduct of the second autopsy and submission of the report to the Registrar General of the High

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice RS Chauhan and Justice A Abhishek Reddy directed Telangana's Principal Secretary,



Department, to request the Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi to constitute a medical team with three forensic specialists to conduct the second postmortem. While it asked the State Government to videograph the entire process, it advised the doctors to express an independent view on the

basis of the evidence collected The bodies of the four

accused are currently preserved in the State-run Gandhi Hospital here as per earlier orders of the High Court, following the filing of some PILs alleging extra-judicial killing of the men and claiming it was a fake encounter among others. medical

Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital Dr Shravan Kumar told the High Court that the dead bodies of the accused half years, Raj was arrested by the CBI and after a 19-month were 50 per cent decomposed and would be decomposed of hearing, the special CBI court on Saturday sentenced completely in another week's him to death. The accused Rahul Kumar

Turn to Page 4

Nirbhaya gets death MRITUANJAY KUMAR RANCHI

Rapist-killer of Ranchi's

Ranchi's Nirbhaya, a 19-year-old engineering student, who was raped and killed by a "serial killer" in 2016, finally got justice on Saturday as a Special Court of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) awarded death sentence to the killer Rahul Raj.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on the convict. After escaping from investigating agencies for two and a

alias Rahul Raj was produced in the court and the Judge

Rahul Raj being taken away from a

Special CBI court in Ranchi on

announced his verdict in the presence of the accused. Special CBI Judge AK Mishra convicted Raj on

Turn to Page 4

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Saturday asked Ministers and bureaucrats to formulate various sectoral policies, including those of infrastructure and agriculture,

> NORTH INDIA REELS UNDER COLD WAVE New Delhi: Intense cold wave

of international standards.

conditions gripped north India, including Kashmir where snowfall in the upper reaches of the valley marked the beginning of "Chillai-Kalan" — the 40-day period of harshest winter.

SHOW TIME

Not a patch on the original



*ing: Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Kichcha Sudeep, Saiee Manjrekar, Arbaaz Khan, **Pramod Khanna** Rated: 6/10

lot is always expected when the film has Salman Khan. The audience expects him to be OTT and better himself with each of his projects. This is more so when it comes to the *Dabangg* series that began in 2010. In these nine years, people have come to expect that Bhai will not only be better with each of the sequences.

This means that each film has to have better action, better songs, better story, better item number and most importantly a better Salman Khan who will show his swagger that will appeal to the masses. One of course, can't forget that Bhai has to take off his shirt!

Dabangg 3 manages to deliver on some count and on some counts it fails miserably.

Let's see the good first. The item song Munna badnaam hua — will definitely bring

back the reverse song to which Malaika Arora had taken a patent. Salman Khan's hand continues to down the baddies with just a single punch. His signature Chulbul Pandey grin is still there. The other good is that he has

What is not good is Kichcha Sudeep as the villain. He is not a patch on Sonu Sood. Then there is a back story that drags for almost half hour; it film could have done without it.

lost weight and the leaner meaner look is good

Even Sonakshi Sinha has lost weight and looks

good. Pramod Khanna who stepped into Vinod

Khanna's shoes as Prajapati Pandey makes one

The other songs in the movie are not worth humming. There are some glaring bloopers. We all know that Pandey's relationship only got better towards the very end of Dabangg. Here, they show that the two are best buddies in the back story. One can't have glaring mistakes in a Dabangg franchise. Sadly, this one is not a patch on the

original. is there a Dabangg 4? Maybe.

Hope you tuned in

original thriller series starring Arjun Rampal, Neeraj Kabi, Javed Jaffrey, Sakshi Tanwar, Anupriya Goenka and Vipin Sharma. When Captain Karan Sachdev, the pilot of Skyline flight 502, decides to end his life by committing suicide, he puts the lives of over 250 passengers in danger. Airline officer Kiran Mirza, along with the ATS team, swing into action to save the passengers on board.

Rewind 2019

Kaafir: A ZEE5 original Series starring Dia Mirza and Mohit Raina is based on

a true story and it

encompasses the journey of a

young Pakistani mother who

comes to India under unusual

circumstances and is unable to

go back home. The series

revolves around the

relationship between this

woman, accused of militancy,

and her lawyer who makes her

Auto Shankar: Auto

Shankar a Tamil Original

Series starring Sarath Appani,

Selvapandian, Rajesh Dev,

Vasudha and others . The

story is based on horrifying

true incidents that happened

between 1985-1995 in

Chennai, still remembered as

Once upon a time in Madras.

ZEE5 original film starring

Amit Sadh, Manjari Fadnnis,

and Aarvan Menghji. Inspired

by real-life events, the story

revolves around the loving

Barot family whose happiness

is short-lived after their

daughter is found brutally murdered in the house, under

mysterious circumstances

Barot House: Again a

justice his sole objective.

Mere Dad Ki Dulhan: Introducing a progressive content, the show revolves around an unconventional father-daughter duo in a relatable coming-of-age story, where a daughter is on a mission to find a companion for her single father. The hits for the show, which garnered maximum impression, was the comeback of Shweta Tiwari after three years on Indian TV. Another feather on the cap of the show wasthe fresh pair of veterans — Varun Badola and Shweta Tiwari, along with the introduction of the talented debutante Anjali



Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein: Another clutter breaking show, Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein, successfully made its way for its concept driven content, which portrayed the story of a hearing-impaired boy named Yogi. What makes Yogi unique is not his hearing impairment, but his normalcy in maneuvering life's daily humdrums enthusiastically,

with a smile on his face. The hit for the show was coupling veteran actors — Sulbha Ārya, Sudhir Pandey, Kiran Karmarkar, Swati Shah with fresh faces- Mudit Nayar, Simran Pareenja and Debattama Saha.

Brooklyn Nine-Nine: The show that put Comedy Central on the top of the charts, is one of the best shows of streaming on the channel. Packed with a truckload of laughter and bag full of fun, the police department of the 99th precinct won our hearts. Amy and Jonah's beautiful wedding gave all the fans the moment they were waiting for. With a new season coming up soon, there is so much more this show has to offer to its fans.



The Big Bang Theory: While it all started with the four geeky scientists arguing about their credibility, it ended with Howard as a father, Sheldon winning the Nobel prize, penny announcing she's pregnant and Raj breaking up with his fiancé. But finds someone he can reignite his romantic side with as the iconic broken elevator is finally fixed! Airing on Comedy Central, the show has broken the record of the longest running sitcom and won our hearts with their unusual charm.

Suits: Giving us countless memories and also a royal wedding, the show has been a delight for the fans of all age groups. With characters that

will remind you of people from your own workplace, Mike and Harvey showcased a friendship we all crave for in our lives. While it broke our hearts when Meghan left the show to get married, her becoming a member of the Royal family made us equally happy and a little hopeful of seeing her again in the finale. Though the final season that aired on Colors Infinity did not include her, it gave us the wedding we all anticipated every season since

the beginning.

Friends: The iconic show that started 25 years ago, is still loved across ages. The show that has earned the love of millions around the globe, celebrated its 25th anniversary with Comedy Central India. No matter who you are, you'll always find a part of you that resembles with either of the six famous friends. Whether it is Joey's love for food, Chandler's jokes, Rachel's fashion or Monica's cleaning OCD. We all have a friend or friends just like them whom we can never let go.

Batwoman: The muchawaited show premiered on Colors Infinity right after the international premier and created a buzz around it. The show garnered positive reviews and a fan following like no other new show on television. After the infamous vigilante hero, Batman, takes off, Kate Kane, his cousin returns and takes over. She becomes the symbol of hope as Batwoman for the citizens of Gotham.



NEW FACES ON BLOCK

Kamna Pathak who plays Rajesh. wife of daroga Happu Singh in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan.





Megha Ray who Kajal in Zee TV's Dil Yeh Ziddi Hai



Daina

Khan,

Shayra in

TV's Bahu



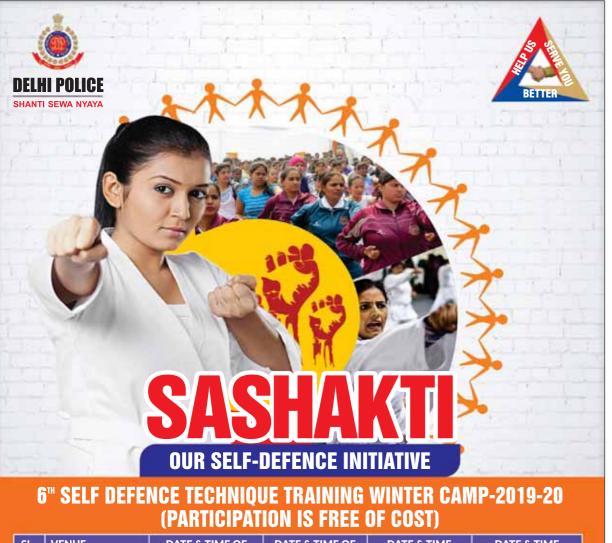


Sarrdaarn





Chahat Tewani, who plays Kesari in





09.00 am

11.00 am

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11.15 am

06.01.2020

11.15 am

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06.01.2020

11.30 am

07.01.2020

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04.00 pm

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Jamia students continue anti-CAA stir

 $S_{
m Millia}^{
m cores}$ of students of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) on Saturday staged a demonstration yet again outside the university campus against the controversial Citizen Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC). The protesters were joined by women, JMI alumni and local residents.

On Saturday morning at JMI, the demonstration was started by woman and girls students of the university outside their campus gate and later they were joined by several other students of the university as well as alumni. The protesters were seen chanting slogans such as "ladke lenge azadi" (get independence after fighting) and [†]Inquilab Zindabaď'.

As protesting crowd swelled by minutes, the women students specifically asked them not to use abusive or unparliamentary language during the protest. JMI has been at the forefront of the protest against the citizenship law.

"Students of Jamia are in favour of peaceful protest and they don't have intention to do any violence. The protest is there for last one week. Our protest will continue in peace-



Protesters hold placards during a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) outside Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi on Saturday Ranian Dimri I Pioneer

ful manner till the Centre Jamia. Government revokes the CAA," said a student of Jamia.

"Our struggle will continue till the act is taken back. We, with help of locals in the area are managing traffic. We are also demanding action against police personnel who brutally lathi charged innocent students," said a PHD scholar in

Shaheen Abdulla, a journalism student in JMI said that we are protesting peacefully but we, including women, were attacked by police with tear gases and lathis and now remembering the police brutality we faced we won't step down until and unless there is action against police and revocation of the CAA.

"A joined committee of students and some university faculty has been formed and no political leader is in our protest. The joined committee member ensures the streets are clean and traffic flow is smooth. We have initiated the protest against the CAA and we will continue if it takes another four years,"

Participating in the protest, 76-year-old woman, Nafiz Ikram said, "You all are leading a movement against what is wrong. Don't step back. Don't get scared of police. You are the real police who are fighting to protect our Constitution".

A protester, who had come from Bihar to join the protest, said, "The rich have proof of their identity or they will procure it somehow. How will the labourers and workers, who migrate from UP and Bihar, manage to get the proof?"

Students also took out a march against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. Some former students of the university came to the spot with their children.

"I am with students of this country. What happened at Jamia Millia last week was unpardonable. My son is here carrying a poster and I want my son to grow up in a secular nation and not a biased country," said an alumnus, who had brought his five-year-old son to the protest venue.

On Sunday, the police had entered the varsity campus to look for 'outsiders' who were involved in violence and arson during a protest against the CAA, a few metres away from the campus.

mosque. "He came outside Jama

Chanakyapuri since he said he was unwell. He was later handed over to the central district police," said a senior police offi-

"Following his arrest, he police official.

Bhim Army chief arrested

Sent to 14-day judicial custody

STAFF REPORTER ■

⊓he Delhi Police on Saturday arrested Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar and 15 others in connection with the violence that took place in Daryaganj in Old Delhi on Friday evening during a protest against the newly introduced Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Police said that they have also arrested 11 people in connection with the violence at Seemapuri.

All 27 accused were on Saturday produced before a local court which has sent them to 14-days judicial custody. The court also denied bail to all the accused.

Bhim Army, a political outfit, had organised a march from Jama Masjid to Jantar Mantar on Friday against the new Citizenship Law, despite not having permission from police. On Friday evening, after security personnel tried to detain Chandra Shekhar during the march, he surfaced inside the mosque. He had given the Delhi police a slip to reach the

Masjid early on Saturday and was detained. He was arrested later. After being detained, Chandra Shekhar was kept at the Crime Branch office in

was taken to a hospital for a medical check-up and will be produced in a court. Police suspect he instigated the crowd which turned violent near Delhi Gate and burnt a car," said a



Meanwhile, Delhi Police have also arrested 15 men in connection with the violence in Daryaganj and they have been charged with rioting and using force to deter policemen from doing duty.

The accused have been identified as Ashfaq, Irfauddin, Abbas, Athar, Atif, Shabbir Ahmad, Danish Malik, Rehan Khan, Haider Ali, Zaid, Furkan, Danish, Shamsher Shan, Mohd Ali and Aamir. Police said that they were produced in court today which has sent them to 14 days judicial custody.

The protesters marching towards Jantar Mantar from Jama Masjid were stopped by police and paramilitary personnel near Delhi Gate, after which they turned violent and set a car on fire and damaged a few other vehicles. Police resorted to lathi-charge and used a water cannon to control the sit-

On Friday, Aazad had urged his supporters to carry on the protest against the contentious law peacefully. "Those who are indulging in violence are not our people. Our peaceful protest continues at the his-Jama Ambedkarites do not indulge in violence," he had tweeted

In Northeast Delhi, 11 people have been arrested for allegedly hurling stones during a protest in Seemapuri against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in which an additional deputy commissioner of police was injured, police said on Saturday.

Police said that the Additional DCP, Shahdara district, Rohit Rajbir Singh suffered minor injuries in the incident and he is fine now.

"Five 'outsiders' from neighbouring areas were detained in connection with the incident and later they were arrested. It is suspected that they had come with an intention to create mischief. Six more were arrested by police for rioting," said a police

DELHI WAQF BOARD TO GIVE ₹5.5L EACH TO KIN OF THOSE KILLED DURING ANTI-CAA PROTESTS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Waqf Board on Saturday announced that it will give a financial assistance of `5.5 lakh each to the families of those killed during violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Board chairman Amanatullah Khan, also an AAP MLA, in a Facebook post claimed that several people were killed in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka's Mangalore during protests against the CAA and NRC, due to "police bullets". He sought details of the people killed in the protests, saying their "sacrifices" will not be futile.

City Govt signs MoU with HP for water supply

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

To meet its water demands, To meet its water definition on the Delhi Government on Saturday signed an Inter - State cooperation MoU with the Himachal Pradesh Government. The MoU states that the Government of Himachal Pradesh will provide regular daily supply of 368 cusecs from November to February and 268 cusecs from March to June every year.

Elaborating the project,



Government official said after creation of the upstream storages the supply shall be upgraded to 421 cusecs throughout the year.

According to Government officials, there are places in Himachal where a lot of snow fall is happening for quite some years and therefore exploring the opportunities of snow harvesting for the first time and this particular project also incentivises our activities that we can think of even protecting or harvesting more and more water in different forms

The MoU was signed by

Dr RN Batta, Secretary Himachal Pradesh and Manisha Saxena, Principal Secretary (Urban Dvelopment) while Delhi Jal Board, CEO Nikhil Kumar was there.

Nikhil Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), DJB said, " As we all know, without water there can be no life and with the growing population trend, water scarcity is a challenging issue for the entire country. Water is one resource which is finite and irreplaceable, keeping that in mind; I feel that the MoU that we are signing today will be a trend setter as far as the country is concerned." "We are very appreciative of the initiatives and efforts taken by the Himachal Government in it. Further, this can set a benchmark for other states in the country to come together and try and formalise such understanding and agreements where excess and surplus water can be



CONGRATULATIONS KARAWAL NAGAR!

MODERNIZATION WORK BEGINS OF 'BUND DRAIN'

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY

Sunday, 22 December 2019 at 4pm Pusta Number 3, Sonia Vihar, Delhi

Chief Guest:

ARVIND KEJRIWAL Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour:

SATYENDAR JAIN Irrigation and Flood Control Minister, Delhi



Tight security for PM's rally North India reels under cold wave

CCTV on all routes leading to venue, snipers atop buildings

New Delhi: Elaborate security arrangements have been made for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally on Sunday at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, which is a little over a kilometre away from Old Delhi's Daryaganj that was hit by violence on Friday during the protest against the Citizenship Act.

According to sources, senior officials remained in huddle till 5 am on Saturday to discuss the security arrangements. In the meeting, among other things, it was decided that social media should be monitored to stop rumour-mongering, especially in the wake of ongoing protests against the contentious legislation.

Checking of vehicles has been stepped up on border

lous" elements do not enter the national capital to disrupt the rally, sources said.

A multilevel security arrangement will be in place on Sunday, with CCTV surveillance of all the routes leading to the venue and snipers being positioned atop buildings to ensure security, they said.

The Delhi Police is in close touch with the SPG and the Bharatiya Janata Party for the security arrangements during the programme.

The Delhi BJP has also deployed volunteers as part of its security arrangements for

In a statement, senior BJP leader Vijay Goel said preparations for the rally, which is being organised to thank PM Modi for giving ownership rights to 40 lakh residents of 1731 unauthorised colonies, are in full swing.

A total of 11 lakh signatures by residents of unauthorised colonies will be handed over to Prime Minister Modi as a thank you gesture, he said.

arrangements at the venue, said more than two lakh people are expected to attend the rally which will be dominated by youths and women.

Cutouts of PM Modi, BJP president and Home Minister Amit Shah and Working President JP Nadda have been put up around Ramlila Maidan.

This rally will also symbolise that after winning seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, the BJP is in full-swing in preparations for Delhi Legislative Assembly elections as well," Goel said

He said that LED screens have been installed at several

Outside the premises, peo-from Uttrakhand, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will be playing dhol.

The BJP has majorly focused on unauthorised colonies in this rally because this will become a big issue in upcoming Delhi elections. A tableau of unauthorised colony has been installed too. PTI

Harshest winter period begins in Kashmir

PNS NEW DELHI

Intense cold wave conditions on Saturday gripped north India, including Kashmir where snowfall in the upper reaches of the valley marked the begin-ning of 'Chillai-Kalan' — the 40-day period of harshest win-

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the snowfall in Kashmir began early on Friday and continued through the night. Chillai-Kalan, which began on Saturday, is the period when the chances of snowfall in Kashmir are the highest and the maximum temperature drops con-

The ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir received 5 cm of snowfall and the mercury settled at a low of minus 9.6 degrees Celsius on Friday night.

Pahalgam, which serves as other areas in the upper reachone of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, received 21 cm

minus 3 degrees Celsius. Qazigund in south Kashmir received 38.5 cm of snowfall and the mercury settled at a low of minus zero degrees Celsius.

minimum temperature of

es of the valley receiving snowfall, the MeT department said.

The weather in most of snowfall and recorded a plains, including Srinagar, remained largely dry during the night after fresh snowfall earlier in the day on Friday. Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.4 degree Celsius on Friday night.

Leh district of Ladakh recorded a low of minus 9.5 degrees Celsius, while Drass

registered a low of minus 6 degrees Celsius, the officials

The early morning sun appeared in Jammu and other parts of the region after clouds shrouded it out for the past five days, providing much needed relief to the people from the bone-chilling cold.

The highway town of Banihal, which received 1.5 cm of fresh snow, was the coldest place in Jammu region with a low of minus 0.5 degrees Celsius. He said Jammu city

recorded a minimum of 6.8 degrees Celsius - a dip of 1.4 degrees below the previous day. Biting cold persisted in

most parts of Punjab and Haryana with Bathinda being the coldest at 5.6 degrees Celsius.

A thick blanket of fog enveloped several parts of both the states, including Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Bathinda, Hisar, Karnal and Sirsa.

The minimum temperature in Amritsar, Ludhiana and Patiala was recorded at 6.6, 7 three notches above normal, respectively.

In Haryana, Ambala, Hisar and Karnal braved cold wave conditions at 8.3, 8 and 9.6 degrees Celsius. The minimum

temperature in Narnaul, Rohtak

and Sirsa settled at 7.8, 9.2 and

6.9 degrees Celsius. Chandigarh recorded a low of 8.6 degree Celsius, up by two degrees above the season's aver-

Parts of the desert state of Rajasthan witnessed a marginal increase in the minimum temperature. Ganganagar was the coldest place in the state recording a low of 6.1 degrees Celsius, it said.

The minimum temperature in Alwar, Vanasthali (Tonk), Pilani, Sikar and Jaipur was 8.2, 8.6, 9.4, 10 and 10.1 degrees Celsius respectively.

Some higher reaches of Himachal Pradesh received fresh snowfall whereas rain occurred at some places in the state, where Keylong was the coldest place at minus 6.4 degrees Čelsius.

New Govt in Maha announces new farm loan waiver scheme

Government on Saturday announced a loan waiver of upto ₹2 lakh for farmers, with a cut off date of September 30, 2019.

The 'Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme' of the newly formed Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition regime comes over two years after the ₹34,000 crore loan waiver announced by the then BJP-Sena Government in 2017. Chief Minister Uddhav

Thackeray made the announcement in the Legislative Assembly here on the last day of the winter session of the legislature.

"Crop loans outstanding till September 30, 2019, will be waived by my Government. The upper ceiling for the amount is ₹2 lakh. The scheme will be called

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule loan waiver scheme," Thackeray

Besides, a special scheme would be offered for the farmers who repay their loans on time, he said

Finance Minister Jayant Patil said the waiver would be unconditional, and details would be communicated by the Chief Minister's office in There was no word on

how much financial burden the new scheme would put on ed. the state treasury. Speaking at a press con-

ference after the session was over, chief minister Thackeray said, "The scheme will require minimum documentation and will be hassle-free.

"A film will be made for farmers' better understanding of the procedure for loan waiver...Nobody will have to stand in long queues, unllike the loan waiver scheme of the previous Government," he

Jayant Patil said those who want to avail of waiver will need to approach their bank only with Aadhaar card. "Bank officials would take

the person's thumb print and the Government will transfer the amount to the loan account of the farmer," he said, adding that no online form submission will be need-

MPs, state legislators and Government employees will not receive the benefit of loan waiver, Patil said, adding that the scheme will cover farmers who cultivate fruit trees and sugarcane as well as conventional crops.

In the Assembly, Leader of Devendra Opposition

Government had not fulfilled its original promise of full loan waiver.

He also questioned the Government's failure to give assistance of ₹25,000 per hectare to farmers who suffered losses due to unseasonal rain, a demand which Thackeray himself had made before he became

Fadnavis and other BJP MLAs then staged a walk out in protest. Later, speaking to reporters, Fadnavis alleged that the scheme will benefit very few farmers as most of them were already covered by his Government's 2017 sce-

The Government had cheated farmers as it was not offering a full

loan waiver, he said, announcing an agitation over

Amid CAA protests, three Hindus from Pak get citizenship in Gujarat

PTI ■ MORBI (GUJ)

Even as protests continue Lagainst the Citizenship Amendment Act across the country, a Gujarat Lok Sabha MP on Saturday handed out citizenship certificates to three members of a Hindu family who came to India from Pakistan seeking refuge over a decade ago.

Rajkot Lok Sabha MP Mohan Kundariya handed out the certificates to Harsinh Sodha, Sarupsinh Sodha and Parbatsinh Sodha, who came to India in 2007, at a function held in Vavdi village in Morbi.

Kundariya said a thousand such Hindu refugees who are residing in Morbi would soon get citizenship, thanks to the CAA passed by Narendra Modi Government.

