

**NATION 6**  
TEA GROWERS FEEL PINCH  
OF ASSAM PROTESTS

**WORLD 7**  
NOT FAIR THAT I AM BEING  
IMPEACHED: TRUMP

**SPORT 10**  
INDIA FACE WINDIES  
IN 1ST ODI TODAY

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**USUALSUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## Citizenship Act is not discriminatory

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

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

I woke up at the crack of dawn on Friday morning to listen to the BBC reporting on the outcome of the British general election. The exit polls at 10 pm GMT had forecast a clear majority for the Conservatives fighting on the simple but unattractive slogan "Get Brexit Done." The presenters

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

tried to appear normal and nonchalant but it was clear that, like other members of the professional classes, they weren't entirely happy. Part of the unhappiness stems from the crab mentality of journalists: they weren't elated that a maverick member of their own tribe had defied all expectations and ended up as a Prime Minister with an emphatic majority. More to the point they were absolutely aghast that the results were a clear re-endorsement of the referendum outcome. The areas that voted for Brexit voted Conservative. This included areas that the Labour Party had never lost since the Labour sweep of 1945. Even Tony Blair's old seat, where the Labour majority used to be weighed rather than counted, elected a Conservative MP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Actually it is not necessary to be explicit. People tend to discover the score by themselves. Be it Brexit or CAB, you can't get away by heaping scorn and telling people they are ignorant or bigoted.

## CITIZENSHIP ACT STIR

# Protesters go berserk in Bengal

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■  
ULUBERIA/SANKRAIL/KOLKATA

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

Even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made frantic appeal to people against taking law in their hands violent protesters torched empty rakes at Lalgola the last Indian Railway station a few miles from Bangladesh border. Lalgola is in Murshidabad district that accounts for about 67 per cent of minority population.

At Basudevpur, violent mob put to fire a railway signalling facility and torched a fire



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

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

Similar incidents were reported from North 24 Parganas and rural Howrah, where several long-distances trains were halted, after the a portion of the Sankrail station was vandalised, police said adding about 15 public and pri-

vate buses were torched and many other vehicles were stoned by protesters on NH-6 — popularly known as Bombay Road and NH-2 — known as Delhi Road.

The agitators blocked both Kona Expressway — that connects Howrah and Kolkata to Golden Quadrilateral — and NH-34 — that connects South Bengal to North Bengal — throwing burning tyres on the roads even as an helpless police brigade looked on for want of

specific direction.

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

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



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

CSMT Getanjali Express, Howrah-Ernakulam Antodaya Express, Howrah-Digha-Howrah Kandari Express, Coromondal Express from Howrah, Howrah-Yesvantpur Duronto Exp, Howrah-Hyderabad East Coast Express, Puri-Digha Express, Puri-Santragachhi Passenger etc. In an apparent bid to prove

a point or two about their numerical strength, the agitators mostly from a particular community not only targeted Government properties but also torched shops belonging to private citizens sources said adding about 20 shops were set on fire at Bagnan in rural Howrah.

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



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Refuses to apologise for 'Rape in India' sought by BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses party workers during the party's Bharat Bachao rally at Ramliia Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

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

No compromise on Savarkar: Sena

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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## Oil tanker set ablaze in Assam, driver killed

Curfew relaxed in Guwahati from 9 am to 4 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

The driver of the tanker was taken to a private nursing home where he succumbed to severe burn injuries on Saturday morning, they said.

Meanwhile, AASU, Asom Jatiyatbadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) and 30 other organisations of indigenous people, spearheading the agitation against the Act, held protests in all districts of the Brahmaputra Valley along with senior citizens, students, artists, singers, intellectuals and teachers among others.

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

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

## Rejuvenation of Ganga a challenge: Modi

PTI ■ KANPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council here on Saturday and said that rejuvenation of the river should be a shining example of cooperative federalism. He also reviewed the progress of works under the ambitious Namami Ganga project in the stretch of the river that is considered the most polluted, and deliberated on various aspects of cleaning the river with focus on 'swachhata', 'aviralta' and 'nirmalta'.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, at the meeting Modi observed that the Ganga is the holiest river in the sub-conti-



PM Narendra Modi reviews the Namami Ganga project aimed at cleaning River Ganga, in Kanpur on Saturday

ment and its rejuvenation should embody a shining example of cooperative feder-

alism. Noting that the rejuvenation of the river has been a long-pending challenge for the

country, he said a lot has been accomplished since his government took up the Namami

Gange project in 2014 as a comprehensive initiative integrating various governmental efforts and activities to abate pollution, and conserve and rejuvenate the river.

According to officials, the government had made a commitment of providing ₹ 20,000 crore for the period 2015-20 to the five states through which the Ganga passes, to ensure adequate and uninterrupted flow.

₹ 7,700 crore has already been spent, prominently for construction of sewage treatment plants, they said. According to the PMO statement, Modi emphasised that an improvement in the framework for Nirmal Ganga would require the fullest cooperation

from the public at large and generating greater awareness through dissemination of best practices from cities situated on river banks.

It said the meeting was of the view that efficiency of District Ganga Committees should be improved in all districts, in order to provide an effective framework for expeditious implementation of plans. The government has set up the Clean Ganga Fund (CGF) to facilitate contributions from people, NRIs and corporate entities for funding Ganga rejuvenation projects, the statement said.

The PM has personally donated ₹ 16.53 crore to CGF from the amount realized from

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# Girl raped, torched in Fatehpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the public outrage over the torching of a rape survivor in Unnao is yet to die down, another teenager was raped and torched in Fatehpur on Saturday.

The victim was referred to the GSVM Medical College hospital in Kanpur with 100 per cent burns and her condition was stated to be very critical.

A case was registered and the police were making efforts to nab the accused.

As per reports, 18-year-old Savita (name changed) of Hussainganj area of Fatehpur, rushed out of her house in flames and cried for help on Saturday morning.

The local residents somehow doused the fire and informed the police after which a team led by Circle Officer (City) Kapil Dev Mishra rushed there and shifted the girl to a nearby primary health centre. The doctors at the primary health centre later referred the victim to GSVM Medical College for specialised treatment as she had 100 per cent burns.

The police later called a tehsildar before whom the girl declared that her distant uncle raped her and when she threatened to inform her kin, he doused her with kerosene and torched her.

Contrary to the victim's charge, District Magistrate Sanjeev Singh told the media that the accused uncle and the



## 4 Nepalese women held with charas worth over ₹6 cr

**Gonda (PTI):** Four Nepalese women were arrested after more than 20 kg charas worth over ₹6 crore was recovered from them in neighbouring Bahraich district, police said on Saturday.

A police team patrolling Rupaideeh area intercepted the four women near a school. They were found carrying the contraband, DIG Rajesh Singh said. All the four were arrested and a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was filed against them, the DIG said.

The seized contraband has an estimated worth of ₹6.23 crore in the international market, Singh added.

They were having an affair for the last one year and they had recently started living together

to which her family objected after which a panchayat was called.

Singh said that as the panchayat decided that the girl should be separated from the accused, she probably got upset and tried to end her life.

The district magistrate claimed that a complaint from the victim's family was accepted and a case was registered against the uncle.

In a separate incident reported from Muzaffarnagar, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and raped by two men.

According to Station House Officer Anil Kapervan, the girl was rescued on Friday and the two accused, identified as Salman and Pervaiz, were arrested.

The girl had left her home for a shop on Thursday and was missing since then. Her father had lodged a missing report and the police investigation led to the rescue of the girl, the SHO said.

According to the complaint, the accused brought the girl to a nearby place where they allegedly raped her. The accused also threatened the girl of dire consequences if she told anyone about the incident.

The accused, aged around 20, have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, police said. The girl was sent for medical examination.

## PF scam: Vigilance Establishment seeks property details of 3 UPPCL officers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The UP Vigilance Establishment has sought details from Lucknow municipal commissioner of the landed property and immovable assets of three arrested officials of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited who are accused in the provident fund investment scam.