'There are over a thou-

sand such persons from Pakistan who are residing in Morbi. Due to the new law (CAA), they will eventually get citizenship. Today, three of a family were handed out certificates under rules framed by

and State Governments," he said. One of the beneficiaries, Harsinh Sodha, said it was a very happy day for him and the Government.

"We had come to India from Pakistan in 2007. Today we have become Indian citizens. It is a very proud and happy day for us. We are thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modiji and (Union Home Minister) Amit Shahji for this," he said.

He added the CAA was a "matter of great relief and assurance for Hindus from neighbouring countries who have fled to India".

According to CAA, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 and facing religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immigrants, and be given

Larger Bench of SC to hear Sabarimala review petitions in January

NEW DELHI: The Sabarimala review petitions will be heard by a sevenjudge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court in January 2020.

On December 13, the Supreme Court had said that its 2018 order on Sabarimala temple issue was "not final" as the matter is pending before a seven-judge bench, which, it had said, will be constituted soon.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde had made these observations while passing an order on a petition filed by two activists — Bindu Ammini and Fathima A S — seeking safe passage for women inside the shrine.

There is a judgment [allowing women entry] in the Sabarimala temple, but it is equally true that the issue has been referred to a larger Bench. We do not want any violence," the court had observed.

HC orders re-postmortem of 4 Hyd vet rape-murder accused The court directed the the bodies of the four were The commission, a

special investigation team appointed by the State

Government to preserve evidence of weapons used by the police and those allegedly used by the accused during the lets used, the log reports containing the details of the vehicles used and the details of the number of police personnel who took part in the encounter

have also to be seized. The Bench further directed that the State Government shall make all arrangements for the air travel of the medical team from AIIMS, for their accommodation and other facilities which would enable them to efficiently discharge the duty assigned to them.

On Friday, the Advocate

already subjected to postmortem as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court and hence there was no necessity for passing any order for a repostmortem.

ae D Prakash Reddy had contended the bodies were preserved under the directions of the High Court to consider the necessity of second postmortem and the Supreme Court also endorsed it.

The Supreme Court last week appointed a three-member Inquiry Commission headed by former apex court judge VS Sirpurkar to inquire into the circumstances leading to the encounter killing of the four accused in the gang-rape and murder of the veterinari-

The commission, also including former Bombay High Court judge Rekha Sondur Baldota and ex-CBI director DR Karthikeyan, will submit its report to the

> arrested on November 29 for allegedly raping and killing the woman veterinarian by smothering her and later burning her

Later on December 6, they were gunned down by police at Chattanpalli when they were taken to the site of offence for the reconstruction of the scene of crime as part of the investigation, near the culvert where the charred remains of the 25-year-old veterinarian were found on

Supreme Court in six months.

Support pours in for Act...

From Page 1 Students from various universities have also joined the agitation.

In the statement, the signatories society "to exercise restraint and refuse to fall into the trap of propaganda, communalism and anar-

"We also note with deep anguish that an atmosphere of fear and paranoia is being created in the country through deliberate obfuscation and fear-mongering, leading to violence in several parts of the country," the statement said.

Two weeks ago, over 1,000 scientists and scholars had signed a petition demanding that the Citizenship Amendment Bill in its current form be withdrawn, with

tried to move ahead to block

trains, a scuffle ensued between

them and the police personnel

for a while. There was, howev-

er, no untoward incident.

Protests were held at

Kumbakonam and other parts

Meanwhile, the situation in

The curfew imposed in

noted academician Pratap Bhanu Mehta saying the legislation will transform India into an "unconstitutional ethnocracy".

The petition had come after the

Lok Sabha had passed the Bill and before it was passed in the Rajya

Later, 600 artistes, writers, acaprinciples enshrined in the

The signatories to the statement congratulated Parliament for "standing up for forgotten minorities", 'upholding the civilisational ethos of India" and "providing a haven for those fleeing religious persecution".

The act fulfilled the long-stand-

Congress, CPI(M) etc., cutting across the ideological spectrum, had demanded grant of citizenship to religious minorities from Pakistan and Bangladesh, who mostly belonged to the Dalit castes, it

added.
"We also note with satisfaction that the concerns of the North-eastern States have been heard and are being addressed appropriately. We believe that CAA is in perfect sync with the secular Constitution of India as it does not prevent any per-

> statement said. Nor did it change the criteria of citizenship in any way; merely providing a special expedited redress, under special circumstances, for minorities fleeing religious persecution from three specific countries i.e Pakistan, Bangladesh and

try seeking Indian citizenship," the

Afghanistan, it added. "It does not in any way prevent Ahmadis, Hazaras, Baloch or any other denominations and ethnicities, from these same three countries, seeking citizenship through regular processes," the statement said.

Citizenship stir toll at

Warning that those who indulged in violence

Rail, traffic disruption, vandalism mark...

From Page 1
Patna ADG HQ, Jitendra Kumar, said, "As per compiled information from 38 districts in connection with today's 'Bihar Bandh' (called by RJD led alliance), there were 1,550 preventive arrests. 14 cases were registered in which 13 arrests

were made." Tejashwi Yadav, leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly and heir apparent of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, marched in a large procession from the party office in Bir



LOST & FOUND

is notified for the information that my original Oualification Examination Certificate of C.B.S.E Exam of 10th & 12th of the year 2010 & 2013 and Roll No. 2110223 & 2614753 issued by C.B.S.E has been actually lost. Name of the Candidate KARUNA RANI, ADD- B-379 Dabua Colony, Faridabad, Mob-981005317. PD(8722)C

Chand Patel Marg to Dak Bungalow crossing. In Hajipur (Vaishali), Jehanabad, Brah and Darbhanga, the supporters blocked the national highway and the Mahatma Gandhi Setu road bridge over the Ganga which connects Patna to north Bihar. Movement of trains in Darbhanga and Kaimur were disrupted.

In Muzaffarpur, the largest north Bihar town, RJD and Congress leaders sat on highways, major road and railway crossings to enforce the bandh. Reports of the bandh disrupting normal business and vehicular traffic have been received from Munger, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Jehanabad and Nawada as well. In Arrah, bandh supporters clashed with the police for preventing them from forcing vehicles to stop and shops to close. Train services were affected after RID activists squatted on railway tracks in Araria, Ara and East

The other 'mahagath-bandhan' (grand alliance) parties — the Congress, the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), the Vikashil Insaan Party and the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party — too extended their support to the bandh call.

M activists tried to block trains at the railway station but were foiled by the police, as protests continued in parts of Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, CPI Rajya Sabha MP Binoy Viswam and some party activists who staged a protest were detained. For his part, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said an inquiry will be conducted into the violence that rocked this coastal city during the anti-CAA protests, leaving two dead in police firing.

outfits affiliated to the CPI(M) including the Democratic Youth Federation of India, and Students

Federation of

India

attempted to

block trains

at the MGR

Central

Railway

Station com-

plex. As the

protesters

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Champaran districts.

of Tamil Nadu as well by various outfits including Islamic In Chennai, scores of CPI-Assam and West Bengal was normal while mobile internet services were restored in Meghalaya. The ban on mobile internet and mass messaging services, imposed on December 12 in the northeastern state, was lifted

Sadar and Lumdiengjri police station limits in Shillong was relaxed for 16 hours from 5 am on Saturday and no untoward incident was reported in these Down south in Chennai, areas in the past 24 hours, East Khasi Hills District Magistrate M W Nongbri said.

In Assam, protesters took out peaceful rallies against the CAÂ. The curfew imposed in Dibrugarh was relaxed for 16 hours since 6 am on Saturday as the law and order situation improved, they said. In Madhya Pradesh, at least 35 people have been arrested in

connection with Friday's violent

protests which left 20 police

personnel injured.

demicians, former judges and former bureaucrats had urged the Government to withdraw the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, terming it as "discriminatory, divi-

ing demand of providing refuge to persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the statement said. Ever since the failure of the Liaquat-Nehru Pact of 1950, various leaders and political parties such as the

27 arrested for Daryaganj, Seemapuri violence in Delhi

From Page 1

"Police had detained five outsiders from the neighbouring areas of Seemapuri. Subsequently, they were arrested. Six more persons were also arrested on charges of rioting, causing damage to public property and using force to deter police personnel from performing their duty," said the senior

Police said all the 27 accused were produced in court and the court has sent them to 14 days judicial custody. On Saturday, the area surrounding

Jama Masjid, where a large number of protesters gathered on Friday evening, was also quiet and businesses ran as usual. Manish Seth, secretary of Daryaganj Traders' Association, said all shops in the area opened on Saturday morning and there's no unrest. He said police have been keeping a tight vigil. A bookseller near Delhi Gate,

where a car was burned on Friday evening as protests turned violent, also lamented the ill-effects of the contentious citizenship law, saying people were not to be blamed for the agitations. "If I tell you I will take away your home tomorrow, and you know I am capable of doing it, will you sit quietly? Violence is not the answer to anything,

but you cannot expect people to not be

upset when their future is uncertain,"

Meanwhile in Seemapuri, where the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Rohit Rajbir Singh suffered minor injuries after protestors turned violent on Friday, police said that they arrested 11 people for the violence. A senior police officer from Shahdara district said situation was under control in the area. "Delhi Police personnel have dominated the area and are conducting flag marches since Friday evening to ensure that no untoward incident is reported," the police officer said.

In order to ensure that the situation remained under control, the police conducted flag marches in northeast Delhi and appealed to the locals to maintain peace. Senior police officers also interacted with the locals.

The police also reached out to the members of the peace committees in the area in order to maintain law and

Stone-pelting and incidents of violence were reported from Daryaganj in Old Delhi and Seemapuri in northeast part of the national capital on Friday On Friday, a clash between police and protesters had ensued in Daryaganj, prompting police to use water cannon on the agitators, some of whom had turned violent and set ablaze a car.

"Of the 75 districts in the State, one-fourth has

and defied the law. We had contacted religious leaders and they had promised that there would be peace but still protesters gathered and indulged in violence and at some places they fired with illegal weapons. After this, the police had no option but to resort to lathi charge and lob tear gas shells to disperse the unruly mob," the DGP said.

would not be let off, Singh said innocents have nothing to worry as arrests would be done only after proper enquiry. Noting that there is a role of 'outsiders' in the violence across UP, the DGP said members of political parties and NGOs were also be present in the protests. Asked about the possibility of the role of Bangladeshi nationals, Singh said investigations were on and the police was probing every angle.

Rapist-killer of Ranchi's Nirbhaya...

From Page 1

In this case, CBI had filed a charge sheet against the accused on September 19 this year. Charges were framed against Raj on October

the Capital city. Joined by students of other engineering colleges and locals, the protests termed the victim as "Ranchi's Nirbhaya". Judge, Mishra said in his judgment, "Rahul Kumar alias Rahul Raj convicted on the basis of charge sheet, documents, witnesses and the argu-

25, 2019. The case had triggered huge protests in

ments submitted by the CBI in the rape and murder of the engineering student. He said that Raj was found guilty under sections 302, 376, 449 and 201 of IPC for raping, murdering and erasing evidence. The CBI Special Court, Public Prosecutor, Rakesh Prasad said a student of Ramtahal Chaudhary Engineering College was murdered in a house near Booti More on the night of December 15 in 2016 after committing rape with her. "Her body was also burnt. On December 16, the father

case, but could not reach any conclusion," he added. "After this, the State Government recommended a CBI enquiry. The Government ordered the case to be investigated by the CBI. After registering the FIR on March 28, 2018 CBI started investigation to crack the case," said Prasad.

of the student lodged an FIR at Sadar Police Station

in Ranchi. The police and the CID investigated the

Speaking about the investigation completed by the CBI, the Government pleader said based on the forensic report, a charge sheet was filed in the Court accusing Raj for committing the rape and murder incident. "During the speedy trial, the CBI recorded the statement of 30 witnesses in just 16 days. No witnesses were produced on behalf of the accused in this case of murder and rape," said Prasad.

DECADES-LONG BOUNDARY ISSUE

India, China agree to maintain peace

PNS NEW DELHI

Sharing a disputed boundary for decades, India and China on Saturday agreed to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and stressed on approaching the boundary issue from the strategic perspective of bilateral ties.

The two sides also resolved to intensify efforts to achieve fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary or Line of Actual Control(LAC) question during the talks between National Security Advisor(NSA) Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang

They held parleys under the Special Representatives framework. This was the 22nd round of talks to resolve the disputed boundary of more than 3,500 km LAC stretching from Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

The Ministry of External Affairs later said the talks were constructive with focus on taking forward bilateral developmental partnership. There was consensus that both sides should respect each other's sensitivities and concerns, the Ministry said in a statement. Wang arrived here on Friday for the talks.

Both sides agreed that it is important to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and underlined the importance of approaching the boundary issue from strategic perspective of India-China ties, it said. The two sides agreed that early settlement of boundary issue serves fundamental interests of both countries, the Ministry said. Officials said various dimensions of the boundary issue were discussed at the talks.

It is the first high-level visit



Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held the second informal summit in Mamallapuram in October as well as after New Delhi pulled out of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Doval and Wang are the designated Special Representatives of the two countries for the bound-

Wang was to visit India for the talks in September but the trip was postponed then.

The India-China border dispute covers 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it.

Both sides have been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquility in the border

India and China fought a war in 1962 and the subsequent years have not seen any major conflagration along the LAC. However, transgressions take place by the Chinese Army claiming the specified sector to be in China. The Indian Army has repeatedly prevented such transgressions leading to a stand-off with the Chinese Army in Doklam near Sikkim in

Rawat had said on Friday here India is optimistic that the situation along the LAC will further improve with the two armies actively working to reduce and manage troop confrontations after the Doklam face-off in The first informal summit

between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jingping at Wuhan in April 2018 had led to "strategic guidance" to the two militaries to actively defuse troop confrontations during patrolling in accordance with existing protocols and mechanisms.

"Post Wuhan, the strategic guidance from the highest-level and understanding of the nuances of the working mechanism at the functional level has enabled management of challenges along the LAC," said Rawat on Friday.

The statement came even as the eighth edition of the "Handin-Hand" exercise between the Indian and Chinese armies, a confidence-building measure, concluded at Umroi in Meghalaya on Friday.

The exercise was aimed at practicing joint drills of counterterrorism operations in a semiurban terrain under the UN mandate. The two armies have gained from each other's expertise and experience in conduct of counter-terror and companylevel operations. Troops of both the contingents departed on a healthy note of mutual informal respect and goodwill.

Bilateral border tensions have certainly reduced since the 73-day face-off in Doklam as both the countries have evolved mechanisms, especially at battalion commander-level, to ensure there are lesser confrontations along the LAC stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

TO BEAT PAK IN NARRATIVE WARFARE

Armed forces need unified PR command: Cyber Security chief

Tndia's cyber security chief on Saturday said the separate public relations wings of the three Armed forces are "going in different ways" and made a strong pitch for a unified PR command for the three services. Pakistan is ahead of India in this aspect as its Director General Inter Services Public Relations (DGISPR) serves as the spokesperson for the Pakistan Armed Forces.

National Cyber Security

General Rajesh Pant (retd) said the unified PR command was needed to ensure an upper hand in the narrative warfare with Pakistan, which, he opined, has "got its act togeth-er" through its Director General Inter Services Public Relations (DG-ISPR).

"When are we going to have our own equivalent of the DGISPR because the (Indian armed forces) services have their own PRs and they are going in different ways? Somebody at the national level tive warfare and how to implement it in various domains,"

Talking about the Director General Inter Services Public Relations (DGISPR), which serves as the spokesperson for the Pakistan Armed Forces. Pant said the neighbouring country got its act together in narrative warfare through the

agency.
"What we are finding from the other side — from the western border — that since the time they have created the

DGISPR, they have got their act together," he said here at a

According to official Twitter handle @OfficialDGISPR, Major General Asif Ghafoor is serving the post since December 2016.

Lt Gen (Retd) Rajesh Pant added, "When they (DGISPR) conduct a narrative warfare, let's say in the case of Kashmir. the message they send to Europe is that human rights are being infringed."

While when they engage

them that Islam is under threat, noted Pant, adding, "What they told the southeast Asia is that there is a regional instability," said Pant adding "So, they seem to have got their act together."

It is important to clarify what the three services of Indian armed forces imply and mean by 'information warfare', he said. "They should come out with the definition because now they are using the terms - as you are aware - like 'narrative warfare'," he said.

ED attaches land valued at ₹77.7L belonging to wildlife smuggler under PMLA

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Enforcement Directorate (ED)}}_{\text{has provisionally attached a land}}$ measuring 11.5752 decimal (5042 sq.ft.) in Kolkata valuing ₹77.7 lakhs under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) belonging to a notorious smuggler of wildlife Supradip Guha in a case related to Illegal trading and smuggling of Wildlife in Eastern India. In a first of its kind case, the ED had attached three chimpanzees, four marmosets and other precious birds of Indian and foreign origin from his premises. At present, Guha is absconding and a look out circular has been issued for

"Accused Guha a resident of Baguiati, Kolkata was involved inlarge scale illegal trade of wild life in West Bengal since long," it said in a statement. The ED said its probe found Guha was "running an organised wildlife smuggling racket". 'He is a clever criminal and recorded contradictory statements before the customs authorities and wildlife authorities to evade action from both the departments, it alleged

According to the ED, seven animals are valued at ₹81 lakh, with each chimpanzee worth ₹25 lakh and a marmoset, a species of small long-tailed South American monkeys, about ₹1.5 lakh.

ED sources said that investigation was initiated under PMLA on receipt of information from the Wild Life Department of West Bengal regarding seizure of prohibited Wildlife under Indian Wildlife protection Act 1972.

Investigation also revealed that the accused had also procured fake trans-portation certificate for illegally transporting scheduled and protected Indian Birds for which a separate FIR No. 86/2019 was registered against him by PS North Bidhannagar of WB Police.

Investigations under PMLA revealed that accused Supradip Guha had deposited illegally earned money into 8 bank accounts owned by him in his name and in the name of his family member and his firms. Investigation also revealed that the accused was running an organised racket dealing in illegal wild life trade and the proceeds of crime so earned by him run into more than three crores. The agency said the first-of-itskind attachment under the PMLA "enabled" the zoo authorities to retain the animals as the smuggler was making attempts to take them away.

Jaishankar on 2-day visit to Iran; to meet counterpart, Rouhani

 $D_{\mbox{\scriptsize exemption}}^{\mbox{\scriptsize ays}}$ after the US provided a rare exemption to India from sanctions on the Chabahar port, External Affairs Minister(EAM) S Jaishankar will on Sunday embark on a two-day visit to Iran, where he will co-chair the 19th Joint Commission Meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Javed Zarif. Jaishankar is also expected to call upon Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the external affairs ministry said on Saturday.

The meeting comes days after the US exemption to India from sanctions on the Chabahar port in Iran as Washington said it recognised that the strategic project was a lifeline for war-torn Afghanistan to get humanitarian supplies from India.

The Chabahar port -- jointly being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan -- is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade with central Asian nations by the three countries. It is located on the Indian Ocean in the Sistan and Baluchestan province of Iran. Jaishankar will also be visiting Oman

from December 23 to 25 at the invitation

of Omani Foreign Minister Yousuf bin

Alawi bin Abdullah, the External Affairs

in pursuit of India's objective of enhanced engagement with the Gulf region, which is in India's extended neighbourhood. It will provide an opportunity to hold

statement said.

in-depth discussions with the political leadership on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues and will advance India's growing engagement with Oman and the region," the statement said.

Ministry said in another statement.

"During his visit, EAM, in addition to

meeting his counterpart, will hold meet-

ings with other ministers to discuss mat-

ters of mutual interest. An agreement for

cooperation in the field of maritime

transport will be signed during the visit.

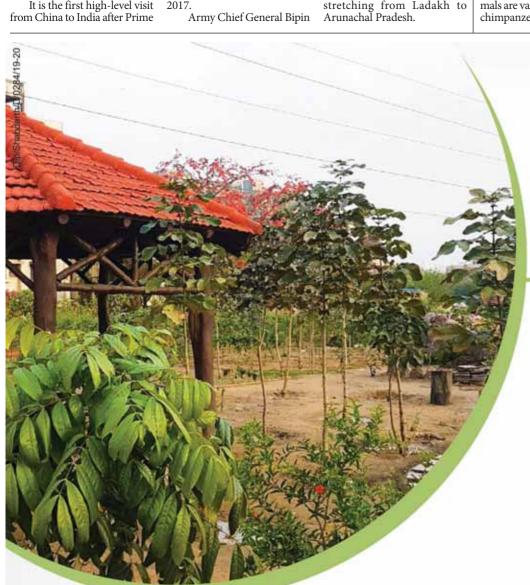
EAM will also interact with the Indian

community in Muscat during the visit," the

Oman after the second term of the Modi

government began in May. "The visit is

This will be Jaishankar's first visit to



INAUGURATION OF

MITRAON CITY FOREST

(Area: 88 acres)

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Chief Guest:

Kailash Gahlot

Environment, Forests and Wildlife Minister, Delhi

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AASU accuses Modi, Shah & Sonowal of misleading people

All Assam Students Union(AASU) on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal of misleading people that their identity, language and land are secure though Bangladeshis are being settled here through the contentious legislation.

AASU chief advisor

Samujjal Bhattacharya speaking at an anti-CAA women's rally here claimed that the three leaders are misleading the people of Assam "with their unique formula of assuring to protect the indigenous people and at the same time bring in Bangladeshis here through the

"We don't understand their (BJP's) peculiar formula. On the one hand they say the language, identity and land of the



the other hand they will bring in Bangladeshis here through the CAA threatening the very existence of the indigenous people", he said.

AASU president Dipanka Kumar Nath said the Modi government is misleading and creating confusion among the to keep those Bangladeshis who entered the State till December 2014 using

the CAA when the Assam Accord of 1985 said that all those who came in after Bangladesh independence on March 26, 1971 will have to

"Through the Assam Accord we have on behalf of the country already taken the burden of illegal foreigners on our small State. Because of

December 2014", he added. "We have given the illegal migrants all facilities in Assam so far, but we cannot allow

them to contest elections in our

state," he said.

Bhattacharva referred to Sonowal claiming that only a negligible number of refugees from Bangladesh in Assam will be benefited by the amended Citizenship Act and said, "If the number is negligible then let him (Sonowal) tell Modi and Shah to take them from Assam and settle them in Gujarat. Being a small number, those people can be taken in one train only from Guwahati

railway station". On the different number of illegal Bangladeshis here and in the country provided by the government, he said Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's figure is five lakh in Assam, when former Union

Home Minister Indrajit Gupta had informed Parliament in 2004 that one crore migrants were in the country. The Union Minister of State for home Jaiprakash Jaiswal had said the figure was 1.2 crore.

AASU general secretary Luringjyoti Gogoi addressing the rally claimed that the Modi Government has brought Citizenship Amendment Act with a "communal agenda".

'The Act is disastrous as the settlement of large number of Bangladeshis in Assam will change the demographic pattern here affecting the existence of Assamese people, besides wiping out our Assamese language with Bengali. The Bangladeshis will encroach our land, take away our jobs and political right," he said, adding We will not accept even one more Bangladeshi — either Hindu or Muslim in Assam".

5 held for 'recreating' attack on railway tracks in Bengal

arrested five persons when they were trying to recreate a scene of attack wearing skullcaps and lungis in an empty train in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, where railway stations and trains were torched in protest against the amended citizenship law.

The accused pelted stones on a train on trial run near Lalbagh railway station and videorecorded the purported "attack", a senior police officer said on Saturday.

"Local people caught the accused and handed them over to us. Subsequently, they have been arrested," he said.

The accused were locally

known as activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the students wing of

A case has been initiated against the accused for allegedly being involved in damaging railway property.

"They were produced

before a court on Friday. Two of them were remanded to police custody, while the other three were sent to judicial custody," the police officer

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had on Thursday claimed that she had received inputs that the BJP is allegedly buying skullcaps for them while vandalising public properties to malign a particular community.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told a poll rally in Jharkhand that, "People who are setting fire (to property) can be seen on TV... They can be identified by the clothes they

are wearing." The State had witnessed violence and arson from December 13 to 17 during protests against the new citizenship law.

Agitators attacked Railway properties in many districts and vandalised them during the protests against the amended Citizenship Act in the

Curfew in Mangaluru relaxed with situation peaceful

Bengaluru/Mangaluru: Curfew was relaxed in Mangaluru on Saturday with the situation in the city whichwas rocked by violent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act leaving two dead in police firing, peaceful.

The situation in Bengaluru and other parts of the state, where prohibitory orders were in place, was also peaceful with no major protests taking

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, who visited Mangaluru to assess the situation on Saturday, said an inquiry will be conducted into the violence that rocked the coastal city, as he announced relaxation in the curfew clamped.

"Every one wants the curfew to be revoked. I have discussed with officials and the Home minister-today from 3 pm to 6 pm it will be relaxed, during the night curfew will

will be lifted during the entire day time, but it will be imposed in the night," Yediyurappa told

"On Monday the curfew will be revoked, but section 144 (order banning assembly of more than four people) will continue," he said, adding that people can celebrate Christmas or any other Hindu-Muslim festivities without any distur-

Despite prohibitory orders demonstrations had turned violent in Mangaluru on Thursday, following which police had initially clamped curfew in parts of the city until Friday night, and later extended it to the entire Mangaluru commissionerate limits till December 22 mid-

The Chief Minister met the family members of two persons who were killed in the firing, and also held a meeting with

continue. Tomorrow curfew representatives of Christian and Muslim communities, political leaders and officials.

Yediyurappa appealed for peace and said he has instructed the district administration to provide compensation to the families of those dead as per the provisions of law.

Noting that attempts by protesters to take the law into their hands by laying a siege to the building where firearms were stored led to "untoward incidents", Yediyurappa said "Home Minister and I will discuss on what kind of inquiry should be conducted... And we will get the inquiry done." ČPI Rajya Sabha MP from

Kerala Binoy Viswam and some party activists who staged a protest here against the CAA on Saturday defying curfew, were detained, police said.

Two people were killed in police firing on Thursday as the

protest against the CAA had

Kerala Govt takes steps to bring back students from State stranded in Mangaluru: CM

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala Government on Saturday initiated steps to bring back students from the State stranded in Mangaluru in neighbouring Karnataka in view of the curfew declared there following the widespread violence during the protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the state government was in touch with its Karnataka counterpart to ensure the safe return of the students, who are studying in colleges in Mangaluru. "Steps are being taken to

bring the students from Kerala back to home safely from Mangalore (Mangaluru). The Government of Kerala is in touch with the Karnataka Government," Vijayan said in his Facebook post. He also directed the State Government



officials concerned to coordinate with the office of the Karnataka police chief in this

Meanwhile, the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation said it operated five additional services to bring back those stranded in Mangaluru, bordering north-

Violence had rocked Mangaluru during the anti-CAA protests, leaving two dead in police firing on Thursday, prompting authorities to restrict entry to the coastal city in the neighbouring State. PTI | including Delhi.

Pro-CAA human chain in Pune

Pune: A human chain was formed in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Pune in Maharashtra on Saturday evening.

Several organisations took part in the event held on Jangali Maharaj Road.

The participants held placards with slogans like 'India Supports CAA, 'Padhai Karo, 'Patharbaji Nahi', 'Stop Hinduphobia', 'Atithi deo bhava', 'Country First', written on them, and also shouted slo-

In recent days, Pune had witnesses protests opposing the new citizenship law that grants Indian citizenship to non-Muslim immigrants escaping religious persecution from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Over the last few days, protesters have fought pitched battles with police in some major cities of the country,

and citizens protesting against

the Citizenship law. In a video

message, Sonia said that the

Congress expresses deep con-

cern and anguish on the use of

force against students and cit-

have the right to raise their

voice against wrong decisions

and policies of the government

and register their concerns...

The BJP Government has

shown utter disregard for peo-

ple's voices and chosen to use

brute force to suppress dissent,"

the BJP Government of using

dictatorial measures to sup-

Earlier, Priyanka accused

ty with them.

"In a democracy, people

CAA implementation, says Sharad Pawar Pune: NCP chief Sharad Pawar

Maha should also refuse

on Saturday said that like eight other States, Maharashtra should also refuse implementation of the new citizenship law, which he feared would hurt the religious and social harmony of India.

Dubbing the Citizenship

Amendment Act (CAA) and the

proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) "ploys" by the Centre to "divert attention" from serious issues plaguing the country, Pawar expressed apprehension that the Centre might dismiss the State Governments opposing the new citizenship The NCP is a ruling con-

stituent, along with the Congress, in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government headed by the Shiv Sena. The former Union minister said his party had opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill when it came up for passage in

"Eight states, including Bihar, which is ruled by an NDA ally, have refused to implement the law and Maharashtra should also take a similar stand." he said in response to a query.
"But if the states oppose the

Union Government's order, there is a likelihood that it may dismiss these state governments," Pawar added.

Besides Bihar, states of Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal and Rajasthan had opposed the CAA implementation. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray of the Sena had last Sunday said that implementation of the CAA will be dependent upon the ruling of the supreme court.
"We are checking legality of

the new law. Some people have challenged the CAA in the Supreme Court. We are waiting to find out whether the new act fits the framework of Constitution or not," he had

India summons Malaysian diplomat to lodge its protest

MALAYSIA'S COMMENT ILL-INFORMED, FACTUALLY INACCURATE, SAYS MEA

PNS NEW DELHI

day after strongly rebut-Ating Malaysian Prime summoned to the External Minister Mahathir Mohammad's criticism of the Citizenship Amendment Act(CAA) saying his comments were ill-informed and "factually inaccurate," New Delhi on Saturday summoned the Charge d'Affaires of Malaysian Embassy here to formally lodge its protest. Malaysia was also asked to take a long-term and strategic view of relations between the two countries.

Reacting to the Malaysian Prime Minister's remarks, India said such comments are not in sync with established diplomatic practice of non-interference in any country's internal affairs.

Affairs Ministry and he was conveyed India's anguish over Mohammad's comments, official sources said. It was also conveyed that

such remarks are both illinformed and insensitive, the sources said, adding Malaysia was asked to take a long-term and strategic view of the relations between the two coun-Speaking on the sidelines

of the Kuala Lumpur Summit

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Age Limits: 18 to 42 years on the date of application.



2019 on Friday, the Malaysian Prime Minister questioned the "necessity" of the Citizenship Act, when Indians have "lived together for 70 years", according to media reports.

"I am sorry to see that India, which claims to be a secular State, now is taking action to deprive some Muslims of their citizenship," the Malaysian Prime Minister was quoted as

saying.
"If we do that here, I do not know what will happen. There will be chaos and instability, and everybody will suffer," he added.

Soon after these comments, India on Friday had said the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is "a matter entirely internal to India" and does not impact the status of any citizen, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday adding the remarks were "factually inaccurate."

"According to media reports, Malaysia's Prime Minister has yet again

No. & Date

BCT/19-20/313

dt 19.12.2019

BCT/19-20/314

dt 19.12.2019

BCT/19-20/315

dt 19.12.2019

remarked on a matter that is internal

CAA provides for citizenship through naturalisation to be fast-tracked for non-citizens who are persecuted minorities from three statement.

"The CAA doesn't impact the status of any Indian citizen or deprive any Indian of any faith of her/his citizenship. Malaysian PM's remark is factually inaccurate. We call upon Malaysia to refrain from commenting on internal developments in India, without the right understanding of facts," the statement read.

India highlighted that the matter is entirely "internal" to India and asked Malaysia to "refrain from commenting without the right understanding of facts". The statement said the

CAA provides for fast-tracked citizenship for non-citizens from persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. "The act does not impact in any manner on the status of any citizen of India, or deprive any Indian of any faith of her or his citizenship," it said. The Malaysia Prime Minister had earlier criticized abrogation of Article 370 giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir and said at the Un General Assembly in September that Kashmir had been "invaded and occupied." New Delhi had strongly observations.

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORKS AT UDHNA - JALGAON SECTION

WORK AND LOCATION

Udhna-Jalgaon section: Updating, reconciling,

certification and computerisation of land plans under jurisdiction of DEN/East/BCT.

Udhna-Jalgaon section: Updating, reconciling, certification and computerisation of land plans under

Udhna-Jalgaon section: Reconditioning of CMS crossing in situ by RW-20 Translamatic Robotic welding in

connection of reconditioning of built up crossing toungue

rails, CMS crossings under ADEN-Vyara section

BCT/19-20/316 Udhna-Jalgaon section : Reconditioning of Tongue rails. SEJ and Slide chairs etc., under ADEN-Vyara section.

jurisdiction of DEN/Central/BCT.

evening.

Sources in the Congress said that the dharna is scheduled to be held from 2 pm to 8 pm. The decision to hold protest in the city was taken after Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, party general sec-retaries Priyanka and Jyotiraditya Scindia among others met at the party headquarters on Saturday evening. The sources, however, said the party was yet to get permission for holding the protest at Rajghat — a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

Earlier in the day, Congress Core Group met at Sonia's residence to discuss the ongoing protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. During the meeting, the party leaders discussed the crackdown on the anti-CAA protesters across the country.

The meeting has been called a day after Sonia attacked the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government of 'brutal repres-

₹ 2,88,82,214.28

₹ 53,32,160.78

₹ 48,57,834.00

₹ 2,94,400.00

₹ 1,06,700.00

₹ 97,200.00

Cong silent protest at Rajghat today

On a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to address a rally in Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, the Congress will stage a silent protest (satyagrah dharna) at izens of the country and stands Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens

Sources in the Congress said that party president Sonia Gandhi along with Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior leaders are likely to participate in the 'satyagraha dharna' till the



press the voice of people as she condemned arrest of students, intellectuals, journalists and social workers protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and a possible NRC. The NRC and the new citizenship law were against the Constitution of India, she said in a statement.

would not allow any such attack on the Constitution but the government was bent upon using force and violence against protesters, she added.

"Illegal arrests of students, intellectuals, social workers, parts of the country is reprehensible. No one knows where the police is taking the people after arresting them throughout the country, including the State of Uttar Pradesh," she said.

Priyanka also appealed to the protesters to follow the "non-violence and truth as propagated by Mahatma Gandhi" to protect the Constitution.



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envelopes)". This should be enclosed in an outer cover without giving the name of the tender should be delivered BY HAND on the address mentioned above during 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM to Secretary, State Examination Board on or before dated-13/01/2020 IMPORTANT NOTE: Tender selection authority reserves the rights to accept or reject any tender or part thereof or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof Any inquiry regarding the tender: +91 82007 73005

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No/INF/VPN/2019-20/1857

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that my client Kavita Sharma W/o Ghanshyam Sharma, Aged about 50 years R/o V-2, Green Park Extension, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016, has debarred and disinherited her sons Harsh Sharma, Piyush Sharma, Manish Sharma and Amit Sharma from all her properties both movable and immovable, my client has no control over them. My client will not be responsible for any acts & deeds of

above named persons Randhir Kumar, Advocate

Shadab Mahmud R/o C-4/143, Sector-31 Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar and Ms Shreya Rajahamsa Kotamarti D/o Mr. Kotamarti Subrahamanyam Prasad R/o H.No. 1-2-593/7/201, Seshu Villa Apartments Domalguda, Hyderabad-500029 Andhra Pradesh in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 05-01-2020 in the office of the undersigned.

NOTICE A notice of intended marriage has beer received from Mr. Nabil Shadab S/o Mr

Sr. No.: 1 to 4: Date & Time of Submission: 15.01.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: 15.01.2020 at 15.30

Marriage Office Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.)

hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

Hong Kong police: Suspect fired shot during arrest

Hong Kong police on Saturday said an armed suspect fired a live round at officers as they tried to arrest him in an operation linked to the months of pro-democracy protests engulfing the city.

Police said a 19-year-old man pulled a semi-automatic pistol from his waistband as officers approached him in Tai Po district on Friday evening.

The shot did not hit anyone and the man was subdued. A subsequent search of a nearby flat uncovered an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle and more than 250 rounds of ammunition.

Police said they believed the man and the newly discovered weapons were linked to a group arrested earlier this month who were also allegedly found in possession of a pistol and were plotting to attack officers.

"The firearms we discovered matched the intelligence we had collected which indicated that some people hoped to use firearms in some public assemblies to wound some others, including police officers duty Senior Superintendent Lee Kwai-wah told reporters on Saturday.

However, Lee said the suspect was also facing ongoing firearms charges from an arrest last year before the protests.

Riot police had to be called in to back up the officers as local residents began heckling police, with at least two tear gas rounds fired to disperse them, the South China Morning Post



Semi-autonomous Hong Kong has been shaken for six months by increasingly violent pro-democracy protests.

They were initially sparked by a now-abandoned attempt to allow extraditions to the authoritarian mainland but have since morphed into a popular revolt against Beijing's rule, with spiralling fears that the city is losing some of its unique liberties.

Millions have marched peacefully in multiple rallies, with Beijing and local leader Carrie Lam digging their heels in. But a newly radicalised youth armed with petrol bombs, bricks and sometimes bows and arrows has added a dangerous layer to the movement, leading to increasingly violent battles with riot police.

Over the last six months, police have fired more than 16,000 rounds of tear gas and 10,000 rubber bullets. Some 6,000 people have been arrested, with 1,000 charged, a large chunk of them students.

In recent weeks, police have made arrests indicating some protesters may be plotting more drastic action. Alongside the arrest earlier this month of a group of peo-

police said they also discovered two homemade nail bombs that had been stored in the grounds of a school.

Both Lam and the Hong Kong police force's reputation have taken a hammering during the protests but Beijing has publicly backed both.

The South China Morning Post published a new poll on Sunday which found 73 percent of respondents felt the police's handling of the protest had eroded trust in the force.

Among the demands being made by protesters is an independent inquiry into the police, amnesty for those arrested and fully free elections. In the last month, the frequency of protests has declined as well as the level of violence after prodemocracy candidates won a landslide at local elections. But Lam and Beijing have given no sign of budging.

On Saturday afternoon, small groups of a few dozen masked protesters held flashmob rallies in shopping malls.

One group vandalised a restaurant owned by a conglomerate that is deemed to be pro-Beijing before police arrived on scene and the pro-

Trump adviser: Expect more aggressive poll watching in 2020

Madison: One of President Donald Trump's top reelection advisers told influential Republicans in swing State Wisconsin that the party has "traditionally" relied on voter suppression to compete in battleground States, according to an audio recording of a private event obtained by The Associated Press. The adviser said later that

his remarks referred to frequent and false accusations that Republicans employ such tac-

Justin Clark, a senior political adviser and senior counsel to Trump's reelection campaign, made the remarks on November 21 as part of a wideranging discussion about strategies in the 2020 campaign, including more aggressive use of Election Day monitoring of polling places.
"Traditionally it's always

been Republicans suppressing votes in places," Clark said at the event.

"Let's start protecting our voters. We know where they are. ... Let's start playing offense a little bit. That's what you're going to see in 2020. It's going to be a much bigger program, a much more aggressive program, a much better-funded program.

Asked about the remarks by AP. Clark said he was referring to false accusations that the GOP engages in voter suppression

"As should be clear from the context of my remarks, my point was that Republicans historically have been falsely accused of voter suppression and that it is time we stood up

to defend our own voters, Clark said.

"Neither I nor anyone I know or work with would condone anyone's vote being threatened or diluted and our efforts will be focused on preventing just that."

Clark made the comments November 21 in a meeting of the Republican National Lawyers Association's Wisconsin chapter.

Attendees included the state Senate's top Republican, Scott Fitzgerald, along with the executive director of the Wisconsin Republican Party.

Audio of the event at a country club in Madison obtained by the liberal group American Bridge was provided to AP by One Wisconsin Now, a Madison-based liberal advocacy group

The roughly 20-minute audio offers an insider's glimpse of Trump's reelection strategy, showing the campaign focusing on voting locations in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, which form the the so-called "blue wall" of traditional Democratic strength that Trump broke through to win in 2016.

Both parties are pouring millions of dollars into the States, anticipating they'll be

just as critical in the 2020 presidential contest.

Republican officials publicly signalled plans to step up their Election Day monitoring after a judge in 2018 lifted a consent decree in place since 1982 that barred the Republican National Committee from voter verification and other "ballot security" efforts.

Critics have argued the tactics amount to voter intim-

The consent decree was put in place after the Democratic National Committee sued its Republican counterpart, alleging the RNC helped intimidate black voters in New election

The federal lawsuit claimed the RNC and the state GOP had off-duty police stand at polling places in urban areas wearing armbands that read National Ballot Security Task Force," with guns visible on

Without acknowledging any wrongdoing, the RNC agreed to the consent decree, which restricted its ability to engage in activities related to ballot security.

Lifting of the consent decree allows the RNC to "play by the same rules" as Democrats, said RNC communications director Michael "Now the RNC can work

more closely with state parties and campaigns to do what we do best, ensure that more people vote through our unmatched field program,"

Challenged by China, Russia, US builds force for future space wars

Washington: The United States has met a mounting 21st century strategic challenge from Russia and China with the creation of a full-fledged US Space Force within the Department of Defense.

Acting on an ambition by President Donald Trump that had met resistance at first, the White House signalled its determination to not cede superiority in a Star Wars-like future of killer satellites and satellite-killer weapons.

Trump made the Space Force's creation real with the signing of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which set the initial budget for a Pentagon force that will stand equally with the military's five other branches.

"Going to be a lot of things happening in space, because space is the world's newest warfighting domain," Trump told members of the military gathered for the signing.
The Space Force will be the

sixth formal force of the US military, after the Army, Air Force, Navy Marines, and Coast Guard. "Our reliance on space-

based capabilities has grown dramatically, and today outer space has evolved into a warfighting domain of its own," said Secretary of Defense Mark Esper on Friday.
"Maintaining American

dominance in that domain is now the mission of the United States Space Force." Esper compared the Space Force's creation to the landmark creation of a separate US Air Force in 1947,

hived off from the Army after World War II in recognition that aerial war fighting was indeed a separate domain that would be important in the future.

Now that recognition is extended to space, a crucial venue for both military spy and communications satellites which will be targeted by adversaries in any conflict, and the possibility of outer-space launch platforms for destructive weapons.

The Defense Intelligence Agency warned in a report early this year that China and Russia have both developed "robust and capable" space services for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

"China and Russia, in particular, are developing a variety of means to exploit perceived US reliance on space-based systems and challenge the US position in space," it said. China already demon-

strated it could shoot down a satellite with a ground-based missile in 2007. "Both states are developing

amming and cyberspace capabilities, directed energy weapons, on-orbit capabilities, and ground-based antisatellite missiles that can achieve a range of reversible to nonreversible effects," it

Iran and North Korea, too, are increasingly able to extend their military activities into space, jamming the communications of adversaries and developing ballistic missile

Trump approves Russia-Europe gas pipeline sanctions

Washington: President Donald Trump on Friday signed off on US sanctions against companies building a Russian natural gas pipeline to Germany that Congress fears will give the Kremlin dangerous leverage over European allies.

The sanctions, which are opposed by the European Union, were included in a sprawling defense spending bill Trump signed at a ceremony on Joint Base Andrews, an air force installation outside Washington, DC.

They target companies building the nearly USD 11 billion Nord Stream 2 pipeline under the Baltic Sea with the aim of doubling deliveries of Russian natural gas to Europe's

lawmakers have warned the pipeline would enrich a hostile Russian Government and vastly increase President Vladimir Putin's influence in Europe at a time of heightened tension across the continent.

Both houses of Congress

overwhelmingly approved the sanctions, with the Senate voting Tuesday to send the measure to Trump's desk.

Trump, who has been accused by Democratic opponents of being soft on Putin, had little choice but to give his approval.

The sanctions were inserted into a much wider USD 738 billion annual Pentagon funding bill and, given the level of congressional support, a veto would likely have been over-

The US measures have angered Moscow and the European Union, which says it should be able to decide its own energy policies.

issue during a phone call Friday with US Secretary of State Pompeo, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said.

Pompeo expressed "strong opposition" to the project, Ortagus said in a statement.

The German-Russian

Chamber of Commerce insisted last week that the pipeline was important for energy security and urged retaliatory sanctions against the United States if the bill passes.

The US sanctions target pipe-laying vessels for Nord Stream 2 and TurkStream, a Russia-Turkey pipeline, and include asset freezes and revocation of US visas for the con-

One major contractor that could be hit is Swiss-based Allseas, which has been hired by Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom to build the offshore section.

The power of Gazprom, which is closely integrated with Germany's foreign minis- the Russian State, is at the cenpipeline in the United States, and also in eastern and central European countries.

Senator Ted Cruz, a Republican ally of Trump, said that halting Nord Stream 2 should be a major security priority for the United States and Europe alike.

Germany, EU condemn US sanctions on gas pipeline

Berlin: Germany accused the US of interfering in its inter-nal affairs on Saturday for imposing sanctions on companies working on a major project to supply Western Europe with Russian gas.

Moscow and the European Union also issued statements criticising the sanctions, a day after President Donald Trump signed off on asset freezes and visa restrictions on those involved in the Nord Stream 2

US lawmakers are seeking an increasing reliance on Russian energy in Western Europe by targeting the project, which aims to double deliveries of Russian natural gas to Germany via a pipeline under the Baltic Sea.

The sanctions target contractors working to lay pipes

lion-euro (USD 11-billion) project expected to be completed in early 2020 — and another Russian gas project, TurkStream. Swiss contractor Allseas

said after the sanctions were imposed that it had "suspended its Nord Stream 2 pipelay Although US Congress overwhelmingly backed the

sanctions, there was some criticism among lawmakers of a move that in effect punishes annes such as Germany. While an EU spokesman

criticised "the imposition of sanctions against EU companies conducting legitimate business", the German government said Berlin rejected "these sorts of extra-territorial sanctions".

Brexit coins ordered again for new Jan 2020

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK Government has I ordered a new set of commemorative coins to mark the latest Brexit deadline of January 31, 2020 after having to melt down thousands with missed deadlines this year. The Royal Mint had com-

missioned special coins to mark the UK's scheduled exit from the European Union (EU) first by March 29 this year and then October 31 this year, both deadlines which were missed parliamentary deadlock.

After being forced into a coins" UK Treasury has now commissioned a new set for the latest deadline - which looks more promising after MPs voted decisively in favour of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's withdrawal agreement in the House of Commons on Friday.

Following a meeting of

imited, C 703, Marathon Innova, Lower Parel West.

Address: Sumedha Management Solutions Privat Limited, 809-810, 8th Floor, B Wing, Trade World,

amala Mills Compound, Lower Parel (West),

Email ID: katpl@sumedhamanagement.com Same as sr. no. 21 above.

/lumbai-400 013. Email ID:

22nd December, 2019



royal advisers known as the Privy Council this week, Queen Elizabeth II gave her formal consent to minting the new "gold, silver and cupro-nickel featuring January 31. Plans for the new 50-pence

coins, which will feature the phrase "peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations", were announced in the London "We will produce a coin to

mark our departure from the

European Union. This coin will be introduced into circulation on the day the UK leaves the EU," a ÚK Treasury spokesperson said.

The special coins are expected to be aimed at collectors rather than wider general circulation.

The Royal Mint has previously said all the older version will be recycled rather than sold to collectors keen to acquire the coins that reflect the missed Brexit dead-

Recycled coins are sent to a scrap yard, sorted, shredded, melted in a large furnace, and reused.