The officers are UPPCL's former MD AP Mishra, former director (finance) Sudhanshu Dwivedi and former general manager PK Gupta. In a letter sent to the Lucknow municipal commissioner, the Vigilance Establishment has asked him to provide details of landed properties and other assets in the name of these three officials and their family members.

It has asked the LMC to enquire about all the plots/houses/flats owned by Mishra in Aliganj, Chihat and Vinamra Khand of Gomti Nagar and their registered sale deeds and provide details to the Vigilance Establishment.

It has also sought details of the properties of Mishra's family members including his wife, son, daughter and other members in the family. The Vigilance Establishment has sought similar details about Gupta and Dwivedi.

The problem for these three officials is increasing with each passing day as the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), currently probing the PF scam, has booked the trio in case of fraud and has also traced the money trail.



Hindu devotees bathing in the river Ganga on a foggy morning in Allahabad on Saturday

Pioneer

# Paddy procurement gaining momentum

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Paddy procurement is gaining momentum in Uttar Pradesh with state agencies having bought nearly 28 lakh metric tons in the current Kharif marketing season.

As paddy procurement stood under 20 lakh MT during the corresponding period in 2018, the state has clocked a 40 per cent increase in the current season so far. The government aims to procure 50 lakh MT paddy this year.

The procurement season started on October 1 and will continue till February, 2020, covering all districts in phases.

About 3,860 procurement centres, including more than 100 run by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), have been set up across the state to facilitate direct purchase from farmers.

So far, nearly ₹5,700 crore have been paid to paddy farm-

ers by the government even as procurement continues.

Under previous regimes, paddy farmers in the state were paid their dues after delays of more than three months. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party regime has ensured that farmers are paid promptly and the money is deposited in their bank accounts for the paddy procured from them, Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said on Saturday. In 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, UP had procured 35 lakh MT, 43 lakh MT and 49 lakh MT paddy respectively against the season's target of 50 lakh MT.

Earlier, in September 2019, the UP cabinet had announced paddy procurement policy for 2019-20 season and increased the minimum support price (MSP) to ₹1,835 per quintal for grade A paddy, apart from providing ₹20 per quintal extra to farm-

ers as transport and other support charges that effectively increased the net payable amount to ₹1,855 per quintal.

The policy is aimed at facilitating robust procurement of food grain and promoting contract farming and share cropping for increasing farm income and boosting export of agricultural commodities.

UP is not only among the major paddy producing states but a big consumer of rice as well. The state annually requires almost 40 lakh MT of custom milled rice for consumption every year.

As per market players, UP exports Basmati and other rice varieties to a few third world countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In 2018-19 agricultural marketing seasons, UP logged total grain production of more than 60 lakh MT, the highest so far.

## Newly-wed bride flees with cash, ornaments

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre incident reported from Budaun, a newly-wed bride fled with cash and ornaments from the in-law's house, while in another incident, a bridegroom was detained for demanding a car in dowry in Muzaffarnagar.

In Budaun, a newly-wed woman fled from her in-laws' house with cash and ornaments after mixing intoxicants in the dinner that she served to the family at Chhotia Para area under Dataganj Kotwali police station on Friday night.

A complaint in this regard was filed by the in-laws.

As per reports, Pravin got married to Ria of Azamgarh on December 9. But when the drugged in-laws woke up on Saturday, they found Ria missing along with ₹70,000 in cash and ornaments worth ₹3 lakh.

Investigations are on. In Muzaffarnagar, a bridegroom was detained moments before his marriage as he demanded a car in dowry in Sisoli village in Bhora Kalan police station area.

On Friday night, the bride refused to marry Vivek for demanding the dowry.

After the bride's family complained to the police, Vivek and his family were taken into custody and were later released after they paid the cost borne by the bride's family for the ceremony.

The groom's family later returned to their native place at Nangloi in Delhi.

## Policewomen sensitised to escort duties

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After announcing that a woman cops of Police Response Vehicle (PRV) would escort stranded females to their destinations between 9 pm and 6 am, DGP OP Singh chaired a training session of 40 woman constables attached to PRV duties on Saturday.

The training was supervised by ADG (Dial 112) Aseem Arun.

To sensitise woman constables on how to react to SOS calls of stranded women seeking security, the DGP asked them not only to be sensitive but also quick in their response to the calls.

Singh said that PRV woman cops should also be trained on crime scene management, how to respond to law and order issues and how to tackle situations in case of emergencies while escorting any women.

The Director General of Police said that initially the services of 40 woman cops would be taken, two each on one Police Response Vehicle on night duty, to attend to such calls but in future, the facility would be extended to ensure a safe and secure atmosphere to female office-goers doing late hours or women in distress.

After the torching of a rape survivor in Unnao, the DGP had announced that PRVs would now escort unaccompanied women to their destinations between 9 pm and 6 am.

Any unaccompanied woman, who is out on the road during these hours, can call a PRV to escort her by dialling 112, the emergency response service of UP Police.

The PRVs escorting women would necessarily have two woman cops. The police chiefs of all districts have been asked to arrange for the same.

Ten per cent of Police Response Vehicles in a district should have woman cops so that these vehicles could be sent to escort unaccompanied woman. The district police chiefs have also been advised to train woman cops for the same.

Last week, DGP OP Singh had asked all private establishments to make necessary arrangements for the safe travel of woman employees on late night shifts.

## Akhilesh meets family of Unnao rape victim who was set ablaze

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Saturday, visited Unnao and met the family of the rape victim who was torched by the accused.

After meeting the victim's family at their village home in Bihar police station area, the SP chief said, "My party will fight for justice for the family of the rape victim as it is our responsibility. I have told my party-men that in case the family wants any help, make it available to them."

Akhilesh asked about the steps taken by the administration and said, "This poor family has lost its brave daughter. She was on her way to seek justice but failed to get it."

When told that the government immediately rushed her to a Delhi hospital to save her life, Akhilesh said, "The girl was not sent to save her life but to safeguard the government."

She was sent to ward off any political storm. The government was well aware of her



health condition."

Taking a dig at the Central and UP governments, Akhilesh said that instead of checking crime, the Bharatiya Janata Party government was presenting statistics of the previous regimes.

"This way, both governments are hoodwinking the people," he said.

The 23-year-old Unnao rape victim, who was set ablaze by five people, including two rape accused, succumbed to her injuries in Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital and her

last rites were performed at her native village.

The victim was on way to the railway station in Unnao to catch train for Rae Bareilly to attend court for hearing in the rape case when she was attacked and torched. All five accused were subsequently arrested.

Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the cleaning of the Ganga river, saying before cleaning the holy river, he should first 'clean' corruption.

In a tweet, Yadav posted, "Pradhanmantriji having a big meeting in Kanpur on cleanliness and pollution of Ganga. In the name of inspection, there will be false cleaning."

The Prime Minister on Saturday chaired a meeting of the National Ganga Mission in Kanpur and also reviewed the Namami Gange project and deliberated on various aspects of cleaning the river with focus on 'swachhata', 'aviralta' and 'nirmalta'.

## Yogi seeks people's participation in Ram temple construction

PNS ■ BADGAR (JHARKHAND)

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath exhorted people to contribute in building Ram temple at Ayodhya by donating ₹11 and a brick. He also attacked opposition, saying that Congress, RJD and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leaders talked the language of Ram temple.

Yogi Adityanath said that now a grand temple of Lord Ram was going to be built in Ayodhya and he wanted each household to donate at least one brick and ₹11 for it. He said that the Bharatiya Janata Party led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on way to establishing Ram Raj in the country.

Addressing election rallies in Jharkhand on Friday, Yogi said Ram Raj was not just a slogan for the BJP but a goal. "Continuous effort is going on in this direction under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. The 500-year-old controversy over Ram temple has ended. Article 370, which was a blot on the nation, has also been abrogated," he said.

Yogi said, "Opposition used to say that if the verdict on Ram Janmabhoomi was pronounced, there would be bloodbath, but no violence took place."