The Royal Mint would be hoping to be third time lucky following Johnson's landslide win in the December 12 General Election, which was seen a strong backing for his version Brexit done.

Dozens of ISIS members detained: **Afghan official**

Kabul: The Afghan Government said Saturday it has arrested or surrounded up to 700 Islamic State group fighters and family members in eastern Afghanistan over the past six months.

The Afghan intelligence service, the National Deteriorate for Security, said at least 75 women and 159 children, most of them from foreign countries, are in custody. There was no way to independently confirm that the prisoners the Government presented to reporters are affiliated with the Islamic State

Most of the arrested IS members are from Pakistan, Jordan and Central Asian countries, said an NDS officer who asked that his name not be used as the rules of the agency don't allow him to be identified.

As many as 277 foreigners are among the arrested militants, he said. Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad tweeted earlier this month that IS in eastern Afghanistan has been weakened by operations carried out not just by the U.S. And Afghan forces, but by the Taliban as well. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said last week that President Donald Trump may announce

an American troop drawdown

from Afghanistan before the

year's end, which would likely

begin next year.

ICC to probe 'war crimes' in Palestinian territories

The Hague: The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor has said she wanted to open a full investigation into alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories, sparking a furious reaction from Israel and condemnation from the United States.

The Palestinians welcomed the move by the ICC as a "long overdue step" following a nearly five-year preliminary probe by the prosecutor into the situation since the 2014 war in Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu said the decision made the Hague-based court, which Israel has refused to sign up to since its creation in 2002, a "political tool" against the Jewish State. "I am satisfied that there is

a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation into the situation in Palestine," ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said in a statement on Friday. "In brief, I am satisfied that

war crimes have been or are being committed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip," she added, without specifying the perpetrators of the alleged crimes.

She said that before opening a full probe, she would ask the ICC to rule on the territory over which it has jurisdiction because of the "unique and highly contested legal and factual issues attaching to this sit-

"Specifically, I have sought confirmation that the 'territory' over which the Court may exercise its jurisdiction, and which I may subject to investigation, comprises the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza." The prosecutor added however that she did not

require any authorisation from judges to open a probe as there had been a referral from the Palestinians, who joined the court in 2015. "We firmly oppose this

and any other action that seeks to target Israel unfairly,' Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said of Washington's top ally in the region. "We do not believe the Palestinians qualify as a sover-

eign State, and they therefore are not qualified to obtain full membership, or participate as a state in international organizations, entities, or conferences, including the ICC." The issue is highly sensitive, with former White House national security adviser John

arrest ICC judges if they moved against Israel or the United Both countries have refused to sign up to the court, which was set up in 2002 to be the only global tribunal trying the world's worst crimes, war

crimes and crimes against

humanity. Bensouda launched

Bolton threatening last year to

a preliminary probe in January 2015 into allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Israel and the Palestinian territories, in the wake of the 2014 Gaza

US 'firmly' opposes ICC probe into alleged Israeli war crimes: Pompeo

Washington: The United States is "firmly" opposed to an International Criminal Court probe into alleged Israeli war crimes, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said

the region. 'We firmly oppose this

evaluation matrix and request for resolution

A move by the court's chief prosecutor to open a full investigation into alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories has sparked a furious reaction from Israel, Washington's top ally in

and any other action that seeks to target Israel unfairly," Pompeo said. "We do not believe the Palestinians qualify as a sovereign state, and they therefore are not qualified to obtain full membership, or participate as a state in international organizations, entities, or conferences,

FORM G - INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016 RELEVANT PARTICULARS incorporated / registered orporate identity number / limited liability J45203HR2012PTC047422 identification number of corporate debtor

Reg. office: 510, 5th Floor, ABW Tower, IFFCO Chock office (if any) of corporate debtor G Road, Gurgaon 122002 Toll plaza: Knoargaon Ahmednagar Tollways Phase -1 A/p Nirmal Pimpri, Tal Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar - 423107 Date of Order: 7th October, 2019 corporate debtor

Date of invitation of expression of interest he eligibility criteria is mentioned in detailed Invitation Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at: Norms of ineligibility applicable under section for Expression of Interest to submit Resolution Plan(s)
The norms of ineligibility under Section 29A of the IBC re mentioned in the detailed Invitation for Expression 29A are available at: Interest to submit Resolution Plan. 10 Last date for receipt of expression of interest 11 Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants 2 Last date for submission of objections to 1st January, 2020 provisional list 3 Date of issue of final list of prospective 1 st January, 2020 resolution applicants
4 Date of issue of information memorandur

plans to prospective resolution applicants

Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan he Resolution Professional will share the documents evaluation matrix, information memorandum cordance with the provisions of the Code and equiations made thereunder. 6 Last date for submission of resolution plan: 7 Manner of submitting resolution plans to fanner shall be specified in the request for resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval Name and registration number of the resolution /r. Udayraj Patwardha 3BI/IPA-001/IP-P00024/2016-17/10057 Address: Sumedha Management Solutions Private

professional, as registered with the Board

correspondence with the resolution

Date of publication of Form (Title RP / COC shall have discretion to change the criteria for the EOI at any point of time. 2.RP / COC reserves the right to cancel or modify the process / application without assigning any reason and withou 2.NP / DOUGHST with right to behave a majory or processor / ppp.

3. Detailed invitation for expression of interest specifying criteria, ineligibility norms under section 29A of Code etc. can be requested through email on katok@sumedhamanagement.com

Mr. Lidavrai Patwara

Mr. Lidavrai Patwara

गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण (ISO-9001:2015 एवं ISO-14001:2015 प्रमाणित संस्था)

जोन-8/2019-20 पत्रांक : 333/4/ई.ई. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण की ओर से ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से संसंगत नियमों

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अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-8 ई-मेल : helplinegda@gmail.com, 📢 : @gdagzb, 🔰 : @gdagzb हेल्पलाइन नं. : 0120-3342433, व्हाट्सअप: 9818988807, वेबसाइट : www.gdaghaziabad.cor एक सुन्दर शहर हमारा संकल्प

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esstt/Spl.Trg/Evaluation Workbook/LP&UP/454/2019/10800 Date: 21.12.2019 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed Manufacturer of Exercise Book for supply of Evaluation Workbook LP and UP.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https:// assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Sd/- Mission Director.

NOT ALL IS GLOOMY!

SBI chairman nudges industry to borrow and invest in economy

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar on Saturday nudged industry leaders to enrich their borrowing capacity so as to boost investment in the economy, asserting there is no dearth of funds and most of the banks will be in a better position by March-end as far as stressed assets are concerned.

He also said that the State Bank of India (SBI) is underutilising its loan sanction limits as there is not enough credit demand from the industry.

"If India has to achieve its goal of \$5 trillion economy then it cannot happen unless there is investment in the economy. Today the outstanding banking credit is ₹96 lakh crore. So for a \$5 trillion economy, we would at least need to double it," Kumar said at the 92nd Annual Convention of industry body FICCI here.

He further said that it is a very good business opportunity for the banks.

The gross capital formation rate which is at about 30 per cent at present also needs to go up to at least 37-38 per cent, Kumar added.

Stressing that there is an adequate availability of funds with the banking system, Kumar said: "I don't find enough projects where investment is being sought. Our first indication is that we are the largest financier of projects, we have a very big team for project finance and currently it is under-utilised."

He said even if there are projects, those are mainly in solar, city gas projects and to some extent in roads sector.

"Last year, we did only two financial closures which can be said to be large tickets. One was HPCL refinery in Rajasthan where the project the other was Mumbai Nagpur Communication Expressway where the project

"Other than that, I don't have a project where funding

size is again ₹50,000 crore and

half of the money has come

demand is more than Rs 2,000 to ₹2,500 crore today. So I want to ask you (industry), where are the projects? And if there are no projects then how do I lend and to whom I lend?," Kumar asked the industrialists

present at the convention. The State Bank today has (demand) is of only ₹5.5-6 lakh crore, the SBI chairman

He further said the industry keeps on complaining that banks are not lending and lenders are saying that "we are ready with funds, you are not

borrowing".

On the Centre's infra development push, Kumar said, "When we talk about \$1.5 trillion to be invested in infrastructure sector, there is an opportunity for everyone. I don't think government can meet more than 25 per cent of this requirement. So 75 per cent will still be an opportunity for investors as well as the banks and the foreign capital."

On NPAs and liquidity situation, he said banks now have become extra cautious in lending than they used to be earli-

Talking about reforms such IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code), Kumar said in the current scenario there is ample liquidity available and the recent judgement by the Supreme Court on Essar Steel will matter a lot.

"Many large ticket stressed assets are getting resolved and by March 31, we are going to be in a very good position as far as most of the banks are concerned where at least the NPA (non-performing asset) ratio and stressed assets hopefully will come down," he said. "And in such scenario, the

opportunities which we (SBI) are seeing definitely is infrastructure, consumer lending... There is apparently a demand slowdown, but still our housing loan portfolio, which is a large portfolio, (in that) we are still growing at 16 per cent," the loans (such as credit against salaries) are growing at 25 per cent and there is good demand from housing sector also, he

"For housing sector, geo-graphies may differ, you may have problem in NCR but it is not all India problem. We may have some problem in some residential markets but office market is doing quite well in certain cites like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai — all these markets are doing well and we have seen huge investment interest from all the pri-

vate equity investors," he added. Replying to a question on lending to the telecom sector in the next round of spectrum auctions, he said, "For us lending for spectrum is completely unsecured. On paper, it is secured as the auction is to be done by government but prac-

Railways tests new BOXNS

tically it is totally unsecured." "So in such circumstances, banks will have to evaluate carefully before lending to the

sector as the probability of default is very high," Kumar said. Nevertheless, at a time when India is witnessing a demand slowdown from consumers and slowdown in economic growth, he said the scenario is not "all that gloomy" as it looks like to be as the country is undergoing a transition phase due to ongoing reforms

Also "the mindset with which people do business, the way we live our lives, everything is undergoing a transition phase. I think we are undergong through a pain due to this transition...The country is full of opportunities. That have not disappeared. So I think we should not be disheartened by the current scenario," Kumar

Industry captains discuss road map for \$5 trillion economy

 $F^{\text{rom policy stability to}}_{\text{emphasis on exports of local}}$ goods, key industry players on Saturday discussed and suggested measures for making India a \$5 trillion economy.

SAIL Chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary, ITC Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Puri, Cadila Healthcare Chairman Pankaj R Patel, Bharti Enterprises Vice Chairman Rajan Bĥarti Mittal and JK Paper Vice Chairman and Managing Director Harsh Pati Singhania took part in the discussion during a session on 'India: Roadmap to a \$5 trillion economy' organised by industry chamber FICCI here.

The executives stressed on the need for Indian manufacturing to become globally competitive and join global value

"If we have to reach the level of \$5 trillion economy by the next five years, we have to be globally competitive. India also needs to increase its exports of steel and other manufactured items," SAIL Chairman Chaudhary said. Cadila Healthcare

Chairman Patel said that policy stability is required for any business to grow. "Without policy stability it becomes impossible for industry to plan long-term goals." We all know that manu-

facturing is not something we can decide today and begin the production tomorrow. It takes time. Besides, innovation has the most important role to play for any industry to survive," he said.

Bharti Enterprises' Rajan

that Indian banks may ask

chain as the key ingredients for becoming a \$5 trillion economy.

Mittal suggested that the government should focus on ernment should focus on strengthening the digital back-

bone of the country. Industry has been disrupted, he said adding that gov ernment's intervention is needed. JK Paper's Singhania said the country's manufacturing sector first needs to become internally competitive as several factors are still holding it back including the multiplicity of regulations from different

ITC CMD Puri said that "farming is a large employer. Lots of jobs were created in the post-harvest management".

"Even the food processing segment has the largest employment to capital ratio. We need to plug into the global value chains in value-added agricultural products," he

Govt taking measures to address challenges in steel sector, says SAIL chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic steel sector is facing challenges in form of high input costs and unavailability of coking coal in the country, SAIL chairman AK Chaudhary said on Saturday, and conveyed that the government is aware of the issues and taking appropriate measures to

He was speaking at a session on 'India: Roadmap to a \$5 trillion economy' organised by industry chamber FICCI here.

High input cost is a concern for the industry, the Steel Authority of India Ltd chairman said adding that the production cost of steel in India is the highest at present. One of the major factors contributing to high production cost is tax, he said.

"However, Government is well aware of the issues and is taking appropriate steps and measures to overcome these challenges, Chaudhary said.

The royalty is close to 20 per cent on the input material, whether it is coal or iron ore and freight cost is higher than what is being paid in other countries, the SAIL chairman said adding that electricity also adds to the high production cost.

"In India, average production cost of per tonne steel is about \$450, whereas in China it is as low as \$350 where players get benefit of low tax and incentives," he emphasised.

Coking coal and iron ore are the two key raw materials

freight wagons at 110 kmph The DFC is expected to

IANS NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways has conducted speed trial—up to 110 kmph — of the new BOXNS wagons with the 25tonne axle load on the newly built 193 km Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) on Friday

A senior Railway Ministry official said, here on Saturday, the Research Design and Standards Organisation of the Railways conducted the trial on the Western DFC — Phulera to During the trial, the train

attained an average speed of 86 kmph. The official termed it a big breakthrough and said the railways had to wait for the last 40 years "ever since we got the Casnub bogie design for the freight wagons".

He said the BOXNS wag-

complement the Indian economy with an increased number of freight trains in eastern and western sectors

ons cleared 100 kmph in both loaded and empty condition on the DFC. According to railway officials, the freight wagons normally run at 60 kmph with 22.9-tonne axle load and at 45 kmph with 25-tonne axle load on few routes.

The Railways is constructing the DFC equipped for heavy-haul train operation. The ₹81,459 crore project received the Cabinet's nod in 2006 and has since then missed several deadlines due reasons, like procedural wrangles, land acquisition and environment

Passing through nine states and 60 districts, the project is divided in Western and Eastern corridors

The DFC will have 48 stations/junctions along the Western DFC and 58 on the Eastern DFC. The Western DFC covers 1,504 km from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust near Navi Mumbai to Dadri in UP, traversing through Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Palanpur, Phulera and Rewari. The Eastern DFC covers 1,856 km from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni, near Kolkata, in West Bengal, and will travel through Haryana, UP, Bihar and Jharkhand.

The DFC is expected to complement the Indian economy with an increased number of freight trains in eastern and western sectors.

No need to declare religion for opening bank accounts: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{Kumar on Saturday denied}}^{\text{inance Secretary Rajiv}}$ the "baseless rumours" that Indian citizens need to declare their religion for opening of bank accounts and KYC

purpose.

The clarification comes after a news report suggested

their religion. There is no requirement for #Indian citizens to declare their religion for opening/ existing #Bank account or for #KYC. Do not fall for baseless rumours about any such move by Banks," Kumar said in a late evening tweet.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that

Kanjhawala, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: Age: 15 years, 6 months, Height: 5' 3", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Red colour suit, black colour pajami, blue colour hawai sleeper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/3526/RD/19

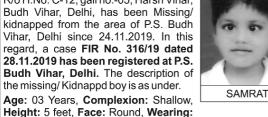


one girl Namely: Nisha, D/o: Hubu Lal, R/o: Ganga Shahay's house, Gurudware wali Gali, Punjab Khod, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 09.11.2019 from the area of P. S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 456/19 dated 18.11.2019 has been registered at P. S.

P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi Tel.No. 011-25951486, 7065036125

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Samrat S/o Sewaram R/o H.No. C-12, gali no.-05, Harsh Vihar, Budh Vihar, Delhi, has been Missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi since 24.11.2019. In this regard, a case FIR No. 316/19 dated 28.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/ Kidnappd boy is as under.



Green T-Shirt & brown colour pant and Red colour sweater sleeper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. It anyone has any information about the missing boy then please inform P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/3525/RD/19

Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-27052772

Stagflation knocking at our doors: Mitra

West Bengal Finance min-ister Amit Mitra on Saturday said that India is facing the prospects of a possible industry in the state, he said that and high inflation.

"Stagflation is knocking at our doors. This is due to stagnation following low growth and high inflation", Mitra said at an event organised by West Bengal Garment Manufacturers and Dealers Association here. He said that as per new data, India's GDP growth rate is likely to be 4.6 per cent for the cur-

rent financial year. Fitch Ratings on Friday has cut its growth forecast from previous estimation of 5.6 per cent to 4.6 per cent for the financial year 2019-20. Mitra said that when India's growth rate is nose-

diving, West Bengal's growth rate is on an upward trend, cou-pled with low levels of poverty and rising employment rates.

Talking about the textiles annual revenue of ₹one lakh crore by 2023. He said that the sector provides direct employment to 20 lakh people and indirect employment to 50 lakh.

Mitra said that the state is in process of setting up seven textile parks in and around the city, the largest one being at Nungi on the western fringes of the metropolis where the Government would invest ₹400 crore for building 11 lakh square feet of space. According to him, bank loans to the MSME sector of the state is likely to cross ₹70,000 crore during the current fiscal.

आंचलिक प्रबंधक

Punjab and Sind Bank पंजाब एण्ड सिंध बैंक

As per RBI mandate, customers whose periodic KYC is due, requested to

NOTICE

update their KYC/PAN/ From 60/61 with home branch immediately otherwise

RBI के आदेश के अनुसार, जिन ग्राहकों की आवधिक KYC देय है, उनसे अन्रोध किया गया है उनके केवाईसी / पैन / 60/61 से होम ब्रांच के साथ त्रंत अपडेट करें अन्यथा उनके खाते को फ़ीज कर दिया जाएगा

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esstt/SPL-TRG/Sikhon-Puthi/LPand UP/452/2019/10799 Date :21,12,2019 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samgra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web Offset Machine/ Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of Sikhon Puthi- LP and UP To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document,

bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https:// assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing

the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/ Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed

Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Jaypee loses 1,000 hectare land that has **F1 Circuit**

Noida: The Yamuna Expressway Authority on Saturday cancelled the allotto Jaypee group on which India's only Formula One motor racing circuit is built in Greater Noida over non-payment of dues, officials said.

The decision was taken by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) during its 66th Board meeting.

"A thousand hectare land was allotted to Jaypee Sports Limited, an affiliate of Jaypee group, in YEIDA's special economic zone. Jaypee Sports Limited has been defaulting on payments to YEIDA and not completing projects promised to buyers," YEIDA CEO Arunvir Singh said. The embattled business group defaulted on payments of over ₹500 crore, he added. The Jaypee group had sub-leased plots to 11 builders on the allocated land and separately had taken around ₹2,000 crore from homebuvers in 10 projects but not delivered it, he said. PTI | app," Twitter said in a state-

After Google, Twitter warns Indian users about data breach

New Delhi: In an extremely stressful year for social media not have direct evidence that users who have been bugged malicious code was inserted on Saturday admitted a malicious code was inserted into its app by a bad actor that could have compromised several Android users' information worldwide, including in India.

Some users in India woke up to an email from Twitter, warning them to update the app for Android and immediately change the password.

The vulnerability within Twitter for Android could allow the bad actor to see nonpublic account information or to control your account (send Tweets or Direct Messages), said an apologetic Twitter. "Prior to the fix, through a

complicated process involving the insertion of malicious code into restricted storage areas of the Twitter app, it may have been possible for a bad actor to access information (Direct Messages, protected Tweets, location information) from the

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT PHEM/UDHR/ 62 OF 2019-20 DATED 14-12-2019

Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the governor of J&K State, invites tenders by e-tendring

WESTERN RAILWAY

BULK ADVERTISMENT RIGHTS

Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for display of

Advertisements at Passengers Information System for a

Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for display

Advertisements at Marine Lines station for a period of 5

WORK AND LOCATION

sistered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electro mechanical/ electrical works S. No. 1, Name of Work :- Procurement, installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machinery with other

ment. The company said it does nerability was exploited, but it can't be completely sure.

Twitter, however, did not divulge the number of affected

"We have taken steps to fix this issue and are directly notifying people who could have been exposed to this vulnerability either through the Twitter app or by email with specific instructions to keep them safe".

The company recommended updating to the latest version for Android as the issue did not impact "Twitter for iOS".

"We're sorry this happened and will continue working to keep your information secure on Twitter," said the company in the email sent to the Indian users, adding that those affected can also reach out to Twitter's Office of Data Protection, requesting information regarding their account security.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

₹ 12919353/-

₹ 16282183/-

₹ 5991406/-

EMD in ₹

₹ 325700/-

Japan lifts curbs on export of kev chip material to **South Korea**

Tokyo: Japan has lifted curbs on the export of a key microchip material to South Korea, news reports said ers of both countries meet in their first formal talks for more

The ministry of economy, trade and industry on Friday removed photoresists - used to coat semiconductor circuit boards — from Tokyo's export restrictions against Seoul, the Asahi Shimbun newspaper and other reports said.

Japan tightened export controls on three materials essential to key products of South Korean tech companies such as Samsung in July after a series of South Korean court rulings ordered Japanese firms to compensate war-time forced labour victims. The move infuriated Tokyo, which insists the matter was settled in a 1965 treaty normalising diplomatic relations between the two countries, which included significant reparations.

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender No. ERCON20192020.

dated 19.12.2019. Chief Adminis-

trative Officer/Construction/Easterr

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR Railway/Kolkata invites e-tender uploaded on 12.12.2019 on IRFPS website www.ireps.gov.in for supply of the following items from RDSO approved sources for the tendered item(s): Tender Title: Fabrication Qty:-01 job, Name of Division: PHE Mech. Division Udhampur, Cost of Tender Document / Tender Fee (in Rs):-Rs. 200/- Earnest money (in Rs):-Rs. 112000.00 (Rs.56000/- for DIC / SSI Registered Firms) of J&K In the shape of CDR/FDR Addressed to the Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur, Validity of Rates:-90 days, Bid and supply of 10125 mm Overriding Curved Switches 1 in 12, BG 60 Kg to RDSO Drg No. T-4219, Alt 6 and IRS Specification: T-10-2000 . Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 16-12-2019 (10:30 AM).

The Bids shall be deposited on the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 17-12-2019 (01:00 PM) to 06-01-2020 Fabricated Switches with Corrigendum No. 1 of Dec-2016. Item Description(s): Detail description PHE Mech. Division Udhampur of the tendered item are available n e-Tender Notice and e-Tender Document (Chapter-III at page-26) uploaded on www.ireps.gov.in Tendered Quantity: 68 Sets. Consignee : DSK/Con/Asansol (West Bengal). Approx Tender Value: Rs. 1,23,93,544/-. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,47,880/-. Date & Time of Closing/Opening of the Tender: 03.01.2020 at 14.30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit website http://www.ireps.gov.in In no case manual tender for the

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.ir

endered item(s) will be accepted.

CON-130/2019-20

Sr. No. : 1 to 3 : Date & Time of Opening : 16.01.2020. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visi www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

lectro-mechanical components under WSS Bilaspur Deot.

period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for display of CA 11 Bulk Advertisements at Kandivali station for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway dtd 19.12.2019

Tender Notice

No. & Date

CA_11_Bulk

(3:00 PM)

No. DIP/J-10998/19

Dated: 20.12.2019

years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway dtd 19.12.2019



POWERPUFF GIRLS

MUSBA HASHMI meets young crusaders from Jharkhand and Rajasthan who have been making a difference in their respective villages with their body of work defying age barriers. Their fight is against ageold contentious issues like child marriage, casteism, illiteracy and child labour. A report

t an age as young as 13, when most girls tend to live in a make belief world, where everything is sweet and nice, two little warriors decided to initiate a fight against the evils in the society. Meet Arti Kumari and Champa Kumari who feared none and raised their voice against the villains like casteism, child marriage, child labour and illiteracy, that are there in the society since time immemorial

Hailing from Raipura in Alwar, Rajasthan, Arti is a Class VII student and the second eldest of the four siblings in the family. Her father is a *jawaan* in the Army and is posted in the conflict areas of Kashmir.