"Congress, RJD and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha are hand-in-glove. Their thought is destructive and they speak the language of Pakistan. From this very thought of the opposition, terrorists and separatists have been getting their strength. They are not only pained by Ram temple construction and abrogation of Article 370 but also on issues of national interest such as Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and NRC. That is why they were opposing this bill in Parliament. This is also their real character. I am confident that the people of Jharkhand will neither vote for the candidates of such parties who nurture the thought of

breaking the nation, nor will they like to hear their names," he said.

The Chief Minister said that abrogation of Article 370 was a tribute to the architect of the Constitution Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar in true sense.

"He was against the inclusion of this Article. During that time, Dr Ambedkar had said that this Article would give birth to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and it actually happened. This resulted in death of lakhs of innocent citizens and brave soldiers. It should have been repealed long time back, but those interested in grabbing power instead of thinking about national interest, did not take any such step to keep their vote banks intact," he said.

In other rallies at Bengabad and Madhupur, Yogi said that the revocation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 had strengthened the path of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Great India) mission.

## QUICK TAKES

### CITIZENSHIP ROW: TOUGH SECURITY MEASURES CONTINUE AT AMU

**Aligarh:** Tough security measures continued at Aligarh Muslim University on Saturday as a precautionary measure amid student protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act. Heavy police patrolling was underway at the university circle and other entry points of the AMU campus as a precautionary measure, police said. Annual examinations are continuing as per schedule and the district authorities and the AMU administration are maintaining strict vigil, AMU spokesman Dr Rahat Abrar said. AMU Teachers' Association secretary Najmul Islam said that the executive committee of their association would decide on future course of action. Meanwhile, Internet services, which were suspended on Thursday midnight, were restored late on Friday evening, district officials said.

### SCHOOL GUARD ELECTROCUTED TRYING TO SWITCH ON IMMERSION ROD

**Muzaffarnagar:** A 50-year-old guard at a school in Muzaffarnagar district was allegedly electrocuted as he switched on an immersion rod to heat water, a school official said. Nand Lal touched the electric wire on the rod when he got electrocuted at the school in Gandhi Colony on Friday, according to school manager Anprith Singh. The man's body was found in the school premises a few hours later, he said. The school committee has provided ₹2 lakh to the victim's family, Singh claimed. In another incident on Friday, a 45-year-old farmer died of a heart attack during bad weather at Attoda village under Babri police station limits in Shamli district. According to the man's brother Pardeep Kumar, Sanjive had gone to a nearby sugar mill to sell his sugarcane crop on a cold day when he died of the heart attack.

### CATTLE THIEVES' GANG BUSTED

**Allahabad:** Police on Friday busted an inter-district gang involved in cattle theft and arrested its seven members near Jagdishpur trisection. Four country-made pistols of .315 bore along with eight live cartridges, three knives and other valuables were seized from the accused Rahul Mangata, Sundar Mangata, Mukesh Mangata, Ramchandra, Rajan Mangata, Ashish Mangata and Vikas Mangata. All the residents of Patti. Inspector Patti Narendra Singh said that gang was skilled in stealing cattle and often attacked cattle owners. The gang was also involved in executing dacoities on city outskirts. On December 4 last, the gang had allegedly stolen as many as 30 sheep from Muradpur kotla village in Jaunpur and later sold it in Sultanpur. The gang was also active in Faizabad, Allahabad, Jaunpur and Sultanpur.

### WOMAN COMMITS SUICIDE

**Kanpur:** A woman committed suicide by hanging herself under mysterious circumstances, under the Kalyanpur police station on Friday night. Rishabh Gupta of Rawatpur Gaon, Kalyanpur, said the marriage of his sister Neha Gupta (22) was fixed with a boy in Kidwai Nagar and scheduled to be held on January 20, 2020. Late on Friday evening, after dinner all the family members went to sleep. Late in the night when father Srikant Gupta returned home and went to the room of Neha and found it bolted from inside. On failing to get any response the family broke open the doors and found Neha hanging from the ceiling.

## Rains, hailstorm add to winter chill in UP

**Lucknow (PTI):** Rains and hailstorms in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday brought the temperature down to single digit in many areas.

Shahjahanpur and Moradabad received rainfall of 9 cm each, followed by Nighasan 8 cm, Hapur 6 cm, Nanpara cm, Mohammad and Kaimganj 5 cm each, the meteorological department said.

Heavy rains and hailstorm occurred at isolated places in the state.

Many parts of the state recorded a low of 8.5 degrees Celsius on Saturday.

Day temperatures markedly fell in Gorakhpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Faizabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly and Moradabad divisions, they said.

The weather is likely to remain dry over the state on Sunday with shallow to moderate fog at a few places.

**NOTICE**  
A proposal for the mortgage residential house constructed over the Plot No. 11 part of Kharsa No. 19, measuring 52.936 sq. mt. situated at Balakganj, Ward-Balakganj, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, is pending before L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd. The original sale-deed is registered at the office of Sub-Registrar-IV, Lucknow, vide Book No. 1, 2/12 No. 2596 on pages-259 to 278 at Serial No. 931 on dated 31-01-2005, executed by Nishaman Sankar Swast Samati Ltd. Lucknow through Secretary Mohd. Tauseef s/o Late Mohd. Ameen, in favour of Keshwa Ram Sonkar s/o Ram Vinsh Ram R/o Vill-Brahim Chak, Post-Chiraya Kote, District Mau, U.P. It is informed to us that the above noted original sale-deed was lost. If this original sale-deed is mortgage with any person(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s) or any other one, may inform immediately to LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Area Office, Main Branch, Metro Tower, 2nd Floor, Shahjaganj Road, Lucknow, Contact No. 0522-2622524 or Anoop Kumar Singh Advocate, LIC HFL, Mobile No. 9554472272, 9455032691, otherwise the above noted proposal shall be finalized immediately after the expiry of 15 days of this publication.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR**  
**Appointment of Catering Services Agency for 23rd Youth Festival at Lucknow**  
Commissioner, Lucknow Division Lucknow invites e-bids from Catering Services Agency of national and international repute for 23- National Youth Festival at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow from 12.01.2020 to 16.01.2020 and inaugural ceremony at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpey Internationa Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow On 12.01.2020.  
The details of submission of e-Bids are available in the RFP document available at the eTender Portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> and Department of Youth Welfare website [www.prdandyouthwelfare@up.nic.in](http://www.prdandyouthwelfare@up.nic.in). For tender search go to Directorate of Local Bodies/ Lucknow Municipal Corporation.  
Commissioner, Lucknow Division Lucknow reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids or annul the Bidding process without assigning any reason thereof.  
Issuer  
Commissioner, Lucknow Division, Lucknow  
UP 146588 Date 14.12.2019 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

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# STF records statements of exam controller, V-C

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

## LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY PAPER LEAK

A team of Special Task Force visited Lucknow University on Saturday and recorded the statements of the examination controller and Vice-Chancellor in connection with the paper leak. An audio clip went viral after which it surfaced that the paper of third semester (Law department) got leaked.

IPPR director and media spokesperson of Lucknow University Sanjay Medhavi said the STF team recorded the statement of the examination controller at the university and later that of Vice-Chancellor at latter's residence.

Regarding an unofficial press conference called by some teachers from the Law department on the paper leak issue, Medhavi pointed out that the teachers said they were asked by the V-C to help a female student. "This does not amount to anything serious because it is a common refrain to ask teachers to help students. It does not mean that the teachers have to disclose the question papers," he added.

Meanwhile, raising con-



cern over the questions being raised on the sanctity of examination system, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, in an official communiqué, said he had constituted a high-level committee with a view to preventing a repeat of such an incident. The three-member committee comprises deputy director of IIT-Kanpur Manvendra Singh, Vice-Chancellor of AKTU Vinay Kumar Pathak and Vice-Chancellor of Siddharth University.

The committee will give suggestions on the formation of

question papers, their moderation and how this can be done in a better manner through technology. The committee will submit its recommendations within 15 days. Sharma said that looking into the paper leak incident, it was important to take effective measures. He said one university system on technology and got good results. The Deputy Chief Minister said that with the use of artificial intelligence, the system would not face human errors and would not be individual-based.