Arti's village comprises of many families from backward castes and tribes. The access to social spaces and village infrastructure depends very much on the caste of the person. Arti's family belongs to a higher caste, and therefore is economically and socially more comfortable than many in the community.

Despite the fact that Arti has never faced any discrimination, her zeal to take up the issue of casteism at such a young age amazes everyone. "How can you decide how to treat another person based on their caste? This isn't even something they choose for themselves," she asks passionately.

To eradicate this evil practice, Arti started interacting with the people from the lower castes. But this didn't sit well with many people in her village, not even her family. "My mother used to ask me what I was doing and that the whole village will boycott me, but I told her that they too are human and there is nothing to avoid them. Gradually, my family understood what I was doing, but I had to go through a lot of resistance from the villagers who used to ask my parents whether I am in my senses or not," she tells you.

Not only this, Arti took a step ahead by having a meal in the house of one such family on the ocassion of Makar Sankranti.

The other thing that kept disturbing Arti was that none of the children from lower castes or the Banjara community went to school. "Initially, it never bothered me. But after I was told about the opportunities that open up when you get educated, I started wondering, 'How would the future for these children be, without education?" she tells you.

This thought made Arti and other children determined to work to change the situation. As a result, today, all 96 children in her village are enrolled in schools around the area.

when Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) started its work here in 2015, every third child in the village was either out-of-school, or not enrolled. Many children worked in the stone quarries for a meager sum of money. The area is also considered to be a source point for child trafficking. Lured by traffickers disguised as contractors, many poor families agree to send their children to work in cities. As a result, many children end up trafficked for illegal purposes.

The Banjara community, a historically nomadic

t an age as young as 13, when most girls tend to live in a make belief world, where everything is sweet and nice, two Banjara children from here ever went to school until

Guided by the activists, Arti along with other children, tried to understand the rights children have. They were astonished to see how the rights of many children around them were violated regularly. This was especially common in the case of children from the Banjara and other low-caste communities. This realisation made the group ready to take the matter into their own hands.

Driven with the motivation to change the situation of children, Arti contested the Bal Panchayat elections and became an elected member.

"Along with other children, I used to organise rallies, door-to-door campaigns, and personal meetings with parents, highlighting the consequences of ill-practices like child marriage, child labour, and abuse and exploitation of children. However, initially all of them used to drive us away, showing no interest of engaging into any kind of conversation. But, I kept trying until the day they agreed to sit and talk," she says.

Arti and the other members of the Bal Panchayat also played a pivotal role in stopping child marriages happening in their village with the support of village elders and activists.

Among all the challenges, the biggest challenge was to convince the Banjara community people to send their children to school. "Who will take the cattle out for grazing?" "Who will go earn for the family?" "Will the children from the upper caste even talk to our children?" Questions like these hounded the Bal Panchayat members.

Therefore, the group changed their strategy. They started regularly engaging the Banjara children in sports and playing with them. "When we first went to the community, they showed no interest of talking to us. They used to say hamare bachchon ko bigad degi yeh ladki and various other things. That time, I felt like giving up. It felt bad because what we were doing was for their own good but still we had to hear such bad things that demotivated us. In this phase of time, what kept us going was the words of BBA activists. They told us that fighting evil is not as easy as it seems and that this was just a small portion of it.

"We started visiting the community regularly. We tried conversing with the children but all went in vain. The parents gave strict instructions to the children to not indulge in any talks with us. Then we started playing games amongst each other. This lured the Banjara children and gradually we earned their trust. We developed a deeper relationship with them. We then we were able to convince the children about the importance of education and play. And eventually, both the parents and the children agreed to go to school," she tells you.

The Bal Panchayat also had a Banjara boy elected as the *sarpanch* (head), which was groundbreaking. Arti, as the secretary of the council, continued focusing on regularisation of education for

children from the Banjara community. The group



Arti Kumari

I AM HAPPY TO SEE
THAT SOME AMOUNT OF
EMPOWERMENT HAS
COME TO THE GIRL CHILD.
TODAY, ANY GIRL GOING
TO SCHOOL DOESN'T
NEED TO BE ESCORTED
FROM HOME
— ARTI KUMARI



also campaigned against caste-based discrimination, and for improving the quality of education and infrastructure in their schools.

Arti has also spoken fearlessly against the caste system and reservations on many platforms like rallies and campaigns at the village level. She debates that reservations should be on the basis of one's economic condition, and the benefits should percolate down to the ones who need it the most.

The Gram Panchayat also recognises this Bal Panchayat and thus acts swiftly on children's concerns. Due to their impact, the Block Development Officer and other administrative officials also cooperate with them.

They have collectively been able to contribute to the village's development tremendously, especially the condition of schools. Improved attendance of enrolled children in school owing to regular teachers, improved meals, better student-teacher ratio, and better play grounds have been some of the major achievements of this collaboration.

At this point, the challenge for this group of resolute children is to get the route of an open drain adjacent to their school diverted. The drain overflows during the rains and spews waste around the school and on the play ground, making it inaccessible, and also creating foul smells.

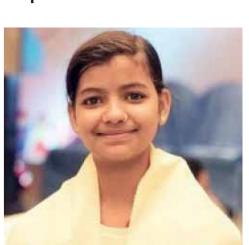
"We have already communicated about this to the Gram Panchayat, and they have told us that they will act on this soon," Arti says, with a twinkle in her eyes that speaks of the confidence these kids have in themselves.

There is a lot many changes that Arti hopes to see in the girls of her village. "I would want that the girls should feel empowered. Though, the change has come. Earlier, these girls never went to the school without a companion. So if one was absent from the school, the other will not go as well. Most of them preferred staying back at their homes. But now, none of them wants to miss the school. Even if someone is absent, the other will go by her own. This is the change that I would like to see on a larger scale that the girls should come forward and stand for their rights," she says.

While Arti is much wiser than her age, Champa, a resident of Jhamdar village, is no less. She is the Vice President of National Maha Bal Panchayat. She has also won the prestigious Diana Award for her work against child marriages in micamining areas of Jharkhand and was felicitated by Dropdi Murmuat, Jharkhand Governor at Raj Bhawan in Ranchi.

Champa Kumari was once a school dropout and used to go to mines to collect mica as her education was never the priority of her family. In the year 2016, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation intervened in Champa's village with the aim to put an end to evil practices like child marriages, child labour, child trafficking and all forms of child exploitation as well as ensuring 100 per cent enrolment of children in school.

"Like me, there were a lot of children in my area who were taken to the mines to collect mica by their parents. Their age was never a concern for the par-



Champa Kumari

ents. Even children as young as eight years were involved in the work. Once the parents thought that the child is big enough to become a helping hand, they would take them to work," she says.

Being a child who had been into mica mining, she understands how hazardous it is and all she wanted was to stop other children from falling prey to such jobs.

Apart from being a mica hub, her village practises child marriage as a tradition, but Champa wanted to put an end to this. Therefore, with the intervention of Champa Kumari and other members of Bal Panchayat two child marriages were foiled in her village.

"I got to know about the marriage through some villagers. A 12-year-old girl was being married off to a man much older to her. I went there along with other members of the Bal Panchayat and we stopped that horrendous act. It was difficult to convince the parents to not marry their daughter in one go, but after multiple attempts we were able to save the girl," she says. In her village, girls aged between 12-14 are usually married to boys between 18-19 years of

The whole village stood against Champa, but the young heart had no plans of back tracking. "My parents told me not to intervene in such matters. The villagers used to call us names for not abiding by the so called laws of the village. But *maine kabhi himmat nahin haari*. I told me parents that the way I was rescued from child labour, it is my responsibility to help others and somehow they were convinced and supported my decision," she tells you.

The largest impact of Champa's efforts that could be seen is the reduction rate of child marriages in her village. She has become a catalyst of change not only in her village, but in the nearby

villages as well.

There are many children like Champa who are dedicated to making child friendly nation through developing the collective leadership by children themselves using democratic process across India.

India look to end on high

Men in Blue search for 10th consecutive bilateral series win against Windies in decider today

ndia have everything going their way as they head into the third and final ODI against West Indies at the Barabati stadium today eyeing a 10th straight bilateral series win over the Caribbean side.

The West Indies took the home side by surprise in the opening ODI in Chennai to go one-up in the three-match series. But India, riding an all-round display, came back strongly to restore parity in the second match.

Barring a rare duck from skipper Virat Kohli, the Indian top-order fired in unison at Visakhapatnam, before hattrick hero Kuldeep Yadav sliced through the West Indies line-up for a comprehensive

Three days after his blazing 159, Rohit Sharma stood just nine runs short of eclipsing former Śri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya's 22-year-old record of being the highest run-scorer as an opener across all

K L Rahul also struck a sublime century in a 220-run opening stand to firmly stake his claim as a long-term opener for India. Then the duo of Shreyas Iyer and

Rishabh Pant chipped in with brisk knocks, and they would like to end the year on a positive note.

In bowling, Delhi pacer Navdeep Saini is in line to make his ODI debut in the absence of the inured Deepak Chahar, who was ruled out of the match with a lower

back problem.

The fielding, though, has failed to match the high standards India have set in

While Iyer's effort to dismiss Shimron Hetmyer was eye-catching, Chahar dropped a sitter off Nicholas Pooran and grassed Shai Hope for a duck at the slip cordon, something that attracted Kohli's

The pitch at Barabati is going to be similar to the one in Visakhapatnam, offering

The left-right combination of Hetmyer and Hope plotted India's downfall in Chennai and had it not been for a brilliant throw from Iyer to run out the former in Vizag, the Windies would have put up a strong fight in the second ODI. Hetmyer, who struck a career-best 139

in Chennai, was over the moon and danced in excitement after being bought for ₹7.75 crore by Delhi Capitals in the IPL auction. His teammate Sheldon Cottrell also took home a hefty paycheck after the leftarm pacer was bought for ₹8.5 crore by Kings XI Punjab, and the Windies duo will



ndian captain Virat Kohli, center, gestures during a training session ahead of final ODI between Indian and West Indies at Barabati stadium in Cuttack

be bolstered by that.

Hope, who is second only to Rohit in the run chart this year, will look to make a statement after the wicketkeeper-batsman went unsold at the auction.

Kieron Pollard's team had no hesitation in chasing after winning the toss in the first two ODIs but come today, the teams will be thinking twice before bowling second keeping the dew factor in mind.

The West Indies, at the same time, will be keen to end a 13-year long wait to win against India in a bilateral ODI series. While the hosts, who lost to Australia 2-3 in their last bilateral series in March, will have their reputation at stake.

They have not lost two consecutive bilateral ODI series at home in the last 15 years. The last time an ODI was played here more than two years ago, India had pipped England by 15 runs while defending an imposing 382.

Series outcome won't influence WI path

PTI CUTTACK

West Indies head coach Phil Simmons feels his team's "best show" may not be enough to beat India in the series-decider but the outcome of the game won't "influence" the direction the Caribbean outfit has taken under his guidance. Simmons, a former play-

er, was reappointed as West Indies coach in October.

"I think all the guys know we want to play our best tomorrow (on Sunday) and

even though we play our best,



Windies players chat during team's practice session at Barabati stadium

we might not win," Simmons said on the eve of the match. The gulf between the two sides has progressively

widened in the last decade or so as the West Indies, barring their 3-0 sweep over Afghanistan last month, have

gone without a win in 16 bilateral ODI series since August

'The thing is we are trying to build something and the game tomorrow (on Sunday) does not influence the direction in which we are going... But we are trying to build something and will continue to be in direction we are

However there's a positivity in the camp with their topranked batsman in the ICC ODI rankings, Shai Hope in fine form along with Shimron

FLORENCE: Fiorentina announced on Saturday that they had fired coach Vincenzo Montella with the club struggling in 14th in Serie A. "Vincenzo Montella has been relieved of his duties as head coach of the first team," club announced on its website. "The decision was taken following long & detailed analysis of the team's performances and results." The club promised a new coach would be announced "in next few days"

PATTINSON TO PLAY IN BOXING DAY TEST

Melbourne: Australia head coach Justin Langer has all but confirmed that right-arm pacer James Pattinson will feature in the playing XI for the second Test against New Zealand beginning Boxing Day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). "I am really looking forward to seeing Patto bowl and bowl well in this Boxing Day Test, which is his home ground as well, cricket.com.au quoted Langer

FC GOA EYE TOP SPOT IN ISL MARGAO: FC Goa will be out to reclaim their spot at the top of ISL when they take on Odisha FC today. Goa are currently in second spot with 15 points from eight games, while Odisha are seventh with nine points. It will be an interesting tussle in the middle of the park between two sets of technically-proficient players. Goa are coming off a confidence-boosting 2-1 win over ATK in the previous game.

JEREMY SMASHES YOUTH WORLD RECORD DOHA: Youth Olympic Gold medallist weightlifter

Jeremy Lalrinnunga went on a record-breaking spree, claiming three world marks in a remarkable performance, on the way to a Silver in the men's 67kg category at the 6th Qatar Int'l Cup. In a power-packed performance, the 17year-old smashed his own Youth World and Asian record in snatch, clean and jerk and total lift with an effort of 306kg (140kg+166kg) to win the Silver medal. Jeremy broke 27 records in total all under his name, combining national and

HARINDER WINS HCL-SRFI INDIA TOUR Mumbai: Indian squash player Harinder Pal

Singh Sandhu clinched the men's title while Hana Ramadan of Egypt won the women's crown in the third leg of the HCL-SRFI India Tour. Harinder defeated Tomotaka Endo of Japan 3-0 in a match that lasted for 30 minutes, while Hana beat England's Lucy Turmel 3-1 in the

MARTINEZ WINS WBC FLYWEIGHT CROWN

Los Angeles: Mexico's Julio Cesar Martinez stopped Nicaragua's Cristofer Rosales in the ninth round to win the vacant World Boxing Council flyweight title. Martinez improved to 15-1 with his 12th victory inside the distance while Rosales fell to 29-5 with the loss at Phoenix, Arizona. After dropping his 2015 pro debut, Martinez has won 15 fights in a row, although he needed two tries to claim the WBC flyweight

PCB ROPES IN CURATOR ATKINSON KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has

hired the services of experienced curator Andy Atkinson to review the state of pitches in the country and help local curators prepare sporting pitches. The PCB in its bid to improve its cricket structure will also revamp the National Cricket Academy in Lahore and turn it into a high-performance center AGENCIES



Openers put Pak on top

Abid Ali and Shan Masood became only the third opening pair for Pakistan to hit centuries in the same innings as Pakistan turned the tables on Sri Lanka in the second and final Test in Karachi on

Abid, nicknamed "legend" in Pakistan's dressing room, hit 174 for his second hundred in as many Tests becoming the first Pakistani and ninth batsmen overall to score two centuries in his first two Tests.

When the third day's play ended Pakistan were in a strong position with 395-2, having an overall lead of 315 after conceding an 80-run lead in the first innings.

Skipper Azhar Ali was unbeaten on 57 —

his first fifty in 14 innings — and Babar Azam on 22 not out. It was a day of bats-

men's dominance as Pakistan added 338 runs after resuming at 57-0 on a National stadium pitch which dried up to help batting.
Masood blasted 135

for his second century in 19th Test as the duo put on 278 for the opening wicket, just 20 short of equalling the highest opening stand for akistan of 298. Masood batted for

nearly five hours for his 135, which included three sixes and seven fours. Abid struck 21 boundaries and a six in his 398-minute batting.

Abid, 32, completed his century with a sweep off-spinner Lasith Embuldeniya for two to follow his 109 in the drawn first Test in Rawalpindi — his debut.

Aamer Sohail/Ijaz Ahmed Karach Abid Ali/Shan Masood

1997-98 Abdul Kadir/Khalid Ibadulla AUS 219 Imran Nazir/Mohd Wasim WI Bridgetown 1999-00 215 Azhar Ali/Sami Aslam Dubai 2016-17

I know my game really well now: Iyer | 'Indian pace attack is world's best'

PTI ■ CUTTACK

Chreyas Iyer on Saturday said he sible in the beginning of his career, a far cry from the present day matured man who is displaying both in equal measure while solving India's number four conun-The 25-year-old is gradually

settling into the critical number four position in a team that has struggled to find one for the longest The Mumbaikar showed his

worth with half centuries in the first two ODIs against the West

"I think that comes with maturity and responsibility. I was a flamboyant player when I started playing first-class cricket. I never used to take responsibility. I just used to back my instincts and go with the flow,"

Iyer told reporters.
"Lately, I've realised that once you play at the highest level, you got to take that maturity to another stage. I can even play strokes and I



can even nudge the ball and take single, so I know my game really well right now and I can play according-

Asked about his sedate 88-ball 70, which he scored in the series opener on a day the top-order failed, he said, "You have to play according to what the team demands. And that's what I did the other day. The team didn't demand me to score big shots at that time, we just needed a big part-"We just needed the scoreboard

to keep going. And that's what I did I and I feel that whatever the situation demands, you got to play accordingly. And I'm really happy about what I did in the first game. Three days later, batting at num-

ber five, Iyer was at his explosive best as he smashed a 32-ball 53 to consolidate India's innings Visakhapatnam.

"I batted at No 5 in the previous ODI. I'm flexible that way. It's just that you got to play according to the situation and what the team demands. And that's what I did. And I know that I can play in both flows."



The spirited and efficient

Sonia Lather's split verdict win

against legendary Sarita Devi in

the classic women's 60kg bout

took the Panthers one victory

import from Scotland, Scott

Forrest dished out a gutsy show

to take the contest into the final

bout of the boxing extravagan-

Yashpal in the climactic 75kg

battle as Gujarat Giants took

home the winners' trophy.

Ashish Kumar then beat

But the Giants' heavyweight

away from the crown.

Dale Steyn on Saturday rated the current Indian fast bowling unit as the best in world cricket. Steyn, who was bought

by Royal Challengers Bangalore at the 2020 IPL auction, responded to a variety of questions during an interactive session with his fans on social networking site Twitter. When a user asked

which bowling line-up he feels is currently the best in the world, Steyn said India.

The 36-year-old, who is looking forward to the IPL's upcoming edition, was reminded about his battle with the legendary Sachin Tendulkar in 2010. He termed the dual with the Indian great as "haunt-

92 matches in the IPL, is just four short of reaching

Asked about his best bowling effort, he picked the 7-51 against India in Nagpur in 2010.

When asked if South Africa have a chance against England with the new coaching staff, he sounded optimistic. "Big chance... England

weren't convincing in New Zealand, that's not to say they are not good. I'm just saying they didn't look the part. Under Bouch (head coach Mark Boucher) I feel we have it covered, but it's going to be exciting," said Steyn, whose favourite fast bowler at the moment is Pat Cummins, who became the most expensive foreign buy in IPL his-

Steyn, who has played

Curran excited to pick

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tikhat Zareen was on Saturday Named among the Indian women boxers who will participate in the two-day trials scheduled for the Olympic qualifiers to be held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium from December 27.

After the selection committee meeting, Nikhat from Telengana was handed the fourth spot in the 51 kg category which already has the six-time World Champion MC Mary Kom, RSPB's Jyoti Gulia and Haryana's Ritu Grewal as other contenders.

Mary Kom has been ranked one, Nikhat was given a second ranking, while Jyoti and Ritu have been ranked third and fourth respectively

According to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), boxers ranked 1 and 4 will fight and boxers ranked 2 and 3 will play against

"The winners of each bout will make it to the final trial match

and the winners here in each of the 5 categories will then be selected to be part of the Indian Team to participate in the Olympic Qualifiers Āsia & Oceania in Wuhan from February 3-14, 2020," BFI said. Given the criteria, Nikhat will

take on Jyoti, while Mary Kom will face Ritu with the winner of the two bouts set to face-off in a final trial match which will decide who makes it to the Indian team for the Olympic qualifiers.

In other weight categories, Sonia (RSPB) will lock horns with former World championship Silver medallist Sonia Lather (RSPB), while Sakshi (Haryana) clashes with Manisha (Haryana) in 57kg.

In 60kg, former World cham-pion L Sarita Devi (AIP) has been pitted against Shashi Chopra (Haryana) and Simranjit Kaur (Punjab) is set to fight Pavitra In 69kg, two-time world cham-

pionship Bronze medallist Lovlina

Borgohain (Assam) will face Anjali

(Delhi), while Lalita (Rajasthan)

Gujarat Giants win Big Bout Indian Boxing League track in the pulsating final.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nikhat selected for boxing trials of Olympic qualifiers

Gujarat Giants, led by skipper Amit Panghal, pulled off a come-from-behind 4-3 victory over Punjab Panthers in a highvoltage final to win the inaugural Big Bout Indian Boxing League on Saturday.

Darshana Doot (women's 51kg) and Youth Olympic Games Gold medallist Abdulmalik Khalakov (57kg) scored wellcrafted victories to put Panthers 2-0 ahead, but the Ashish Kulheria (69kg) and Panghal (52kg) hauled the Giants back on

takes on Meena Rani (RSPB).

Among men boxers, Vikash In 75kg, Asian Games Bronze Krishan, who returned to amateur medallist Pooja Rani will square off against Indraja KA from Kerela, fold after a stint in professional boxwhile former world championship ing by winning a Gold at South Silver medallist Saweety Boora Asian Games, will also appear in the takes on Nupur in an all-Haryana

Dhoni, Fleming's brains

PTI ■ CHENNAI

England all-rounder Sam Curran is looking at his entry into the Chennai Super Kings setup as an "opportunity to pick the brains" of seasoned

captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and coach Stephen Fleming. "Can't wait to come to

Chennai and meet all my new teammates playing under MS. Dhoni our captain and our coach Stephen Fleming. It's obviously going to be a great opportunity for me to pick their brains and, hopefully, we can bring the trophy home to Chennai," Curran

said in a video

uploaded by his

Curran had a fairly successful outing for Kings XI Punjab in the last edition and is now looking forward to turn out for

three-time winners CSK. "Super excited to be joining the Chennai Super Kings for next season of IPL. A massive thank you to the coach, man-

agement staff. "Just want to say I can't wait to play in front of the home fans in Chennai. I felt some amazing

things, I was lucky enough to play last year against Chennai, and to play in front of the home fans this year is going to be special. eally Hopefully, we can out in some great performances for the fans," he signed sunday pioneer

Master takes on apprentice

Lampard's young brigade visit White Hart Lane to take on 'Special One' Mourinho's Spurs

Tottenham vs Chelsea STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

AFP ■ LONDON

¬rank Lampard insists he doesn't want to emulate Jose Mourinho's unique style as the Chelsea manager plots to out-wit his old boss in today's crucial clash at Tottenham.

Lampard's first Premier League meeting with Mourinho is the headline act in a fascinating derby that will determine which of the London rivals spends Christmas Day in the

Spurs manager Mourinho played a key role in Lampard's emergence as one of Chelsea's all-time greats during their time together at Stamford Bridge.

Yet while Mourinho's managerial credentials are well established after winning a host of trophies during his glittering 19-year career, Lampard is still carving out a name for himself in the coaching world. The former England

midfielder is in just his second season as a manager after leaving Championship side Derby to take charge at Chelsea in July. Lampard acknowledges

Mourinho was a big influence on him as a player but, now he is in the dug-out, he will follow his own path rather than copy the Portuguese coach.

Asked to name the most important lesson he took from working with Mourinho, Lampard said: "There's not one thing, no; he's obviously a good manager with loads of good

"But there's not one specif-



ic thing I learned working under him, and I wouldn't strive to be a clone or anything.

'I'm happy to go up against Jose; for me to play under him, he was a big influence in my

Lampard and Mourinho remain on good terms from their Chelsea days — the Tottenham manager promising

before kick-off and talking of his "love" for the 41-year-old.