# Police recover IMFL worth ₹50 lakh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Mohanlalgarh police on Saturday recovered Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) bottles worth Rs 50 lakh and arrested a truck driver, who was identified as Pappu of Kasganj district. As per reports, the police were tipped off about a container passing via Mohanlalgarh on Saturday afternoon. A team led by Mohanlalgarh SHO GD Shukla carried out the operation. The driver tried to flee the scene abandoning the container, but was nabbed. The police said the liquor was smuggled from Faridabad in Haryana and was being taken to Bihar, which has been declared a dry state. "The truck driver told us that he was given the task to ferry the goods in the container. Since it remains covered, it was difficult to detect the goods loaded in it," the police said. The truck driver disclosed the names of some of the accused involved in the crime. "A team will be formed to arrest them," the police said.

Meanwhile, owner of a real estate company and his men were accused of misbehaving with a sub-inspector who reached his office for investiga-

LIQUOR WAS SMUGGLED FROM FARIDABAD IN HARYANA AND WAS BEING TAKEN TO BIHAR, WHICH IS NOW A DRY STATE

tion into a case on Saturday. However, police denied reports regarding misbehaviour.

As per reports, a woman of Gosainganj had lodged a complaint against company owner Ashish Patel, alleging that he refused to give her salary. On the complaint, incharge of the SRS Mall police outpost Umesh Singh reached the office. The SI was allegedly subjected to cross behavior by Ashish and his men. A police spokesman denied reports of misbehaviour with the S-I and said Ashish was summoned to the police station to know his side of the story. He said the woman joined the company on June 11 and quit on September 10. It surfaced during investigation that the woman was promised Rs 7,000 per month but she got nothing till date. When she asked Ashish for salary, he told her that she was appointed on commission basis and all the arrears had been cleared.



Members of Rashtriya Sevika Samiti staging dharna at Gandhi Statue over rising crime incidents against the fairer sex and demanding security for them, in Lucknow on Saturday

# LABOURER DIES IN ROAD MISHAP

Lucknow (PNS): A 60-year-old labourer was killed after an unidentified speeding car hit him on Lucknow-Hardoi road in Malihabad police station area early Saturday morning. Reports said the victim, identified as Bhooplal of Gulakheda locality, was coming to Lucknow to work at a construction site. He left his for Lucknow and was waiting for a tempo when he met with the mishap.

# HDFC MUTUAL FUND - INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

Date and Venue:

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019; 6:00 p.m. onwards. at Hotel Wingston, Masani Link Road, Mathura - 281 001. For registration, please contact: Nishant Kumar Jha, Mobile: 7369083535.



MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

# LU CENTENARY YEAR

# Godiyal recalls bittersweet memories

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Additional Advocate General Bulbul Godiyal, who was also the first woman from Lucknow University to bag this prestigious post, has witnessed both sweet and sour sides of the university. Talking to *The Pioneer*, Godiyal said: "My experiences notwithstanding, I got confidence to be in legal profession from Lucknow University."

She said she had different kinds of experiences as a student of LU because she studied from two different faculties. "My good times were when I was doing MA (English) in 1986-87 and the not-so-good times when I was a student of LLB from 1987 to 1990," she said.

Godiyal fondly remembers the English department where she made many friends and was impressed by the teachings of DD Sharma, whose lessons, she said, were mesmerising.

"I remember attending classes and enjoying visits to the canteen for chai and samosa with my friends," she added. Talking about her times as a student of the Law department, she said she witnessed hooliganism and irregular sessions. "There were strikes and no classes, and all kinds of hooligans causing disruptions. I remember that most of the time, I would go for classes but only to learn that there were no classes.



However, I focused on self-study and was able to perform well," she said.

"Still, there were professors who would teach well and I still remember a teacher who taught us the Law of Torts. But the moment he started speaking in English, students sitting at the back would heckle him. However, he was an extremely good teacher," she recalled.

Incidentally, Godiyal's father Robin Mitra, who was also in legal profession, was one of the most active student leaders in the campus in his hey days at Lucknow University. "He did at Lucknow University what JNU students are doing today," she pointed out. She said when she started doing things on her own, she developed immense confidence.

# Change in medical curriculum on cards



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

NK Ganguly, the Emeritus Professor of Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research and also the former director-general of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, said here on Saturday that the change in medical curriculum was being deliberated in which new entrants would also have classes on geographical and social set up so that they were aware of the scenario in which they had to treat the patients.

Ganguly was speaking at the SGPGI Foundation Day on Saturday. He said communication skills would also be enhanced so that as major health providers, doctors

were able to solve public health problems. The chief guest on the occasion was Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tewari, who said the government was ready to provide all help to SGPGI.

An elected fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, Ganguly was also the president of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research. He gave away annual awards to the students and employees. Bhanu Prakash was adjudged the best DM student while Naveen the best MCH student. A book on 'Chikitsa Ke Kshetra Me Jansampark', written by senior PRO Monalisa Chaudhari, was released on the occasion.



# THE INDIAN NAVY

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR INDIAN NAVY ENTRANCE TEST (INET) FOR VARIOUS ENTRIES - JAN 2021 COURSE

1. Applications are invited from unmarried eligible men & women candidates for grant of Short Service Commission (SSC) in under-mentioned branches / entries in the Indian Navy for course commencing Jan 21 at Indian Naval Academy (INA) Ezhimala, Kerala. Candidates must fulfill conditions of nationality as laid down by the Government of India.

### 2. Educational Qualifications

Ser	Branch/ Cadre	Eligible streams of Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Technology and Other Qualifications	Vacancy	Gender	Born Between (Both Dates inclusive)
<b>Executive Branch</b>					
(a)	SSC Naval Armament Inspectorate Cadre (NAIC)	BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in Mechanical / Mechanical with Automation / Electrical / Electrical &amp; Electronics / Electronics / Micro Electronics / Instrumentation / Electronics &amp; Communication / Electronics &amp; Tele Communication / Instrumentation &amp; Control / Control Engineering / Production / Industrial Production / Industrial Engineering / Applied Electronics &amp; Instrumentation / Electronics &amp; Instrumentation / Information Technology / Computer Science / Computer Engineering / Computer Application / Metallurgy / Metallurgical / Chemical/Material Science / Aero Space / Aeronautical Engineering OR Post Graduate degree in Electronics / Physics. Candidate must have 60% aggregate marks in class X and XII and minimum 60% marks in English in class X or class XII.	06	Men & Women	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001
(b)	SSC ATC	BE/B.Tech in any discipline from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks. (Candidate must have 60% aggregate marks in class X and XII and minimum 60% marks in English in class X or class XII).	04	Men & Women	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jan 2000
(c)	SSC Observer	- do -	06	Men & Women	02 Jan 1997 & 01 Jan 2002
(d)	SSC Pilot (MR)	- do -	03	Men & Women	02 Jan 1997 & 01 Jan 2002 *
(e)	SSC Pilot (Other than MR)	- do -	06	Men	02 Jan 1997 & 01 Jan 2002 *
(f)	SSC Logistics	(i) BE/B.Tech in any discipline with First Class from AICTE recognized institute / university, or (ii) MBA with First Class, or (iii) B.Sc / B.Com / B.Sc (IT) with First class with a PG Diploma in Finance / Logistics / Supply Chain Management / Material Management, or (iv) MCA / M.Sc (IT) with First Class	11	Men & Women	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001
(g)	SSC X (IT)	BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in Computer Science / Computer Engg / IT / M.Sc (Computer) / MCA	10	Men	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001
(h)	SSC General Service (GS/X) / Hydro Cadre	BE/B.Tech in any discipline with First Class from AICTE recognized institute / university	30 (27 (GS/X) + 03 (Hydro))	Men	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001**
<b>Technical Branch</b>					
(j)	SSC Engineering Branch [General Service (GS)]	BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in streams (i) Mechanical/Mechanical with Automation (ii) Marine (iii) Instrumentation (iv) Production (v) Aeronautical (vi) Industrial Engineering & Management (vii) Control Engg (viii) Aero Space (ix) Automobiles (x) Metallurgy (xi) Mechatronics (xii) Instrumentation & Control	26	Men	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jul 2001**
(k)	SSC Electrical Branch [General Service (GS)]	BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in streams (i) Electrical (ii) Electronics (iii) Tele Communication (iv) Electronics & Communication (v) Power Engineering (vi) Power Electronics (vii) Electronics & Instrumentation / Applied Electronics & Instrumentation (viii) Instrumentation & Control (ix) Instrumentation, (x) Applied Electronics and Communication (AEC).	27	Men	02 Jul 1996 & 01 Jul 2001
<b>Education Branch</b>					
(l)	SSC Education	(i) First Class in M.Sc. (Maths/Operational Research) with Physics in B.Sc. (ii) First Class in M.Sc. (Physics/Nuclear Physics) with Maths in B.Sc. (iii) First Class in M.Sc. (Meteorology/Oceanology/ Atmospheric Science) (iv) BE/B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks (Computer Science/Information Technology/Computer Technology/Information Systems/Computer Engineering) (v) BE / B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks (Electronics & Communication/ Electrical & Electronics/ Electronics & Instrumentation/ Electronics & Telecommunications/ Electrical) (vi) BE / B.Tech from AICTE recognized institute / university with minimum 60% marks in Mechanical Engineering. Note (1): Candidates applying for the Education entry must have scored minimum of 60% marks in class X and class XII and minimum 60% marks in English in class X or class XII.	15	Men & Women	02 Jan 1996 & 01 Jan 2000

### Note (2)

- (i) These vacancies are tentative and may be changed depending on availability of training slots.
- (ii) \* Commercial Pilot License (CPL) Holders. Candidates having valid and current CPL issued by DGCA (India) and born between 02 Jan 1996 and 01 Jan 2002 (both dates inclusive) can apply for Pilot entry as per eligibility criteria stated at Para 2(d) & 2(e).
- (iii) \*\* Merchant Navy Personnel. Candidates having Government of India, Ministry of Shipping & Transport Certificate of Competency (Foreign going) either as a Second Mate, Mate or Master and born between 02 Jan 1991 and 01 Jul 2001 (both dates inclusive) can apply for Executive Branch entry (General Service) and Technical Branch entry (SSC Engineering) as per stipulations stated at Para 2(h) & 2(j) respectively.

### 3. Who can Apply.

Candidates who have graduated or in the final year of the applicable qualifying degree in the above mentioned disciplines from a AICTE recognised educational institute/AIU certified foreign university can apply for the exam. The candidates will, however, be required to fulfill the educational qualifications stipulated above before joining INA. The candidates failing to meet stipulated educational criteria will not be permitted to join INA, Ezhimala.

### 4. How to Apply.

- (i). Candidates are to register and fill application on Indian Navy website www.joinindiannavy.gov.in. To save time during the application submission window, candidates can fill in their details and upload documents in advance.
- (ii). Online (e-application). Whilst filling up the e-application, it is advisable to keep the relevant documents readily available to enable the following- (a) Correct filling up of personal particulars. Details are to be filled up as given in the Matriculation Certificate. (b) Fields such as e-mail address, mobile number are mandatory fields and need to be filled. (c) All relevant documents (preferably in original), marks sheets upto 5th & 7th semester for regular and integrated B.E. / B.Tech courses & other degree examination respectively, date of birth proof (as per 10th & 12th certificate), CGPA conversion formula for BE/B.Tech, Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) issued by DGCA, Government of India, and a recent passport size colour photograph should be scanned in original JPG/TIFF format, for attaching the same while filling up the application. (d) If any scanned document is not legible/readable for any reason the application will be rejected. Candidates are to take print out of application and carry it while appearing for INET(O) or SSB interview.

**Important** - Please read the instructions given on the website carefully before submitting your 'e-application' form. Candidates can call Toll-free number 1800-419-2929 and press Option 7 to speak to a customer care representative from Monday-Sunday between 0800-2000 hrs regarding INET(O) and SSB interview.

**Note (3)** : Your application is subject to subsequent scrutiny and the application can be rejected, if found INELIGIBLE/INVALID at any point of time.

The terms and conditions given in this advertisements are subject to change and should therefore be treated as guidelines only. The full advertisement regarding detailed information and selection procedure will be published in Employment News dated 23 Nov 19 and will also be available on www.joinindiannavy.gov.in



# ‘Working system in Signal & Telecom wing to be digitised’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Member of Railway Board Pradeep Kumar said on Saturday that the working system in Signal and Telecom wing would be digitised soon. In a meeting with officials of the Lucknow division of the North-Eastern Railways at the DRM office, he also reviewed the ongoing projects and works done to upgrade civic amenities at different railway stations under the zone.

“Safety is on the top priority and maintenance of signals and telecom must be ensured. Also, there is a need to improve the operating ratio and minimise the failure of equipment keeping safety aspect in mind,” Kumar said.

Motivating the officials to digitise train operations, he said it would help in ensuring improved performance. He told the officials that the board was working on the module of Signal Maintenance Management System.

“Entire working system of signal and telecom will be digitised soon,” he said. He asked the officials to impart training to ground-level employees engaged in maintenance work and instructed them to make available the material or items required for the purpose. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including principal chief engineer Srikant Singh and DRM Monica Agnihotri.

# 18-yr-old girl hangs self

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

An 18-year-old girl was found hanging at her house in Dugawan locality under Naka police station area on Saturday evening. The girl, identified as Sejal Rajpoot, was a class VII dropout and was found hanging from ceiling with a dupatta tied around her neck. A police spokesman said the family of the girl found her hanging in the morning.

“The body bore no injury marks and the police did not recover any suicide note from the room,” a police spokesman said. He said the body was sent for autopsy and further investigations were underway. Though the police could not explain the sequence of events, locals said the girl took the step in the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.



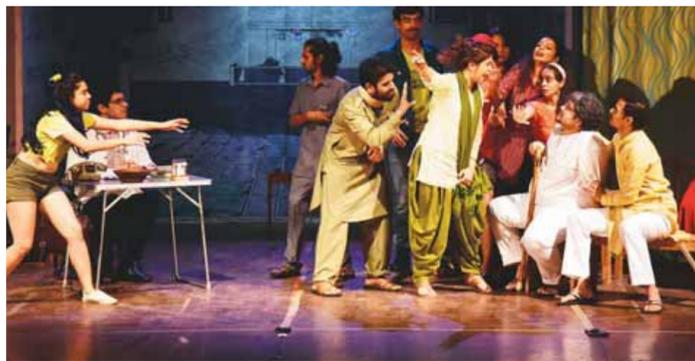
Mums and Chums kick-started its Christmas celebrations in Lucknow on Saturday with a programme involving little girls and their mothers who took part in various fun events

# Broccoli continues to be a hit among consumers

Lucknow (PNS): During the last few years, many new vegetables entered Lucknow market but broccoli tops the consumers preference. Director of Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture Shailendra Rajan said it was probably because of its nutritive value. “At the peak of winters, vegetables like cabbage and cauliflower are sold at a throw-away price, thus progressive farmers are in search of new vegetable crops which can ensure increased income. The know-how provided by CISH has made many farmers successful in cultivation of these vegetables. It was difficult to get seeds of these vegetables, but now increased demand has forced the suppliers to arrange seeds. Many progressive farmers picked up the technology and started producing the crop

and many of them could manage the time of crop maturity for getting better profit,” he said. He said that the demand of broccoli was increasing due to changes in living standards, food habits, health consciousness of consumers towards nutritive and high medicinal properties in these exotic vegetables. The CISH director said broccoli has a high content of vitamins K & C besides folic acid, potassium, and fiber. “It can provide better antioxidant benefits through a number of antioxidants that can’t be provided by supplements. Reduced cancer risk is one of the benefits due to its impressive range of antioxidants. Common vegetable sellers say that women are interested in including this vegetable in regular family meals,” he added.