But that didn't stop the student admitting beating his old teacher in such an important

Jan, Eriksen to stay at Spurs?

Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho hopes Jan Vertonghen and Christian Eriksen will follow Toby Alderweireld's lead to extend their stays at Spurs beyond the end of the season.

Alderweireld ended longrunning speculation over his future by signing a new contract till 2023 on Friday.

Vertonghen and Eriksen have just over six months left on

"When I arrived, we had three top players potentially leaving, now we have two top players potentially leaving, Mourinho told *Sky Sports*.

"If I was Jan or Christian, I would stay. They have been here for such a long time, they are living the life of the club in the past four, five years, the transition from White Hart Lane to

Chelsea were 12 points ahead of Tottenham when Mourinho replaced the sacked Mauricio Pochettino in November.

That gap is now down to just three after Mourinho masterminded an immediate Tottenham revival with four wins from his five league

In contrast, Chelsea are experiencing the first major blip of Lampard's reign after four defeats in their last five league matches.

Mourinho's impact at Tottenham has surprised some who claimed he was finished as a top manager after his last two jobs with Chelsea and United

the best stadium in the world. "The perspectives of the future, the vision of the club, if I was them, I would say I want to be part of the next thing." Alderweireld

Vertonghen have remained regulars since Mourinho took charge a month ago, but Eriksen has started just once, in a dead rubber Champions League tie at Bayern Munich.

'The only thing I will say about Christian is that I want him to sign a new contract," added Mourinho.

"The most important thing is what Toby said. I couldn't be happier anywhere else. That is

"It helps that since I've arrived he's played every minute of every game, probably. He probably feels like he's going to play under me, he's going to be first choice, and maybe that helps."

But the 56-year-old never doubted his ability to Tottenham back on track and now he wants to underline their resurgence with a statement win against Chelsea.

'When we arrived we were 12 points distance, we were closer to the bottom than the top," Mourinho said. "But of course we knew

where we belong and we knew it was a question of time to leave this awful position and to have an approach.

'We know we can end this year in the top four. But this is not just between us and Chelsea. Manchester United are involved, Wolves are involved. Every point is cru-



Ancelotti joins Toffees

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

 $E^{\rm verton~appointed~Carlo}_{\rm Ancelotti~as~the~Toffees'}$ new manager on a four-anda-half year deal on Saturday in a major coup for a club mired in the bottom half of the Premier League table.

Ancelotti, 60, watched Saturday's 0-0 draw with Arsenal from the stands at Goodison Park. He will take charge for the first time on Boxing Day for visit of Burnley.

three-time Champions League winning coach was sacked by Napoli earlier this month but comes with a trophy-laden CV from spells at a clutch of Europe's top clubs, including Juventus, AC Milan, Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich.

Ancelotti has won league titles in four different coun-

However, his immediate task will be just to steer Everton away from the relegation zone as they sit just four points above the drop zone in 15th and could drop closer to the foot of the table by the end of the weekend. "This is a great club with

a rich history and a very passionate fan base," Ancelotti said in a club statement.

"There is a clear vision

to deliver success and tro-

"That is something that appeals to me as a manager and I am thrilled at the prospect of being able to work with everybody at the club to help make that vision a reali-

Caretaker manager Duncan Ferguson was rewarded for taking five points from three tough games against Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal with a role in Ancelotti's backroom team.

"It's fantastic for the club, a guy of that pedigree coming here," Ferguson told BT Sport. "I cannot wait to start working with him and I'm sure I'll learn

Ancelotti was full of praise for Ferguson's short time in charge and believes by taking points from three of the Premier League's traditional top six, Everton's squad has shown what it is capable of.

"I have seen from the performances in the last two weeks that the players are capable of so much," added Ancelotti.

"The work Duncan has done is a great credit to him. Strong organisation, strong discipline and the right motivation are some of the key ingredients in football and I'm pleased that he will be part of my backroom team moving

Barca end 2019 on top

BARCELONA: Barcelona go into the brief Spanish winter break on top of La Liga after a glittering show from Lionel Messi helped the defending champions beat Alayes 4-1 on Saturday. Real Madrid, who drew 0-0 in Barcelona in the

midweek Clasico, can draw level top on 39 points but behind on goal difference if they win at home to Atletico Bilbao today. Seville are assured third place over Christmas on

34 points after their 2-0 win in Mallorca. French star Antoine Griezzman put Barca ahead

with a lovely snapshot from outside the area after a slick exchange with

Messi had already had a better strike ruled out by a harsh VAR decision, while Mohican-haired Chilean forward Arturo Vidal had tried a dramatic overhead effort that the Alaves 'keeper just about stopped with his



Vidal bagged a

second just before half-time when put into open space on the right as Barcelona overwhelmed the visitors, but they should have gone into the break more than 2-0 ahead. Pere Pons pulled one back on 56 minute for

Alaves with neither Gerard Pique nor the returning Samuel Umtiti on hand as his header flew home from Even with four defenders around him, Messi was

unstopabble on 69 minutes as he unleashed a trademark left foot strike from outside the box. The goal illustrated why the diminutive attack-

er recently won a sixth Ballon d'Or. A sweetly-struck Luis Suarez penalty made it 4-

Pep 'best coach in world'



Real Madrid players train ahead of La Liga clash against Athletic Bilbao

AFP MADRID

Zinedine Zidane more.
Saturday his key aim this season inedine Zidane insisted on is to win La Liga with Real Madrid, but admitted they faced a thrilling challenge trying to outwit Pep Guardiola and Manchester City, who LaLiga they meet in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Zidane, who has won three Champions Leagues as a coach compared to Guardiola's two,

described the Catalan as "the best coach in the world".

The two sides meet in Madrid on February 26 before heading to Manchester for the second leg on

"It'll be fabulous to play against him (Guardiola)," said Zidane, speaking ahead of Real's game against Athletic Bilbao today, their final Liga match ahead of the win-

"I respected him as a player and said.

now as a coach. He's the top coach in the world and has proved it throughout his career.'

Guardiola coached Barcelona to

the 2009 and 2011 Champions League titles. He went on to win plaudits at Bayern Munich and City with domestic championships but has failed to land a third

Champions League Real Madrid vs Bilbao title. "So it'll be a pleasure for me and a pleasure for all of us

to come up against him and his team," said Zidane. Real can level with Barcelona on 39 points on top of liga with win over seventh placed Athletic Bilbao

[']Bilbao is another rival and a different proposition. We will play them with all our energy, it's the last game of the year.

"The league is our priority and we will fight for it all the way," he

Everton, Arsenal fail to impress

arlo Ancelotti and Mikel CArteta were shown the huge jobs that lie ahead as managers of Everton and Arsenal respectively as they watched their new sides play out a drab 0-0 draw at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Ancelotti was confirmed as the Toffees new boss on the morning of the match, 24 of Arsenal.

Both new managers were in the stands with Duncan Ferguson and Freddie Ljungberg in temporary charge for the final time.

And the lack of confidence of two sides struggling at the wrong end of the table was obvious in a match completely devoid of quality.

A point edges Arsenal into ninth, but the Gunners have now won just once in their last 13 games in all competitions.

Everton move up to 15th, but are only four points clear of the relegation zone.

Ljungberg named a youthful Arsenal side with 19-yearold Emile Smith Rowe starting for the first time in the Premier League alongside Reiss Nelson and teenagers Gabriel Martinelli and Bukayo Saka.

Mesut Ozil, Alexandre Lacazette and Nicolas Pepe were among those left out by the Swede, who won just one of his six matches in caretak-



"We had a very young side out there because I wanted energy and I wanted to give them chances," said Ljungberg. "I thought we could have

won the game with the chances we had, but I loved the spirit we saw and that's what you need in the Premier League."

Unlike Ferguson, Ljungberg's future under Arteta has not been clarified, but he hopes to remain as part of the coaching staff.

"I've been told by the club they want me to stay but I will have a meeting with Mikel tomorrow and hopefully it's a

Neither side managed a shot on target before the break, but Arsenal had the better chances in the second half. Pierre-Emerick

Aubameyang was denied by a fine save from Jordan Pickford as he pounced on Callum Chambers's flick on from a corner before the Gunners captain fired too close to the England number one with his next effort.

Ljungberg's final decision of his caretaker spell was a brave one as he replaced Aubameyang 13 minutes from time as Lacazette was finally called on from the bench.

However, the focus was again snatched by Ferguson's substitutions as for the second straight week he replaced a

substitute. Moise Kean was the victim of his impatience at Old Trafford last weekend as the Italian international was hooked after just 18 minutes.

This time it was Kean who was introduced for Cenk Tosun, who had come on early in the game for the injured Alex Iwobi.

But Kean could not make himself a hero by scoring his first Everton goal as Arsenal held out for a first clean sheet

TRAU, Real Kashmir search maiden win

PNS NEW DELHI

TRAU FC will host Real Kashmir **▲** FC in a crucial I-League match in Imphal today.

TRAU is at the bottom of the 11 team league, having lost all their first three matches, conceding six goals while RKFC have a point after one The Snow Leopards drew against

opener at Kalyani and are at the ninth spot. Real Kashmir were supposed to play their first home match in Srinagar at the TRC ground on

East Bengal 1-1 in their tournament

December 12. But due to heavy snowfall that forced closing of the Srinagar airport, their successive home games against Gokulam Kerala FC (Dec 12) and Churchill Brothers (Dec 15) were postponed.



Despite heavy snowfall and a long gap in between matches due to ostponement of matches, Real Kashmir have practiced at their home, the TRC Ground and are confident of bagging three points against their opponents, who are

debutants in the league

TRAU's technical director Douglas de Silva, a former star with Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, is under pressure to deliver after the team lost their first three matches under the Brazilian's supervision.

Kashmir's Scottish coach David Robertson summed up the mood in the visitors camp aptly when he said ahead of the game, "We are excited and ready to go. We are disappointed not to have played more but my team is hungry and ready to get playing again. "Our preparation has been very good and with the long break, it gave

us time to recover from injury and work on certain things. But overall we can't wait to take the field." Nigerian attacker Princewill Emeka, the TRAU captain, did not deny in his pre-game chat however that the team is under pressure to

deliver at home. He said, "The

results need to change. We can't

afford to loose more points.

 $R^{\rm B}$ Leipzig will go into the Bundesliga winter break in first place after coming from behind to claim a 3-1 home win against

AFP ■ LEIPZIG

The German league starts a four-week winter break on Sunday and Leipzig's hard-fight home win left them three points clear.

Augsburg on Saturday.

Borussia Moenchengladbach can draw level on 34 points if they beat Hertha Berlin. Leipzig fell behind at home after

just eight minutes when Augsburg's top-scoring forward Florian Niederlechner stabbed home a cross. However, Leipzig battered the

visitors' goal and their 16th attempt finally went in when midfielder Konrad Laimer curled his shot inside the top corner on 68 minutes. The hosts took the lead with ten

minutes to go when Czech forward pass from Timo Werner.



Leizpig keep 1st place in Germany

goal in as many games after he was left unmarked at the far post.

Danish striker Yussuf Poulsen grabbed Leipzig's third goal in the 89th minute when he converted a

Elsewhere, Dutch teenager Joshua Zirkzee continued his dream scoring run for Bayern Munich by giving the defending champions a late lead in their 2-0 win at home to Wolfsburg. Having scored on his Bundesliga debut in their 3-1 midweek win at Freiburg, Zirkee, 18, fired home a Thomas Mueller pass with his first touch after coming off the bench at the Allianz Arena. Germany winger Serge Gnabry then added a second goal just before the final whistle to seal the three

points which leaves Bayern third. The win came at a price, however, as defender Javi Martinez had to be helped off.

Schalke are fifth after their 2-2 draw at home to Freiburg, who con-

verted two second-half penalties. They level on 30 points with

Borussia Dortmund, who crashed 2defeat at Hoffenheim on Friday.

Acting was the only option'

■ What is your role in The Wedding The film is a two-hander which means that there is Radhika Apte's character and Dev Patel's character. I have hired this character to go and kidnap my girlfriend from her arrange

He made his debut in 2016, playing Khalil in Neerja and then went on to do films like Sanju, Padmaavat and The Wedding Guest that premiered on &PriveHD. He speaks with Shalini Saksena about his journey and what is keeping him busy

riage in Pakistan and bring her down to

■ Would you say that it is a kind of fun

No, I wouldn't say that it is a fun film. It is more of a meditative and a slow film. What made you take up acting?
Actually, there was no choice. I was

not good at anything else. My parents wanted me to do take up something else. I told them this is (acting) what I wanted to do. That I

> You were in Atlanta, did your internship and even worked there. What made you come to India?

I got tired of acting. I wanted to travel around, live in an ashram and around the Himalayas. It was a typical post-college experience. From theatre to films how has the journey been

Like any journey. One foot in front of the other. Sometimes a

THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE I WANT TO WORK WITH. IT IS A LONG LIST, ALMOST **ENDLESS. SOME OF** THE DIRECTORS THAT I **WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH ARE** VIKRAMADITYA MOTWANE, NEERAJ **GHAYWAN AND LIJO** JOSE PELLISSERY

beautiful valley, sometimes good, sometimes you are just walking through muck. ■ Would you agree that Padmaavat changed your career graph?

Yes. Because the film did so well more people saw it and consequently I got more

History says that Malik Kafur was a great General. In the movie the role is somewhat diluted. What made you take up the role? The movie is Padmaavat it was not

called Malik Kafur. If the movie was titled Malik Kafur, it would have gone into the depths of his history. Since he is just a supporting character, the story is about someone else, the amount of reference there is is him is totally fine.Do you have a checklist while taking

up a project?

No. I don't have one. It depends on the script, on the platform, on the director and the project. There is no one particular thing that drives the decision. It depends on how everything comes togeth-

■ Is there a list of people whom you

There are a lot of people with whom I want to work with. It is a long list, it is almost endless. Some of the directors that I would love to work are Vikramaditya Motwane (known for Bhavesh Joshi) Neerai Ghaywan (known for Masaan), Lijo Jose Pellissery (recipient of the Best Director Award at the 48th Kerala State Film Awards for Ee.Ma. Yau) to name a

■ Is there a role that you would say no

There are several roles that I would turn down. For example, a one dimensional paedophile. It just depends on the story and not the role per se. A completely one dimensional person, Muslim character in a story that is populated mostly by Hindus, I would say no to such roles. ■ What are the other projects that you are working one?

There are two plays, one is Constellations that opened on November 21, 2019 NCPA, Mumbai. The other is Sea Wall that opens on December 1, 2019 again at NCPA. Then there is Taish. There are some projects that are opening and some that I am in talks with.

Destination: 10 for 2020

With the Indian traveller traversing the world, here is a list of the most happening places to go to next year

ndians travelled the world in 2019. The New Year is not going to be be ■ any different. Foreign destinations that people have marked on their calendar are as follows.

MILWAUKEE, WI, US

The host of next year's Democratic National Convention, Milwaukee makes it to the top of the trending list. This historic gem on the shores of Lake Michigan often slips under the radar but has a terrific bar and restaurant scene and fascinating cultural attractions that include a Calatrava-designed art museum. And with over 105 miles of scenic bike lanes, it's easy to see why Milwaukee is experiencing an upsurge in interest among guests.

BILBAO, SPAIN

Bilbao's transformation from rust belt city to flourishing culture hub is truly remarkable. The city's Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum put Bilbao on the map when it opened back in 1997. Visitors to the area are rewarded with a lively dining scene, breathtaking architecture and an unforgettable cityscape.

BURIRAM, THAILAND

home to some of Thailand's most treasured Khmer relics. Its best known monument is the incredible Phanom Rung complex which is comparable in grandeur to its much more famous Cambodian neighbour, Angkor Wat. In addition to ancient ruins, the province has also become a sporting hotspot: 2018 saw the inaugural MotoGP motor racing event at the Chang International Circuit which also plays host to the Buriram

Marathon each year. MotoGP is scheduled to return in March next year.

SUNBURY, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

A short drive northwest of Melbourne, the suburb of Sunbury is a popular spot with savvy locals thanks to its wildlife, wineries and Victorian-era architecture. Its biggest claim to fame is as the birthplace of cricket's most sought-after trophy — The Ashes. In 2020, Sunbury looks to attract cricket fans from near and far as Melbourne will be hosting the ICC T20 World Cup.

Romania, with its pristine hills and ancient rural villages, is the perfect destination for anyone looking for something off-the-beaten-track. The country has some of the best preserved virgin forests in Europe and, according to the 2018 Environmental Performance Index, ranks 15th globally when it comes to ecosystem vital-

XI'AN, CHINA

introduce 30 night-

Often cited as one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilisation, Xi'an is cotta warriors — a vast collection of prehistoric clay soldiers discovered by local farmers in 1974. Today, the capital of China's western Shaanxi province is a major culinary melting pot while its numerous historical monuments have earned it the nickname 'China's outdoor museum'. The ancient city plans a new offering in 2020: a tourism programme that will



time tour routes throughout Xi'an with highlights including nighttime markets and performances.

EUGENE, OR, US

This medium-sized city in the Pacific Northwest punches above its weight: many multinational businesses were launched in Eugene and the city has made a name for itself as a culinary hub in Oregon. Thanks to the surhas long attracted eco-conscious newcomers many of whom have helped make the city a hub for the organic food industry. This green city is also a track and field destination, and will welcome athletes and spectators when it hosts national qualifying trials in summer 2020.



LUXEMBOURG

This diminutive European country packs a lot into its small landmass — the city of Luxembourg was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994 thanks to its enchanting historic core, dramatically perched on a clifftop. Beyond the city itself, the country's forested hills are home to medieval castles, rocky gorges, charming villages and superb vineyards.

GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

Often overlooked, Mexico's second city is steadily gaining the recognition it deserves. Guadalajara operates at a less frantic pace than Mexico City yet it has a wealth of attractions to

reward visitors — from its colonial architecture in the hipster Chapultepec neighborhood to an impressive selection of festivals and museums. Guadalajara's green credentials are also worth noting: the local government has embarked on an initiative that encourages cyclists and pedestrians to reclaim public spaces normally dominated by cars.

MAASTRICHT, NETHERLANDS

wealth of historic buildings — more than any Dutch city outside Amsterdam. With its Roman history and a warren of narrow streets, Maastricht is also home to numerous museums and in March 2020 will play host to one of the world's largest art fairs — TEFAF Maastricht. Courtsey: Airbnb

and the challenges that come with it ■ Are you a composer or a singer first? This is a tough question to answer since I am both. But I began my career is as a singer, so a singer first. I have recently taken up composing. Why take up composing then?
 I didn't realise that when I was taking down my voice notes

'It was amazing

to co-sing with

Salman Khan'

Singer-composer PAYAL DEV, who

has sung Yoon Karke in Dabangg 3

speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA

about why she took up composing

and tunes and recording them I was in fact composing. It was not because I was thinking of turning to composing music. I was being appreicated for my singing. But if you see the artists today, almost everyone is a singer but there are few very few women composers. I just tried my hand at it and found that I was good at it. It adds to my accomplishments. It also gives me at opportunity to showcase my talent in another field as well.

Do you think that it is important for artists to have a holistic approach towards music?

Definitely. If you are a composer yourself, one can understand what the composer wants when you are singning for someone else. I have turned to penning my words. I am trying my hand at being a lyricits. I work long hours to explore where else I can excel. Each singer should not only sing but also try their hand at different aspects of their craft.

■ How did your song Tum Hi Aana from Marjaavaan hap-

Like I said earlier, I used to record my voice notes. Everyone is releasing singles. I too wanted to try my hand at it. I had released Sajna Ve; it was my first song as a composer. In fact, Salman bhai (Khan) had told me that whenever I will release the song, he would share it and he did. It was such a great feeling. The song was much appreciacted so I decided to do another song — Tum Hi Aana. But at that time, the tune and the style was very different. While I was in the process of recording it, Kunal bhai, a dear friend, was there and so was Zubin. I ran the tune by them. They loved it and convinced me to do it for a film. The mukhda was recorded then and there. Kunal wrote the lyrics in a day. That is how composing for Tum Hi Aana happened and went to Marjaavan. How did the Dabangg 3 song happen?

> One didn't have to be genius to guess for which movie the song was for. Wajid had approached me. We recorded the song and sent it to Salman bhai who loved it. ■ The song has been

I had worked with Sajid-Wajid before on a project Welcome to New York. I did one song with them. When I was recording the song I knew it was picturised on Salman *bhai* and Sonakshi Sinha.

> sung by Salman Khan. Yes. I am co-

singing Yu Karke with him. It was great to work with him. I had only dreamt of meeting him but with this song, I got the opportunity to work with him. I had sung a song Saansain Hui Dhuan Dhuan for Race 3 as well. ■ What are the chal-

lenges you face while composing? I don't compose music on the spot. I take my time.

However, there are times when the inspiration strikes and music happens on the spot.

Is it tough to sing for other composers?

It is not always easy to

fill the demand of the composers. It is important to be in the composer's shoes to understand what he wants. Some composers make you feel at home, working with them is easy. Others are tough since they put pressure which then makes it difficult to understand what they want.

TAAPSEE AND VIKRANT TO STAR IN HASEEN DILLRUBA

Ace filmmaker Aanand L Rai and Eros International are known for bringing Aunconventional stories to the silver screen along with interesting casting. The master storyteller has pioneered the art of

telling small-town stories with his Midas touch. He is yet again ready to present another one of his masterpieces to the audience with his next production Haseen Dillruba along with producer Himanshu Sharma. The film will bring actor Taapsee Pannu

and Vikrant Massey on screen for the first time in this gripping story written by Manmarziyaan writer Kanika Dhillon Adding melody to this mystery, the music

of the film will be composed by the supremely Producer of the film, Aanand L Rai says:

"Haseen Dillruba is a murder mystery within a twisted love story, a genre we have not explored before. Really looking forward to entertain and engage the audience with this edgy script.'

The movie will release on September 18, 2020.

Sunil Lulla, Managing Director — Eros International Media Ltd says: "Unlike other thriller genres, Haseen Dillruba is not just edgy. It's a perfect blend of entertainment and something which will cater to larger masses. I am glad to be associated with this film."

Producer Himanshu Sharma says: "Always excited to bring something new to the audience, Haseen Dillruba is an edge of the seat entertainer. Kanika Dhillon and Vinil Mathew are out to bring something very exciting and thrilling."



Any movie's good music can win the hearts of the fans even before the film hits the theatres and the makers of the upcoming film Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan, know this very well. Therefore, ready to present music lovers a treat with their film, the

popular 2011 Punjabi track *Gabru* is going to be part of the film The makers of the film have bought

the rights to make a new version of the hit track for the muchanticipated family entertainer of 2020 By the strong cast of looks like a game



of family entertainment in Bollywood.

This version of Gabru, which was originally done by Yo Yo Honey Singh, will be made by my ace music producer Tanishk Bagchi. The song will match to the contemporary music aesthetics of the millenials and is bound to make everyone dance to its tunes once again!

Directed by Hitesh Kewalya, the film will release on

SONU SOOD IS MY MENTOR: LAKSHYA

Model Lakshya Chaudhary has already created waves in the world of fashion with his ramp walks for all the big designers in the industry. However, he is not just someone who has a ramp walks to his credit. 19vear-old Lakshya Chaudhary also holds the title of the youngest Mr India in the history of the coveted pageant

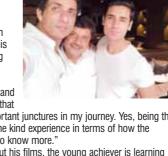
after being crowned as India's official representative in the Mr Grand International Pageant.

The actor has bagged a film alongside actor Sonu Sood and is already planning on taking acting classes to master the art.