# Theatre has helped me filter my feelings: Faezeh Jalali



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

“Theatre has helped me filter the kind of feelings that I want to express,” said Faezeh Jalali, director of the play ‘Bone of Contention’, which was staged on the third day of the Repertuar Fest at Sangeet Natak Akademi on Saturday.

Speaking at ‘Meet The Cast’ session, she said theatre has a space for everybody. Artistes Nidhi Bisht & Prerna Petha from ‘Bone of Contention’, and Raman Negi & Paras Thakur from ‘The Local Train’ musical band were also welcomed at the session.

Nidhi talked about her love for theatre and her popularity on YouTube and various web series. Prerna talked about the honour of working with a female director. “The play is a farcical take on the socio-political scenario of the current

times,” she said. Raman laid emphasis on the ever-evolving voice of ‘The Local Train’. Asked about the unique factor of the band, he said: “We are different from other bands because our musical sense is more modern”. All the artistes agreed that connecting with the audience was the basic motto behind their art. Faezeh Jalali, while giving details of her play, said it was an ensemble piece with 16-odd players, several of whom have worked in her previous ventures. “The seed of the idea came from a personal memory from the time my family lived in a Mazgaon bungalow with Parsi and Irani occupants, alongside which a conservative Hindu housing cooperative with a strictly vegetarian policy came up. Chicken or meat bones retrieved from trash by errant crows and dropped across the proverbial

fence resulted in an atmosphere of mistrust in what was already the polarised post-riots urban milieu of the mid-1990s. The catalyst for conflict then might have been a measly bone, and it persists, perhaps unwittingly, as agent provocateur in this new production,” she said. “A bone falls into a resident’s balcony in the cosmopolitan housing cooperative society. A farce ensues, as this starts a string of naming, blaming and shaming within various communities of the housing society, while Kalpana, the common house help, reveals the inside story,” she elaborated. She said that the play blows the lid off the psychological hang-ups and class hangovers of the upwardly mobile, surprisingly open-minded life choices and provides an embodiment of the kind of syncretism that we aspire to in our so-called liberal bubbles.

## CITY BRIEFS

### WILDLIFE JOURNAL

Wildlife journal ‘Cheetal’, published by Wildlife Preservation Society (WPS), was released by Lucknow zoo director RK Singh on Saturday. WPS president Rashmi Kant Shukla, inaugurated the Lucknow branch of the society on Saturday. WPS, which was established in 1958, is the oldest society in north India and the second oldest in the country after BNHS (Mumbai).

### BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna’s centenary birth anniversary celebrations kicked off at Lucknow University’s Malviya Hall on Saturday. The programme was inaugurated by minister Anurag Thakur and presided over by BJP leader Rita Bahuguna Joshi. Thakur said coming from the hills, he



Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna’s centenary birth anniversary celebrations

could understand the struggles followed by scores of competitions on the occasion, Rita Bahuguna Joshi said her father always taught her that there was no alternative to hard

work. The programme was followed by scores of competitions and the main attraction remained the rendition of ‘Vande Matram’ and the unfurling of a 20-foot flag.

## SCHOOLSCAN

### IEO-2019

On the third day of the ongoing 4-day International Environment Olympiad (IEO-2019), the participants from India and abroad, through various competitions, sent across a message to the world to save environment. Renowned environmentalists and guests made the young generation aware about the worsening environmental condition. The event is effectively spreading the message of ‘Green earth, clean earth’ across society. The third day began with painting contest organised for senior students. A court room drama contest was also held for junior students.



# कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी, गोरखपुर

पत्रांक-निविदा/2019-20/26190-3 दिनांक-12.12.2019  
अल्प कालिक निविदा सूचना  
श्री राज्यपाल महोदय, उप्रप्र की ओर से चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण तथा राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन के अन्तर्गत संचालित विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों के संचालन हेतु सामग्रियों एवं उपकरणों की आवश्यकताओं को देखते हुए वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 में आवश्यक सामग्रियों को क्रय करने हेतु निविदा का आमंत्रण किया जाता है जिसकी आपूर्ति हेतु अनुमयी एवं ख्याति प्राप्त निमाता / विक्रेता एवं इच्छुक निविदादाता निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 14.12.2019 कसे 28.12.2019 तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में समय प्रातः 10.00 बजे से सायं 05.00 तक रु 500.00 का नगद/ बैंक ड्राफ्ट/ बैंक चैक जो मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी गोरखपुर के पक्ष में जारी होगा, जमा कर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। दिनांक 28.12.2019 को सायं 5.00 बजे के बाद निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय नहीं किया जायेगा तथा दिनांक 30.12.2019 को अपराह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 02.00 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा पेटी में डाला जायेगा। निविदा दिनांक 30.12.2019 को सन्मिति के सदस्यों एवं निविदादाताओं के सम्मक्ष सायं 04.00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि आगे बढ़ने एवं राजकीय अवकाश होने की दशा में अगली निविदा की तिथि सूचना पट्ट पर अंकित कर दी जायेगी। जिसकी सूचना पृथक रूप से नहीं दी जायेगी।  
निविदा प्रपत्र पर सामग्रियों एवं उपकरणों का विवरण अंकित होगा एवं अन्य शर्तें संलग्न होंगी। किसी भी निविदा अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित होगा। निविदा प्रपत्र पर संलग्नक शर्तों के अनुसार निर्धारित समयावधि के अन्तर्गत कार्य का सम्पादन एवं आपूर्ति करना होगा।  
(डा० एस० के० तिवारी)  
मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी  
गोरखपुर

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### PROTESTERS GO...

Things however improved in parts of South 24 Parganas where no new report of violence came in from Diamond Harbour. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister making a strong statement against the ‘CAB-NRC menace’ asked the people to maintain peace warning the ‘breakers of law’ that the Government would be forced to take drastic action against them. A release from the Chief Minister’s office also requested people not to take law in hands. “Do not take law in your hands, blockade roads, railway traffic or damage public property as this will cause inconvenience to the people. Strict action will be taken against those who are found guilty in creating disturbances.” The Chief Minister has directed the Trinamool

leadership to take out processions condemning the ‘draconian laws’ on Sunday and Monday. “The TMC workers will take out rallies in districts on Sunday. People from all walks of life, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and political affiliation are requested to join the march,” Mamata said adding she would herself take part in a rally in Kolkata on Monday. Two TMC rallies, one from South Kolkata and one from North Kolkata, will be organised on Monday, Mamata said adding, “I want the people remain calm at this hour of crisis. I want the people to protest in legal way. I want to assure everyone that despite the enactment of the draconian law with the help of a brute majority in Parliament the BJP will not be allowed to implement it... I assure you that this Act will not be allowed to be implemented in Bengal. There will be no NRC or CAB here as it is the State Government that implements such laws and we will not implement it.”

also demands that Assam be brought under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime, has also planned ‘Gana Samadai’ (mass rally) on December 24. “We have coined the slogan ‘No CAA, Yes ILP’ and we will continue our agitation till it is granted,” Changmai said. Protests by people and students are happening across the state and it will continue everyday till 5 pm, AASU General Secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi told an agency. The AASU has called for ‘satyagrah’ for three days, beginning December 16. “We will continue with our agitation till the Act is withdrawn but we will follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi in our struggle which will be non-violent and disciplined,” Gogoi said. A Northeast Frontier Railway spokesman said all trains to Upper Assam districts have been terminated at Guwahati, while all long distance trains leaving Guwahati will resume their onward journey after the blockade. In Giridih/Baghmara in Jharkhand, addressing election rallies Union Home Minister Amit Shah hit out at the Congress, accusing it of stoking violence over the amended Citizenship Act. Shah said the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill to the Opposition party. He assured the people of the Northeast that their culture, language, social identity and political rights will not be affected by the Act. The Railways is running special trains from Guwahati to help stranded passengers in Assam. Special passenger trains are being run in Guwahati so

that people reach their destination in upper Assam. One such train was operated on Friday to Dimapur. Trains were also run on Saturday to Furkating, the main railway junction in Assam’s Golaghat district, and to Dibrugarh, officials said in New Delhi. A special passenger train to Dimapur from Guwahati will also run tonight, they said. While 2000-2400 passengers ferried in last two days, around 600-800 passengers were still stranded in Guwahati. The remaining passengers will be ferried by tomorrow morning. The officials said the railways is using social media like Facebook and Twitter to inform passengers about the special train. While approving of media’s criticism of the UPA government, he said, “I respect that and you did the right thing but today you have forgotten your work.”

should be destroyed.” “That work (of destroying the economy) has not been done by the enemies, but by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself. And, (he) still calls himself a patriot,” he added. Training his guns on Modi, a charged-up Rahul Gandhi said the PM only thinks about one thing - whether he has the power. “They will do anything for the power- make the youth unemployed, destroy the economy and what not,” he said. He also alleged that people manning various institutions, including media and constitutional ones like judiciary, have forgotten their work. While approving of media’s criticism of the UPA government, he said, “I respect that and you did the right thing but today you have forgotten your work.”

works for being in power. He will destroy everything to achieve power,” he said. Rahul alleged PM Modi only ‘wants to be seen on television all the time’ and the people whom he has benefitted by giving them the money ‘snatched from people’, are the ones funding him for marketing himself on the TV. He said it is only the PM and no other opposition leader who can be seen on television. ‘RAHUL JINNAH’... He can’t be ‘Veer’ or be par with Savarkar,” BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said. Another BJP spokesperson, GVL Narasimha Rao, said a more appropriate name for Rahul would be ‘Rahul Jinnah’ given the Congressman’s ‘Muslim appeasement politics and mindset’. Maintaining that five generations of Nehru-Gandhi family can’t measure up to Savarkar’s legacy, BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malaviya took a dig at the Shiv Sena saying, “Looking forward to seeing Shiv Sena defen d Rahul Gandhi for his statement implying that Veer Savarkar was a coward who apologized.” Sena leader Sanjay Raut tweeted: “Veer Savarkar is an idol of whole country and not just Maharashtra. The name Savarkar denotes pride about nation and self. Like Nehru and Gandhi, Savarkar too sacrificed his life for the country. Every such idol must be revered. There is no compromise on this.” Savarkar is revered as Hindutva icon for the BJP but is accused by its rivals of tendering apologies to the British government to secure release from jail when India was under the colonial rule.

### STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No. S/21/2019, dt. 11-12-2019. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) - www.ireps.gov.in For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-Tender, please visit I.R.E. Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get them registered on the website http://www.ireps.gov.in online. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers on the following materials: SN.1. Tender No.: 30/19/5017/OT/053/19. Brief Description, PL No & Quantity: LHB Coach Braking Stimulator and Fault Trainer, 3350N001, 1 Nos (SSE/C/IC/KYD). Closing/Opening Date: 08-01-2020. PCMM NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY ‘Serving Customers with a smile’

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारंपण खण्ड, गोण्डा, उत्तर प्रदेश, निविदा सूचना  
अनुमयी वर्ग/ उकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु उचित निविदाएं दो मांगों में क्रमशः दिनांक 27.12.19 एवं 10.01.20 को 17.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। (1) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना : 30/विद्युतपारंपण/गो/2019-20; विद्युत पारंपण खण्ड गोण्डा के अधीन 220 केवीओउपकेन्द्र गोण्डा सी०टी०आर० डैक के विद्युत एवं साईड रॉल के निर्माण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु 1000.00 निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 27.12.2019 को 14.00 बजे, निविदा मांग-2 (प्राइज पाट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 118.00 (जी०एस०टी० सहित)। (2) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना : 31/विद्युतपारंपण/गो/2019-20; विद्युत पारंपण खण्ड गोण्डा के अधीन 220 केवीओउपकेन्द्र गोण्डा-बस्ती लाइन पर हस्तिसार पोलिंकर इन्सुलेटर बलून सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु 1000.00 निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 27.12.2019 को 14.00 बजे, निविदा मांग-2 (प्राइज पाट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 236.00 (जी०एस०टी० सहित)। (3) ई-निविदा सूचना : 32/विद्युतपारंपण/गो/2019-20; विद्युत पारंपण खण्ड गोण्डा के अधीन 220 केवीओउपकेन्द्र गोण्डा, 132 केवीओउपकेन्द्र कलसंजं एवं नबाबागंज पर स्थापित जी०टी० सेट हेतु सेट के निर्माण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु 2000.00 निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 11.01.2020 को 14.00 बजे, निविदा मांग-2 (प्राइज पाट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार बेवसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 236.00 (जी०एस०टी० सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 236.00 (जी०एस०टी० सहित)। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारंपण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम-पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं -

UNFRUITFUL EXPENDITURE OF ₹7 CRORE

# CBI books Padma Shree awardee Leela Samson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

contracts were awarded at a higher rate and the payments made to the contractors accordingly, according to the FIR. Samson was the Director of the Foundation between May 06, 2005, and April 30, 2012. It was felt in 2006 that the auditorium built by the Foundation in 1985 needed renovation, they said.

The project aimed to upgrade the sound system of the Koothambalam auditorium, built in 1985, followed by civil engineering works, electrical works, air conditioning and architectural features, the CBI FIR said.

The 33rd Governing Body meeting held in 2009 decided to form a civil works advisory committee and P T Krishnan, Leela Samson and Madhavi Mudgal were to prepare necessary estimation based on the recommendations of the Governing Board, it said.

The civil works committee appointed CARD as consultant architect in 2010 which gave contracts for 28 renovation works to five contractors while committee also selected some contractors, it said.

The ministry alleged in the complaint that the open tender process was not followed in awarding the contracts.

The Comptroller and Auditor General audited the

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

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

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

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

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

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

BHARAT BACHAO RALLY

# Time to rise to save constitution, democracy: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The Congress chief said



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

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

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

The Congress has been

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

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

On his part Manmohan

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

In his brief address, Manmohan Singh urged the

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

# Govt to conduct Economic Census

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The process of Economic Census was first held in 1978. This is the Seventh Census which will provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural



aspects of all establishments in the country. The census will provide valuable insights into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern; persons engaged etc. of the establishments engaged in economic activity.

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

# Kovind hosted university heads' conference

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

# Priyanka takes jibe at 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai'



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Government eases FASTag execution

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The ministry clarified that



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

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

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

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

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

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

# Tea growers feel pinch of Assam protests

## Farmers fear less production, sales

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Tea growers in Assam have started feeling the pinch of the ongoing protests with partial disruption in production at many gardens and sale of the crop at the Guwahati auction centre being hampered, industry insiders said on Saturday.

Transportation of the produce has also been affected due to the ongoing stir, they said.

"Though winter months are not the peak season, plucking and manufacturing operations in many gardens across the state have been affected amid widespread protest," North Eastern Tea Association adviser Bidyandana Barkakoty told PTI.

Compared to last few years, the weather condition was favourable during this December and the growers were able to produce relatively better quality tea but operations at several estates have been adversely affected by the protests, he added. "During Tuesday's shutdown, gardens were mostly closed. Plucking activities

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

took place on Friday but not in a full-fledged scale as many workers could not come due to lack of transport," All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association general secretary Karuna Mahanta told PTI.

The legislation has put the state on boil as people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration.

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

The board had earlier asked them to shut plucking and manufacturing operations by mid-

December to prevent production of inferior quality tea, according to growers. Suspension of internet services has also affected their business.

"Due to the internet suspension and violent protests, several tea growers are apprehending that they may face difficulties to pay wages to workers as banking services might be affected. Usually, payments to labourers are made either on Friday or Saturday," Barkakoty said. Sales of tea at the Guwahati auction centre have also been disrupted.