Talking about his journey, Lakshva savs: "I love what I do and fashion is my calling. I am glad that

youngest Mr India has got me the kind experience in terms of how the industry works, but I am eager to know more." While he is tight lipped about his films, the young achiever is learning

the tricks of the trade from actor Sonu Sood and has bagged his first film in the southern film agency. "It's great to start a career from the South, like Sonu sir had done. He helped me get my first Tamil film, which I will start soon. He is kind and often tells me how I should focus on building a career in films. His journey is exemplary to me. He is someone who never had a Godfather in Bollywood but still made it on his own. He is not just popular in Bollywood but in Punjab cinema and south films. That makes him so inspirational." says Lakshya.





The variety of lentils available in India has the potential to make our everyday food much more nutritious and bring a wider flavour profile to our plate, writes **SANGEETA KHANNA**





f you have lived in a metro city all your life, you are most likely to have missed some of the best choices in food. The glut of imported vegetables and fruits in urban markets make for a good eyewash and most of us are aware of this already. The day the urban markets start stocking wild purslane and wild fiddle head fern in season, we would know our choices have improved. We don't realise how much we can control the food system and the market just by making the right choices and being aware in the first place. We end up consuming a very narrow range of produce even though there is a vast variety available and remains undervalued. For example, India is the leading manufacturer of lentils and we still need to import lentils from other countries because most of us consume only two to three types of lentils as staples and a large variety of lentils remain undervalued.

Just think of the lentils you can recognise by taste and if all you can come up with is kali dal and peeli dal and may be sambar, you need to educate yourself better. The amazing variety of lentils available in India has a potential to make our everyday food much more nutritious and bring a wider flavour profile to our plate.

In fact, the awareness about the variety of real foods and ingredients available around us can be instrumental in bringing a desired change in our own health management and the environment of the planet. The regional variety of foods within the country is mind boggling and when I see people lugging gluten free flours from the west, I wonder when and how would we market our millets better. Recently, when I moved to Dehradun, I was most excited about

the local seasonal vegetables, lentils and

beans I now have access to. But when I heard a Maharashtrian neighbour lamenting about the unavailability of motth lentils in the town and another Keralite neighbour complain about how difficult it was to bring ragi flour from her native place, I figured it was time to introduce them to local produce as replacements. I took them to the kirana shop across the road and introduced them to the naurangi dal and mandue ka atta. In the bargain, I made friends with the kirana shop owner, who got me local hemp seeds. This kind of personal connect with ingredients wouldn't have been possible at the supermarket a couple of kilometres away. Ah, we surely need

am reminded of a story my grandmother used to tell me when I was little. It is a story of a little birdie who used to go searching for lentil grits in the chakki of each home and how she once tried to pick a lentil and half of the split lentil got stuck in the chakki. The birdie lamented about how she didn't get enough food for her pardes (foreign) travel. It was possibly a migratory bird who needed all the food for the long distance travel and the hand operated stone-mill in the homes was the best place to pick on them. Several folk tales and ancient sayings had lentils as a central theme in India. This just goes to say that lentils have been an important part of our food

to realign our food compass a little bit to

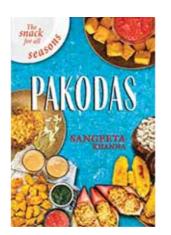
Interestingly, the hand-operated stone mill has been instrumental in the ways lentils have been used in India, the largest producer and consumer of lentils on earth. In fact, the black lentil or urad dal and black chickpeas or black gram are native to India and have been used in various ways since the time recorded. Mung beans have been known to have originat-

ed from black lentils, hence the genus of both remains the same, that is vigna mungo. Various other lentils came to India through spice routes and other trade routes and have become naturalised ever since. The most interesting occurrence of the readiness with which Indians adapted each lentil to suit the palate and gut both, as some of these lentils were not tasty, most of them not easily digestible, some had a very hard seed coat and some were hard to crack.

The hand-operated chakki came handy to process the lentils in the most usable form. The traditional domestic chakki used to have small wooden pegs to adjust to the size of grain or lentil being milled and if the lentils needed to be split or ground into flour to make besan or sattu. In many small town homes till about four decades ago, the besan or sattu used to be made fresh whenever needed, much like we use the mixie or coffee grinder today.

There were byproducts of the stone grinding process and those were never wasted. While the husk or bran went to cattle feed, the grits were used to make different types of steamed dumplings or deep fried pakodas or the sun dried badis that were flavour bombs to be added to curries. While women of the house had to handle all this milling, sorting, winnowing, badi making and sun drying and then cooking as well, they found ways to entertain and bond over these chores.

n fact stone grinders and cooking techniques from different regions of the country give a fair idea of how the kitchen gadgets and ways of cooking have evolved with the kind of produce in a specific geographic region. For instance, in the mountain state of Uttarakhand, the variety of lentils and beans is quite huge but most of them are hard to grind and take hours to cook. In



Pakodas The Snack for All Seasons

The book explores the regional pakoda variants that are deep fried, shallow fried and even steamed or poached in water. There are pakodas made of lentils, cereals, millets, roots, shoots, leaves and even flowers, some are made of wild foraged herbs and some even medicinal.

Such is the rich heritage of Indian cuisine that each geographical region with a specific set of produce has a bunch of special pakodas or deep fried foods that are absolutely healthy if made the right way.

The book also offers tips and tricks, methods to make the *pakodas* in healthier way, using the right kind of cooking fats, the appropriate frying temperature, as well as the most suitable utensils to make pakodas.

the mountains, high altitude also plays a role in cooking time. The harder the lentils, the more difficult they are to digest. This is also the reason the most popular lentil recipes of Uttarakhand are well adjusted to their hardness, cooking

time and digestibility.

Lentil recipes like Phanu, Chainsu, Dubka and Ras are elaborate Uttarakhand recipes where the lentils are first roasted and then cooked whole or after grinding them in a stone grinder. These dishes are slow cooked in iron utensils for long hours to make them most nutritious and warming for the locals, where they don't get a lot of produce to cook with. In the mountains, where the lentils and beans are rain fed crops along with some coarse varieties of rice and millets, lentils become the mainstay of nutrition for everyone. Even the seasonal or foraged vegetables are greens are preserved in the

form of sun dried lentil cakes or badis. The stone grinders in the southern states are more adapted for the ways the lentils are processed before cooking. To make the lentils digestible and suited for the warm climate, they are soaked and ground into a wet paste before fermenting them in most cases. The stone grinders for wet grinding are in fact a genius design that allows efficient use of manual force to make smooth paste of soaked lentils and even grains and spices etc. For splitting the lentils, there were the chakki type stone grinders in southern India in the olden times and that explains the evolution of some of the lentil vadas that are made with coarsely ground mixed lentils, initially made with the grits that was a byproduct of splitting the lentils. Even the watery rasam and chunky sambar, cooked with a lot of vegetables and tamarind, are examples of lentil recipes adapted to suit local ingredients and warmer climate of

Rajasthan and Gujarat use the maximum amount of lentils for the variety of snacks and main course dishes they cook with lentils, majorly the black gram. The recipes from these regions are often rich with fats and spices but very well adjusted to the climate, cooking methods and

n modern times, in the last 4 decades to be specific, the electric mixer grinders have revolutionised the way we cook and the per capita consumption of lentils has increased manifold. Of course, the production has also increased, but the ease of grinding the lentils has made it much easier for the home cook. That is one of the reasons why every North Indian family makes idli and dosa at home now and making the dal vada at home is as easy as the *pyaz ke pakode*. Even the South Indian stone grinders have transformed to electrically operated sleek machines and making traditional foods using lentils and grains has

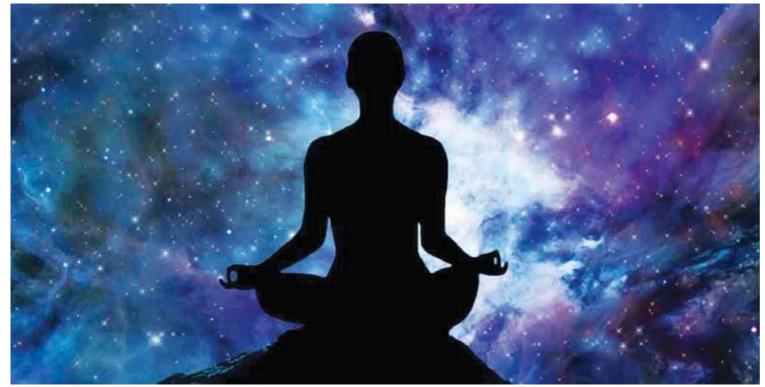
become easier for everyone. My book on pakodas, the quintessential snack made mostly with lentils has recipes using many different lentils and even grains, tubers and even fruits. Many of these pakoda family snacks are shallow fried and even steamed and that indicates that the traditional recipes have evolved with human nutrition being the central point even if the taste buds ruled to decide the flavours. The book on pakodas celebrates the diversity in Indian food with some recipes with wild and foraged greens and even some medicinal pakoda recipes that were part of the everyday food repertoire in every household earlier.

The writer is an author; a food and nutrition consultant; and develops recipes and products for the industry. Her book Pakodas: The Snack for all Seasons came out in August this year

New Delhi, December 22, 2019

PATH TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Only when we tap into our spiritual consciousness, do we experience all-consciousness, love, peace, unity, bliss and freedom from fear, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH



here is another ocean, far greater than the physical waters of this earth. An ocean that is far more permanent than the seas. It is an ocean that offers not only refreshing waters to bathe the body, but also refreshing waters to nourish the soul. It is the ocean of spiritual consciousness, of God, waiting to be tapped within each of us. It lies within, waiting to be discovered. It is there for everyone who seeks it.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL

Spiritual consciousness is to be conscious of the soul and God within us. Most of us are aware of our body, of the thoughts passing through our mind, and the world around us. This is called body consciousness or physical consciousness. But we are much more than our body and mind. We are actually a soul, a conscious entity which inhabits the body.

The soul is part of God and is the power that enlivens the body. This consciousness at the level of soul, independent of our body and mind, is what is termed spiritual consciousness. When we tap into our spiritual consciousness, we experience the qualities of spiritual consciousness — all-consciousness, love, peace, unity, bliss and freedom from fear. Let us look at each of these.

QUALITIES OF SPIRITUAL

CONSCIOUSNESS Love: Anyone who has experienced

divine love. The love we think of as love is but a reflection of a much higher love. It is an all-embracing, fulfilling, satisfying love that pulls close to its heart all that exists. It embraces each of us equally, and is an unconditional love — one that does not see our outer differences. We may lose the love of everyone in the world, but we are sustained by a much higher and more permanent love-the divine love of God embracing us from within.

spiritual consciousness has spoken of

When we tap into our spiritual consciousness, we not only experience love ourselves, but we expand in our own capacity to love others.

All-Consciousness: Another aspect of spiritual consciousness is that of allconsciousness or wisdom. God is allknowing, all-aware. If we want to get a small glimpse of how this is possible, we need only look to our technology as it exists today. If we look at the Internet, we find that all information is available to us by logging onto different sites. The server that hosts all the sites is a storehouse of all the information on all the sites. By logging on we access all the information we want. God is like a giant server that hosts all our individual souls or websites. Thus, all knowledge about us is known to God. God is also able to simultaneously know what is happening to each of When we tap into that spiritual consciousness, we too attain access to all-

WE CAN ATTAIN **SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS BY FOCUSING OUR** ATTENTION WITHIN THROUGH A PROCESS CALLED MEDITATION. THROUGH MEDITATION, WE **CAN ATTAIN A SENSE** OF UNITY, AND WITH

ALL THE LOVE, WE

CAN EXPERIENCE

PEACE AND BLISS

Freedom from Fear: What is it that most of us fear the most? Most people fear death. They think of death as the end of their existence. Little do people realise that death is just a transition from this physical world to another realm of existence. It is only by raising our consciousness to a spiritual level that we discover that we exist at the level of the soul even without the physical body. This body is but a covering over the soul. If we can raise our consciousness, we can discover our true identity. By attaining spiritual consciousness, we can become fearless.

Peace: In this world, we are faced with much turmoil, conflict, pain, disease, and suffering. Few live out life without passing through moments of stress and pain. But in the spiritual realms within, all is peace.

The reason we lack peace in this world is due to our ego and desires. The world offers countless temptations, distractions, and attractions. Our soul is overshadowed by our mind, which is attracted to the outer world. When it begins to desire things of this world that are temporary, it is headed for disappointment. Nothing material in this world is lasting. It is all transitory. Only the soul and God are eternal. The moment we pin our hopes on something perishable, we have set ourselves up for disappointment and pain when

The only true peace is available when we rise to a level of spiritual consciousness. Then we enter a realm that

knows no death, no suffering, and no pain. We find an eternal region of all joy and bliss. If we wish to experience true peace in our life, we need to look within. Peace begins within us.

Unity: At physical level, all we see is physical differences. When we develop a spiritual consciousness, we experience that the same Light of God is within each person. We are all united at the level of soul. When we reach that level of awareness, we start to see all living beings as one big family of the Creator. We no longer differentiate between people based on form and custom. We recognise that there is beauty in diversity. We start treating all people with love and respect, because we know at their very core is the same essence of which we are made.

Bliss: Bliss is a state of pure ecstasy and joy. Any happiness we experience in this world is only a fraction of the joy we experience when we merge in the ocean of spiritual consciousness. There are no adequate words to describe the bliss. We can only imagine at our level what it is like to multiply our greatest bliss by a million-fold.

Total bliss is ours when we enter into a state of spiritual consciousness. We also bring that bliss when our attention returns to physical consciousness. Thus, it is possible to pass through times of trials and tribulations at the physical level, while the soul is experiencing bliss within. It is like a potter who shapes clay. From the outside, the clay pot may be beaten and shaped by the potter, but the potter supports the pot with his or her hand from within. Similarly, the bliss we experience from merging with the ocean of spiritual consciousness stays with us to withstand the stormy seas of life.

HOW TO ATTAIN SPIRITUAL

We can attain spiritual consciousness by focusing our attention within through a process called meditation. We contact our true nature, our soul, and discover that it is one with God, the source of divine love. Only then can we find all the treasures of divinity available to us. We gain all-consciousness and find ourselves free from fear. Through meditation, we can attain a sense of unity and with all the love, we can experience peace and bliss.

Just as the ocean has been there for people of all ages, so is the spiritual ocean of love within us. Meditation is the first step. This technique is available to all those who wish to learn it. It is a free gift of God like air and sun-— in which we can experiment in the laboratory of our own body.



HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK

Happiness: A Vedantic view



♦he word *Vedanta* means the "end of the *Vedas*". In the literal sense this denotes the final knowledge or the ultimate Vidya. The Vedas are our oldest scriptural texts that have been claimed as the most ancient of the books of knowledge. These are compiled into four volumes, each having two parts. The first part of each Veda deals with the mundane subjects of means and ends or worldly gains. The second part, called Upanishads, are directed towards spiritual knowledge and address the serious seeker who is looking for self-knowledge that leads to realisation of the ultimate reality and thus leaves nothing to be desired or achieved. It is the knowledge that helps in acquiring self-actualisation. The basic purpose of *Vedanta* or the *Upanishads* is to help man search for the eternal that is the source of truth and joy. Happiness, thus, is the product of realisation of truth. Happiness, according to the Vedantic view, does not lie outside a person but is within that person. It is the very nature of man. But it is ignorance of that essentially happy nature which is the cause of all dissatisfaction and unease. The *Vedanta* thus helps a man lift that veil of ignorance and reveals the source of all happiness to him. Happiness is essentially embedded in human nature and is the vedantic goal of life. Vedanta shows how happiness lies within and the study of Vedanta is a journey towards reaching a deep understanding of one's own true nature. It teaches how without going anywhere or seeking anything from the outside one can attain total fulfillment. Vedanta gives the knowledge of Brahman or the ultimate reality. The very name Brahman suggests that the questing spirit in man is due to the activity of God and the aspiration to realise God is in fact derived from God. The knowledge of self is what leads to the knowledge of God and this knowledge is the road to the eternal happiness or bliss. These are times when happiness is being sold as a commodity and people are actually paying a price to buy happiness, which is but a mythical concept. Real happiness cannot be found externally, it has to be realised within. The mystic Indian poet saint Kabir Das has explained this very appropriately in his famous couplet which can be paraphrased in one sentence as follows — Just as the fragrance of a flower lies within so also is the essence of human happiness inside the man, yet he acts like the musk deer searching for the musk in the grass where the aroma from the musk within it has spread. This ignorance is the root cause of the futile search for happiness outside. Happiness cannot be found. It has to be realised. It is a state of mind. The *Vedantic* view tries to emphasise this approach to happiness by suggesting that linking happiness to external objects would always be a failed exercise. This truth can also be understood by the simple marginal utility theory of economics. The wisdom of Vedanta lies in this eternal truth that linking happiness to outside is a prescription for unhappiness. Indian civilisation and culture has survived the ravages of time because it is based on the solid foundation of the wisdom stored in the Vedanta. The search for happiness outside is trishna or intense cravhappiness can only come from within.

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Celebrating Jesus Christ | The quest for real sukha

Jesus stands for the truth and truth is omnipresent. He is present here, and right now, in the hearts of those who love him, says ACHARYA PRASHANT TRIPATHI



esus is not a mere mortal. Jesus is the source of light; the root of all flowers and beauty. In one form, he disappears In another, he arises, again. Jesus or Truth is omnipresent. Prophets don't come and go; they live forever. Going back into the past to look for them is the tragedy of the living. A lot gets missed out on what is available right now because of the mind's tendency to think that it must be similar to how it once appeared in time. Jesus will keep sending his message. He is present here and right now, in the hearts of those who love him

THE BIBLE & JESUS

The Bible looks at man as he is, and not as he ought to be or as he imagines himself to be. It look at man as he exists in flesh and blood, in anger and angst, in regret and rage in desire and death; and to this man the Bible says: 'See and acknowledge that you are living a life of incompleteness.

A PATIENT MUST KNOW THAT HE IS SICK

The one who is lost in limitations must know and accept (and continuously remember) that he is lost. If he continues to be ignorant and keeps imagining himself as a complete one, then his limitations will continue to exist. That's why Bible continuously reminds the man that he is sick

There is no point talking of completeness as an abstraction, or even as a concept, and believing in it, because in actuality, it is not the case. Every sense, every feeling, every thought that mankind points towards incompleteness. Man continuously seeks more, and wants to get rid of the stuff that he does not want. Bible describes both. It says that man is limited, he is guilty, he is a sinner, he is ignorant; and secondly, that if he follows Jesus, he can be led to the Father.

RESPOND TO HIS CALL

You come to Jesus only when the Jesus within you calls. Jesus will never tell you

what to do. He will never be a provider or instructor of action. Instead, he will be the illuminator. He will help remove the obstacles that come in the way of light, so you can see better. And when you see better, then you know for yourself what path to follow.

THE PATH AHEAD

Your path cannot be the same as somebody else's path. There is no formula or a general method. What applies to the others may not be suitable for you. You are what you are because you are programmed, brought up and conditioned in your own way. The right action, must necessarily, be different for different people.

Jesus says: "What is right for you, depends on, what you take yourself to be. Your way towards home, depends on, how badly you have lost yourself — depends on, where you think you are. There can be no, one general way or one general right action".

REMEMBER THE CRUCIFIXION AND

Live by his word. Remember his crucifixion; because if you forget the crucifixion, you will also forget your immediate reality.

The immediate reality is important. Christianity asks man to repent. The word repent is quite subtle with meaning. It means 'to go back, to return to home'.

Man is born a wanderer, a homeless recluse — somebody who has a continuous thirst to return to the home, but the thirst finds expression in a million ways except a direct one; and that is why repentance is very useful as a tool. It helps man remember

that he is indeed incomplete as he is. Godliness within oneself must be unabashed in its love towards Jesus; but that which is not godly within a man, also must look at Jesus and repent. It must stay rooted, and true to the facts.

The writer is a spiritual leader and founder, Advait Foundation

Sukha is often confused with material gains. Real sukha must have shanti (peace) as its integral part, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

n Hindi, the word *sukha* is used very loosely, whereas in Sanskrit it has a special meaning. *Sukha-suvidha* in Hindi indicates comforts, facilities, and so on. The word ananda is lot closer to what sukha really is. This word comes from sat-chit-ananda — a Sanskrit description of a soul. Real *sukha* must have *shanti* (peace) as its integral part. Without *shanti* where is *sukha*, asks Lord Krishna. (*Bhagavad Geeta* 2.66) Subsequently, wherever this word has been used in the Geeta, it means this sukha, not sukha-suvidha used in Hindi.

In English, the word happiness is used for sukha, and the word happiness is defined as a feeling or showing pleasure; pleased. Here the emphasis is on pleasure like sense enjoyment. There is no reference to a peaceful state. Happiness index, calculated for different countries has housing, income, work, education, safety, etc. However, happiness is person specific. These factors are conducive for becoming peaceful but individuals have to still make personal efforts to be happy. This is where spirituality comes in, when we identify ourselves as souls, and act accordingly. A soul being part of God must connect with God and that is where peace comes from. The word peace is defined as a state of being calm. This is close but the real peace comes from a good connection with God, as explained in the same verse quoted above. Peace comes from faith in God and God consciousness as a result of it.

Without this knowledge, people get bemused and do not seek real sukha. It is no wonder that they do not get satisfaction and keep on looking for more of the same pleasures. This is because such pleasures are like insatiable fire; more one tries to satisfy the self more intense they become. There is another



big problem with the false sense of sukha; people make big mistakes when enjoying that. Personally speaking, all my big mistakes were made when I was relatively sukhi in the conventional sense, when I felt that I could do no wrong, and could enjoy unlimitedly.

Lord Krishna has spoken about the real sukha in many verses of the Geeta. Happiness is a boon. In the state of peaceful enjoyment, all sufferings end soon, because the intelligence of such a person is firmly established. In a state of having real spiritually intelligence, one transcends the feeling of material suffering. (2.65)

The Lord speaks in great details about who can be happy. A self-controlled person, who is not too attached with the fruits of his karma lives happily. (5.13) A person, having consciousness unattached to external sense objects, enjoys that happiness within, which is extraordinary. He having consciousness linked to the Brahman, experiences eternal bliss. (5.21) Here the

Lord has clarified that such sukha is

unlimited and does not repel after sometime. One, who is capable of tolerating the urge caused by lust and anger prior to leaving the body, he is a true yogi; he is a happy person. (5.23) Beyond the senses, there is unlimited bliss, which can be experienced through the intelligence. (6.21)

God also clarifies about who cannot be happy. Bereft of real knowledge, a doubter who has no faith perishes. For the doubter, there is neither happiness in this world nor beyond. (4.40) Then, there is happiness in different modes, but they all bind. In the mode of goodness, this binds with knowledge and attachment for such happiness. In the mode of passion, one is bound to acts, that is, gets attached with them. In the mode of darkness, one is bound to carelessness, laziness and steep.

Therefore, it will be wise to seek the real sukha, and not chase after illusory sukha or happiness; one will have a high quality of life.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



Brexit: The final journey under Johnson

 $B_{\text{home in the parliamen-}}^{\text{oris Johnson has romped}}$ tary election with 365 seats in the 650-member House against the Labour Party's 203 seats. The Labour Party, under James Corbyn, lost its heartlands. and the Liberal Democrats' surge failed to materialise. This helped Johnson-led Conservative Party to clinch a historic victory, only seen last in the 1980s during the era of Margaret Thatcher. For the Labour, this was its worst defeat since the 1930s. Whereas the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) won 48 and the Liberal Democrats got 11 seats. When Johnson took over the mantle of the party, the Conservatives were about to be crushed in between the Brexit imbroglio and the Liberal Democrats, leaving behind a terribly chaotic Labour Party under Corbyn. But then, with the election result, he pulled off an extraordinary political manoeuvre of sort. On the other hand, as the Conservatives crushed the Labour's red wall in the North and in the Midlands, the traditional party bastions, it could safely be concluded that the British voters have categorically rejected the leadership of Corbyn and his ultra-left agenda. The man and his party credentials were viewed even by their hardcore supporters as unpatriotic and profligate. Therefore, it is time now for Corbyn and his party to decide whether to continue moving on the left-wing path to annihilation or reclaim the centre to occupy the power corridors

once again. Now what lies ahead for Corbyn and his Labour Party? After the shocking election debacle, his party has claimed it won the argument and dismissed those who voted against it as morally inferior. Now, the Labour MPs and their supporters are likely to fight for an alternative brand of leadership as he has already signaled that he is not going to be the party face in future elections.



Pro-Brexit demonstrators hold banners outside Parliament in London on December 20, 2019

failing to redeem his promises, has eventually won the trust of millions of ordinary voters who would have never extended such mandate to a Tory establishment. So it is really intriguing how Johnson would respond to the changing political understanding of his countrymen. Today he encounters troubles from many fronts, but for the Conservative grassroots, he is the only hero and stalwart they have been looking for.

Britain's national discourse and narratives in the post-Johnson victory are worrying signals. First of all, Britain will be out of the EU by the end of January. However the reality is that either the UK can main-

Johnson, a leader known for tain the close economic relations with the EU on which Britain's prosperity relies on or the Britons can opt for a lowcost regulation that Johnson's financiers look for. But unfortunately the Britons can't go for both. Second, the Scottish nationalists have indicated that they are in full control of their turfs. Since they are pro-independence and pro-EU, their revitalisation may soon drag Britain to a future referendum for Scotland's separation from the UK. Third, as the post-Brexit analysts have already predicted recession in the country, it would be a Herculean task for Johnson's big promise on public spending. Fourth, Johnson has to

navigate a deeply divided party. During his campaign, he projected a no-deal exit from the EU as a potential threat to gain support from the future negotiations. While doing this, he intentionally pushed aside many pro-Europeans within his party, many of whom either will resign from the Government or will be replaced. Fifth, another puzzle for the international community is to see whether Johnson would be able to deliver to those traditional Labour supporters who offered their support to him. Sixth, the National Health Service is on its knees with more than 100,000 vacancies. The Prime Minister has promised 50,000 more nurses,

6,000 more doctors, etc. But once the immigration system is tightened, it would deter foreign workers to fill these vacancies. Again as the PM has vowed not to raise income tax, national insurance or VAT, he is simply narrowing all possible means to gather funds for the Treasury and the NHS. Seventh, gimmicks, half-truths and tall promises showered by Johnson would not be able to rescue the criminal justice system of Britain. As per the Conservative manifesto, 20,000 police officers are due on the roads. But sadly this figure is 1000 less than the 21,000 made redundant since the year 2010. In fact, a strong and effective police force is the demand of

the day to tackle the new knifecrime epidemic in some major cities of the country. Eighth, he has to seriously focus on climate emergency as green campaigners urge that the Johnson Government could introduce the ban on diesel and petrol cars by 2030, instead of 2040. Also his administration must deliver on the de-carbonising the homes and other buildings soon. These all could be crucial to alleviate harmful emissions that are fast engulfing Britain. Ninth, another issue that could bother the new Tory establishment is the winning of more nationalist MPs in Northern Ireland. They want a United Ireland while the Unionists want Northern Ireland to remain as a part of the UK territory. This could open a Pandora's Box for Johnson. Finally, a new trade deal with the US might be a tough task for London as Donald Trump is unpredictable, and he may switch sides at any time as per his convenience. Johnson's election slogan,

"Get Brexit done" means much more to his voters and other Britons. It simply indicates that the UK leaves the EU in a smooth manner but Johnson said that "It is fair to say that you are getting Brexit done because you are coming out of the EU and you are coming out of the legal order of the EU." All that what has been promised by Johnson is a cumbersome process. Even some naysayers say, "In sum, the political culture of Britain, as we have known for generations, is earmarked for demolition. Anyone who has tried, however ineffectually, to scrutinise Johnson's plans or hold him to account will reap the coming authoritarian whirlwind. Trump will no doubt represent himself as this revolution's enabler and he will be right. But Johnson may well outdo even his mentor: Britain, after all, lacks the protection of a written Constitution. A resilient human spirit that hopes for the best and adapts to circumstances looks sadly inadequate for what is now in prospect (Witney 2019). If this is what is evinced by the Johnson administration, then Britain will witness doom in the post-Brexit period. Barring all these negative vibes, he must not forget the fact that this mandate is given to him and his grand old Conservatives to rescue the country from the Brexit gloom and a radical labour regime led by Corbyn. Many of the strong labour bases offer support to Johnson not to see an uncertain and unruly establishment at 10-Downing Street, but just to come out of the confusion and chaos that the country has been undergoing since the referendum of June 2016.

Truly, Brexit is a rare point of unity and convergence for the rest of the 27 members of the EU, but this could expose the faultlines among them as well. It's not at all clear how unitedly they could fight the challenges left behind by the departure of Britain from the group. Also, while negotiating new trade deals with Britain, the members of the EU will face difficult trade-offs as they want close economic ties with the country, but with conflict-

ing interests of varying degrees. What lies ahead is a daunting task not only for Johnson but also for his Conservative Party. It's a historic mandate for the party and its leadership. Britain needs a clear strategy and pathway to deal with a post-Brexit scenario. However self-destructive convulsions of British politics fomented by the Conservatives, the socialists and the ultra-nationalists around exiting the EU would no way retain the monumental reputation that the country has built over centuries. It's a testing time for Johnson. Moment has come for him to demonstrate not just leadership but statesmanship.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

It's a testing time for Johnson. Moment has come for him to demonstrate not just leadership but statesmanship



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Management of land can stop farmers' suicide

India because India is a tropical country with largely monsoon dependent agricultural economy where over 70 per cent of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Land is a finite resource There is no institution to while natural resources can vary according to uses or mistake care of long-term sustainable management of

uses over a period. Hence, whenever and wherever there is unsound management of land, it is reflected in decline in production of all the natural resources and allied functioning of ecosystems like riparian ecosystem, grassland ecosystem, forest and soil ecosystem.

Hence, the management of land in India requires careful husbandry, but unfortunately over the years, the land management has never received the attention it deserves.

A land resource department under the Rural Ministry exists, but land being the State subject, technical policies regulating the land use are being dealt at the level of States, which are mostly engaged with short-term needs and generally do not concentrate on long-term policies of the management of land on a sustainable basis.

Sustainability is not a part of 5-year cycle of the electoral need. Land-related institutions are distributed at the Central and State Government's levels but these are fragmented and scattered. This results into short-term measures to address the pressing needs like law & order, land distribution, consolidation, digitisation of land record mapping.

There is no denial that these things are most important in the short run, but strategies for sustainable management of

L and is the precious resource land are not in place. There is no institution to take care of no institution to take care of long-term sustainable management of land resources and to take measures to rejuvenate the land to increase its productivity on a sustainable basis. Land use boards in the States are non starter

Most of the suicides have occurred in areas of cash crops like cotton and sugarcane, which is high input, high output gambling, not based on principle of sustained and resilient high yield.

Manifestation of these is reflected into many of our woes and maladies. Gradual decline of productivity of land has largely led to farmers' suicide. Besides host of other factors, the main factor being attributed to a large number of such suicides is sickness of our soil, steep decline in groundwater table, deteriorating discharge of rivers and flooding due to mismanagement of land in the catchment and riparian areas.

These are pointers to poor land husbandry. In the nutshell, by and large Indian soil is sick and requires revamping of policy, institutions, and policy instruments. Besides, the absence of integration and harmonisation of the land use policy with other sectors of economy leads to counterproductive measures like cultivation of potato on the slopes of Himalayas, encroachment in the flood plain areas. These lands are suitable only for specific tree species but we hardly find any landscape with trees in these areas.

Farmers' suicide has become a matter of serious concern for the Supreme Court of India. The court observed, "It is not possible for the court to grant compensation every time a farmer commits suicide."

The court also frowned upon the lack of seriousness on the part of Governments to address the core issues.

The use to land is determined by its owners, farmers, Government, institutions and other user agencies according to their own perception of needs, understanding and available information. This in turn leads to environmental pollution and neglect resulting into poverty and related problems. Application of input like nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) cannot substitute for natural trace elements that can give us a wholesome perfect nutrition in their crops.

Besides, indebtedness, decline in water table, failure of conservation measures, drought, flood and pest infestation are a few reasons for the spate of farmers' suicide. Increasing quantity of inputs with continuously decreasing uncertain output and risk due to climate change in the rainfed areas makes agriculture less resilient and more risk prone. The factors that matter most in soil management is regular supply of humus and maintenance of soil fertility which is fundamental basis of human, plants and animal health.

The action of compost is not due to supply of plant nutrient, but its biological reaction, which has the effect of modifying soil microflora. Role of microbes around root zone of plants in soil in maintaining fertility of the soil is seldom appreciated; widespread application of herbicide and pesti-

cide kill the microbes. Dr Terosse Wiesner, Science Counsellor to US President John F Kennedy, had said, "Use of pesticides is more dangerous than atomic fallout."

We are rightly appalled by the genetic effects of radiation. How microorganism in the soil is truly engines of life? How microbes control ecological balance of nature, how humans and technology is disrupting. It is very often not a part of our education. Life on earth is much more than plants and animals. The overwhelming majority of life on earth is microbial. Association of trees with soil environment is seldom a part of our biology education in schools, much less at primary level to widen our understanding of environment and change in attitude and aptitude of our young

inquisitive minds. How then we could be indifferent to the same effects of farm chemicals used freely in the environment. The toxic chemicals are radiomimetic in that they ape the character of radiation. No doubt how the incidence of cancer is rising in India particularly in States like Punjab, where pesticide is used indiscriminately. It has been rightly said by Alan N Edison that modern technology owes ecology an apology.

Agroforestry-agrohorticulture, Silvipastoral system for sustainable resilient agriculture is an answer to efficient land management

Further, the issue of conservation, management and development of land resources assumes significance in a situation where as much as about 174 million hectare or approximately 53 per cent of geographical area of the country is estimated to be affected by various problems of soil erosion and land degradation. Out of the total problem area, about 83

per cent suffers from water and wind erosion and rest suffers from problems like- water logging, alkalinity, salinity, shift-

ing cultivation. An estimate shows that about 6,000 million tonnes of top soil is lost annually from original site. If present trend is allowed to continue, about one third of arable land of our country will be lost within 20 years.

From various studies, it is established beyond doubt that much glorified agricultural development results in high production growth. Massive food production, several times increase in yield and increase in per capita food availability have not made farming attractive to potential farmers. The ratio of agriculture population to general population is going down. The National Commission on Agriculture, 1976, also called for an integrated development approach for building a forward looking, dynamic diversified agriculture with livestock, fisheries and forestry.

The commission has warned against indiscriminate interference with ecological balance in the quest of increasing food production.

In this context, it is emphasised that trees which are the only natural means of sustaining and increasing the productivity of the land is missing in most of the landscapes that are required to be restored on an urgent bases. Hence, there is a dire need to push the programme of agro and farm forestry with utmost seriousness to check the fast deterioration of soil and water resources.

It is reiterated that there is no other natural means other than the trees or the perennial vegetation that can restore the nutrient, carbon and nitrogen recycle. Century back someone observed that the relationship between agriculture and forest is like husband and wife: dark, stern and strong but protecting and cherishing; agriculture, bland, benignant and bountiful, may be

described as wife. The trees protect the agriculture in absence of which agriculture pines and languishes and becomes barren and unfruitful. But unfortunately land use patterns are an expression of deep political, economic and cultural structure; they do not change when an ecologist or a forester sounds the alarm that a country is losing its resource base.

Agroforestry programme in shape of wind and shelter belts can restore or even improve soil fertility. The problem is that scientific data on actual changes taking place in soil fertility is scarce.

Again there is no good substitute for local scientific research. The main question to be resolved is the rate at which the soil loss is taking place.

Decline in soil fertility reduces the gross value of the crop and livestock activities but the farm land is taken out of production even when the net value of farm output becomes negative.

Ministry Agriculture had constituted a committee of experts to prepare the draft outline of National Land Use Policy to fulfill the socio-economic objective of the country. The committee recommended that all existing legislations in the primary production sector as well as non-agricultural sector dealing with land resources should be reviewed to deter-

mine that no conflicting pro-

visions exist. Efforts should be made to bring out a single legislation to ensure protection, optimum management and continued productivity of available land resources while meeting increasing demands from various sectors. Land is a subject of State list of schedule-7 of the Constitution of India and the importance of such a comprehensive, single legislation was emphasised at several occasions by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of

It has become imperative that we should have an effective land use policy and institution to watch the health of our land. A few important recommendations of this policy could be:

1) A committee of experts should be constituted to prepare a draft outline of national land use policy in order to bring out a single legislation to ensure protection, optimum management and continued productivity of available land

esources 2) Efforts should be made ensure a healthy debate through people's participation in implementation of the soil and water conservation Act.

3) Land Acquisition Act should be given a relook and non-scientific exploitation of groundwater be stopped.

4) Land requirement norms for different development schemes should be evolved.

5) Steep slopes, flood plain and fragile water-shed should be reserved for trees, grass and perennial vegetation.

(The author is former *Indian Forest Service officer)*



land resources and to take

measures to rejuvenate the

sustainable basis. Land

land to increase its

productivity on a

New Delhi, December 22, 2019























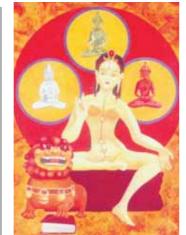




ARIES March 21-April 19

Health remains good but you still need to be vigilant. Maintain a positive mind-set and things will come easily to you. In professional life, your talent will help vou distance vourself from difficulties and vou will feel more optimistic than usual. Work wise, you will obtain the confidence you have always dreamt of. New opportunities in terms of a new venture or projects are indicated. For a few of the Arians, you will decide to leave a job that is no longer working for your betterment. It is a great time for socialising because of your increased popularity and charisma. You are likely to have an open and honest communication with your partner. The discussions you have now will be of a serious nature.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Health remains good this week. Those of you with a persisting health issue, share your health concerns with others. You may find some solution to your problem. It is a very positive new beginning, especially, on the work front. If you have had a difficult time in the recent past, then know that things are likely get better very soon. The new possibilities in this week will escalate your chance of making new discoveries and attracting new admirers. Some of you may expect a good news of promotion. In the field of romance, you will probably want to nurture and protect your partner. Most of all you will want to give them kindness, love and affection. Someone will call you out of the blue or you will plan a reunion with a lover or

Lucky number 31 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Your health will show improvement. This week you will find yourself in a more psychic and intuitive phase, so it is important that you trust your instincts. At work, your mind is likely to be very active. Make sure to communicate your thoughts to the others. Fine tune your goals and make clear plans and strategies to attain your objectives. This is a good time to discuss your plans with the others, because you will get good feedback and support. There is a possibility that you may become a victim of confusion. This might lead to insecurity. Just keep in mind that the bad time shall pass. Expect a slight delay in your travel plans. Romance is blooming. You are likely to take your relationship to the next level. Those who are single may have to wait for some more time.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week your health will be at its best. Despite your busy schedule, you will take time out to relax and rejuvenate. If suffering from health problems, then it is likely that you will find a way to your recovery. The cards indicates that the people around you will appreciate you and your efforts, and notice the quality of your work. Keep doing what you are doing as you are on the right track. You will have a lot of luck in investments. Property dealings are likely to be resolved. This week will bring peace and harmony to your life. This is a great time to relax with loved ones or party with friends. Your loving mood will make you more attractive than usual. Studies and exams should go well, especially in technical areas like the sciences, computers and mathematics.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Camel brown Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

After a bad health phase, this week brings you a big relief in terms of positive health. You will be able to revive the inner child like energy and will be active the entire week. On the professional front, you will be able to fulfill your long term ambition this week. Whatever you put your mind to should lead to a lasting results. People around would look up to you for a sound advice. You need to have a profound vision and a vigilant analysis of all the plans and strategies which will enable you to move towards success. Socialising and your love life will benefit from extra charisma and intellectual attractiveness. You may find yourself taking care of family matters such as insurances and wills. You can be confident about making commitments.

Lucky number 13 **Lucky colour** Turquoise Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week brings quick thinking, decisiveness and a influential communication style. It is an apt time for debates, asking for favours and public speaking. You can expect positive reactions and valuable assistance to your propositions. The forceful nature of your communication makes it a perfect time to defend yourself and your loved ones. Those in academics, this is a good time for studying and appearing for exams. Good concentration and attention to detail means you will not make mistakes. This is also a good time to make important decisions, conduct negotiations and business dealings. Your romance appears to be a little disturbed this week. Try to keep a two-way communication with your partner to avoid any misunderstandings.

Lucky number 30 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Things will get better for those who are facing ailments. On the work front, your innovative spirit will help you expand your horizons and attain new goals. Later this week, you can expect an exciting news. Stimulating conversations will lead to a business deal. Some of you may face competition at work. Keep a watchful eye as someone will try to frame you at work for something serious. This is a good time to be with your partner, friends and family. You will have an enjoyable time going to parties, places of relaxation, entertainment and amusement. New friendships would be formed or a significant new romance may begin. Your new charm will fetch you popularity, and win over dates for you. Romance is in the air.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week your health will be good. Try not to get into ego conflicts and retreat to a safe place where you can develop your creative, spiritual and generous nature. You will be smart and optimistic at work and accomplish all your incomplete tasks. You can expect some exciting opportunities coming your way later this week. Wait for some news on domestic front will make you feel frustrated. Love life looks satisfying. You will maintain harmony in your relationships and will have a greater ability to express your love and affection towards your partner. Travelling to far off destination to meet someone is on the cards. Those who are considering investments, must think and discuss with those close to you before taking any action.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You will enjoy a good health. Continue with your meditation and yoga routine, as it will keep you connected to your soul. Those dealing with health issues, need to get a bit serious and take proper treatment. Your ability of quick thinking and determination will make this week an apt time to prepare long term plan on work front. Networking with some promising contacts will allow you to make a change. You will have a better mental energy and concentration, and this will help you succeed in studies or researches. Do not worry about taking risks, as this week, luck is in your favour. You can expect some exciting news in your love life. You are likely postpone your travel plans to another day.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Wednesday



couple of months back someone

called me to check on longevity

prospects of one of his friends he

had brought seeking astrological advice.

"Why?" I questioned. "His kidney is mal-

functioning and has to undergo dialysis twice a week." He answered.

in question had come to me a couple of

years back with two straight questions:

"Sir, I am a lawyer by profession. Many

astrologers said that I am a genius. Yet,

every now and then, my career goes for a

toss. I have heard a lot about you. Kindly

perform a *puja* that saves me from such

some astrologers have warned me that I

may face serious health issues close to 45

years of age. Please do conduct puja that

would help me build my immunity level

and save it from failing ever. Don't worry

narily intelligent, with very good com-

municative skills. But that alone would

not suffice. You need to look within, fig-

blooming out in full. Acknowledge and

stand in way of your positives from

address them without further loss of

ure out inherent habits and attitudes that

Well, I agree that you are extraordi-

about the cost."

an ordeal and ensures success. Also,

I immediately recalled that the man

CANCER June 21-July 22

Be careful while exercising as you might suffer an injury or sprain. At work, you will be professional and follow the company policies. Travel due to business commitments is on the cards. On this trip, you are likely to make new friends and admirers. You will have a lot of work on your plate. Dedication towards task is important, but overstressing yourself may prove counterproductive. Do not hesitate to ask for help, if needed. On your personal front, the week indicates love, harmony and friendship. This is a good time to relax and have fun with loved ones. Your loving and friendly mood will make you popular. This is an excellent time for dating because your charm and beauty will attract genuine, honest love.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Continue with your daily exercise or yoga routine. If you have not yet started, then start fresh now. You will feel driven to succeed at something with your strong sense of purpose and initiative. With the immense amount of courage and fighting spirit, you face all the challenges without any frown. This week you are able to finish a lot of work in a short period of time. It is a favourable time for business matters and negotiations. Financial situations are not good, so avoid spending lavishly. You may find yourself to be more emotional and sensitive than usual. This is a great time to talk about relationship issues because you will be in touch with your true feelings. You will know how people are feeling and will be more sympathetic and nurturing than normal.

Lucky number 10 Lucký colour Silver Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Your emotional well-being will decide the state of your health. It is important that you assess your feelings. Channelise your energy in the right track and you will find yourself in the pink of health. In your professional life, ou are clear about your goals and what you have to do to achieve those goals. A stimulating time, filled with opportunities, puts your determination and ambition a notch higher. Business dealings and negotiations are favoured, especially for long-term investments and real estate. This is the right time to make long term strategies. The cards indicate a sharp focus on your relationship. Be sensitive and passionate towards your partner. A short trip will prove beneficial because you will meet a new admirer, who shares the same mind-set.

Lucky number 28 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Tuesday

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

No shortcuts to fixing problems

time. I am afraid, no puja mediated by a *pundit* can penetrate your inner mind space to let you rise above your limitations. Remember, there is no quick fix solution to problems of mind genesis, as habits die hard. But you can help yourself by exercising freewill option, which enjoins upon you with the capacity to guide your actions by choice and discrimination. Instead of expecting external intervention, better take charge of yourself, and put in conscious efforts to make necessary amends. In terms of your health, better consult a doctor and have regular health check-up. Regulate your food. Do necessary physical exercise. Here again, it is difficult to digest that trying to appease some hypothetical God existent in the higher realms of cosmos, could help change your physiologi-

I could make out that with his hardened attitude and delusionary mind, he won't easily digest my advisory. Later, I was given to understand that he went after so called sorcerers and got tantric pujas conducted. He also engaged pundits and got many pujas done. But to what effect? Let us now look at his astrological pointers.

cal conditions



Towards the positive, wisdom-oriented Jupiter conjunct intellectually ordained Uranus, extends beneficial aspect to intelligence signifying Mercury This planetary alignment is indicative of his extraordinary talent. He may have clarity in vision and thought over such subjects he pays attention, which he could present with exactitude because of his excellent communicative ability.

All this gets compromised because of many negative inherent traits. The first marker is his lagna sign Aries. That points to his aggressive, impulsive, irritable, hot headed, abrasive, intolerant, and impatient nature. He wishes to live in a demanding mode, often to his whims and fancies. He may jump into action without applying proper forethought, and with obvious consequences. Lagna lord Mars in the 8th house identified with difficulties, read together with lagna sub-lord Venus occupying the 12th house, makes him vulnerable to self-undoing acts. So, he remains susceptible to become a victim of his own making. Lagna lord Mars, identity-signifying the Sun, and mindsignifying Moon, all placed in fixed signs accounts for his hardened attitude. Lagna lord Mars conjunct Neptune and also square to both the Sun and Moon makes him temperamental.

Both the luminaries the Sun and Moon locked in adverse formation to mischievous Neptune have him stuck in his self-delusional beliefs and perceptions, and not open to listening or counsel. The Sun placed adverse to Venus makes him emotionally too much sensitive and touchy. He may get over exercised even on trivial issues, over which he may keep unnecessarily mulling for long. Venus ill-placed to Neptune tempts him to get rich quick even if it means getting into murky deals, which may often tell upon his reputation.

In terms of health, the 6th sub-lord Saturn in the 12th occupying the naksha*tra* owned by Mercury the 6th lord makes him vulnerable to long drawn serious health issues, calling for medical intervention. The Sun distanced from Venus by 45 degrees made him vulnerable to kidney related issues around that age, and so it happened with him. But because of his delusionary perception, he failed to take pre-emptive measures. The result is there to see.

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