"Every week, around 40-45 lakh kgs of tea is sold. But, only 15 lakh kg has been sold so far this week," Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers' Association Secretary Dinesh Bihani said.

Barkakoty said planters are



also apprehending that if the ongoing protests continue for a prolonged period, the pruning activities and other agricultural processes which usually happen during the winters might get disrupted. "Several agricultural processes, including pruning, are done during the winters to ensure quality of tea for the upcoming season. These are time-bound activities. If the protests continue longer and such cold-weather agricultural activities are affected, the industry will face severe impact next season," he added.

# Rejuvenation of Ganga a challenge: Modi

From Page 1

Modi also pitched for a holistic thinking process where Namami Ganga evolves to 'arth'

To monitor the progress of work being carried out under various schemes and initiatives under Namami Ganga and Arth Ganga, the prime minister directed the attendees of the meeting to set up a digital dashboard where data from villages and urban bodies can be monitored on a daily basis by the Niti Ayog and the Jal Shakti Ministry.

Modi also said like aspirational districts, all districts bordering Ganga should be made a focus area for monitoring efforts under Namami Ganga.

The meeting of the National Ganga Council was initially scheduled for about 100 minutes but it continued for another 40 minutes. The council has been given the overall responsibility for superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga basin, including the Ganga and its tributaries.

Accompanied by chief ministers and other dignitaries, Modi visited Atal Ghat near the Ganga barrage to assess works done there. He then went on a half-hour steamer ride on the Ganga and inspected the Sisamau Nullah, a 128-year-old drain which was a major contributor to the river's pollution until it was cleaned under the Namami Ganga Programme.

Under the programme, 13 out of 16 major drains in Kanpur have been tapped, and the sewage and industrial effluents have been diverted to Common Effluent



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath receiving Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kanpur on Saturday

Treatment Plants. Returning from the steamer ride, the prime minister stumbled and fell while climbing the stairs of the ghat but was promptly back on his feet as the security personnel rushed to his help. Kanpur Commissioner Sudhir M Bobde said the SPG were informed beforehand that

one of the steps of the ghat was a little higher than the others.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his Uttarakhanda counterpart Trivendra Singh Rawat, Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Modi, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Environment Minister Prakash

Javadekar, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, the Niti Ayog vice chairman were among those present at the meeting of the council.

West Bengal didn't participate as the Model Code of Conduct is in force there in view of the ongo-

ing Assembly elections. Upon his arrival at Kanpur's Chakeri airport, Modi was received by Adityanath. He paid tribute to freedom fighter Chandrashekhar Azad and visited an exhibition on Namami Ganga at the Chandrashekhar Azad Agriculture University.

# RJD calls for Bihar bandh on Dec 21

PTI ■ PATNA

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

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

"The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is a black

legislation that has blown the Constitution to smithereens. As a mark of protest, Rashtriya Janata Dal will organize a Bihar bandh on Sunday, December 22.

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

The 30-year-old leader of opposition followed it up with another tweet "Correction: Bihar bandh will now be on Saturday, December 21 because police recruitment tests are scheduled on December 22. The rescheduling is being done so that young aspirants are not inconvenienced on account of the bandh."

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

Patna: The Left parties on Saturday appealed to RJD to advance its 'Bihar bandh' by two days to December 19 to combine it with their proposed nationwide joint protest against the amended Citizenship Act on that day. The Communist Party of India, CPI(Marxist), CPI (Marxist-Leninist)—Liberation, All India Forward Bloc and the Revolutionary Socialist Party, in a joint statement, alleged that the Act would destroy the secular democratic foundations of India.

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

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

# Cong, CPM join hand for Kerala agitation

PNS ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Farooq Abdullah's detention extended

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

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

His house, located at Gupkar Road, has been declared a sub-jail by the union territory's Home Department.

Eighty-two-year-old Abdullah, who became the first Chief Minister against whom the stringent public safety law was invoked, has a heart pacemaker implanted and had undergone a kidney transplant a few years ago.

Reacting to the move, West Bengal

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

Abdullah was among a host of leaders and activists who were detained on August 5 when the centre abrogated Article 370 and divided the state into two union territories—Ladakh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The PSA has two sections—'public order' and 'threat to security of the State'. The former allows detention without trial for three to one year and the latter for two years.

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

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

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C.D.-1, P.W.D., KANPUR DEHAT**  
No.: 2128/12A/Tender/2019-20 Dated: 10.12.2019

**Short-Term Tender Notice**

1. Tender is invited for eligible contractors registered with U.P. P.W.D. for "Road Work" by Hon'ble Governor, U.P. as below:

Sl. No.	District	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Bid Security (Lacs)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.)	Time of Completion (with rainy season)
1	Kanpur Dehat	Construction of Revenue Village Dibair ka Majra Rampur Link Road	6.50	0.65	500.00+300.00 +144.00(GST) =944.00	3 Months
2	Kanpur Dehat	Construction of Revenue Village Chaprehata ka Majra Mangalpur Link Road	6.10	0.61	500.00+300.00 +144.00(GST) =944.00	3 Months
3	Kanpur Dehat	Construction of Revenue Village Bhartauli ka Majra Banda Link Road	5.50	0.55	500.00+300.00 +144.00(GST) =944.00	3 Months

Bid document / Tender details is available in the office of Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, P.W.D., Kanpur Dehat. From 20.12.2019 to 26.12.2019 (upto 4:00 Noon) which can be purchased from the Office. Filled Bid documents submitted in the office of Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, P.W.D., Kanpur Dehat on dated 27.12.2019 (upto 12:00 Noon) and bid will be opened on 28.12.2019 at 12.30 p.m. at Office of the District Magistrate, Kanpur Dehat. Tender's detail and conditions are in Tender Notice with Tender Papers.

(Bhagwan Das)  
Executive Engineer,  
Construction Division-1,  
P.W.D., Kanpur Dehat

U.P.: 146519, Date: 12.12.2019  
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION BUILDING, P.W.D KANPUR**  
**Short Term E-Tender Notice**  
No.: 2222/26A/2019 Dated: 10.12.2019

1. The Executive Engineer, CD Building, UP PWD on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the bids from the eligible and approved Contractors as below:

Sl. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Tender Cost	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing the Work	Time of Completion	Superintendent Engineering	Address of Chief Engineer
1	Kanpur Nagar	Special Repair of residence no. 1 to 16 in experimental unit of Macrobetganj colony in Kanpur Nagar	33.00	3.30	860	C.D.B., P.W.D., Kanpur Nagar	04 Month	Kanpur Circle P.W.D. Kanpur.	Kanpur Zone P.W.D. Kanpur.
2	Kanpur Nagar	Special Repair of residence no. 1 to 6 in Medical Collage colony Type-4 in Kanpur Nagar	31.50	3.15	860	C.D.B., P.W.D., Kanpur Nagar	04 Month	Kanpur Circle P.W.D. Kanpur.	Kanpur Zone P.W.D. Kanpur.
3	Kanpur Nagar	Special Repair of residence no. 7 to 12 in Medical Collage colony Type-4 in Kanpur Nagar	32.00	3.20	860	C.D.B., P.W.D., Kanpur Nagar	04 Month	Kanpur Circle P.W.D. Kanpur.	Kanpur Zone P.W.D. Kanpur.
4	Kanpur Nagar	Special Repair of residence no. 24 to 27 in Medical Collage colony Type-4 in Kanpur Nagar	24.00	2.40	860	C.D.B., P.W.D., Kanpur Nagar	04 Month	Kanpur Circle P.W.D. Kanpur.	Kanpur Zone P.W.D. Kanpur.
5	Kanpur Nagar	Special Repair of residence no. 1 to 8, 55 and 56 in Macrobetganj colony Type-4 in Kanpur Nagar	7.50	0.75	770	C.D.B., P.W.D., Kanpur Nagar	04 Month	Kanpur Circle P.W.D. Kanpur.	Kanpur Zone P.W.D. Kanpur.
6	Kanpur Nagar	Special Repair of residence no. 1 to 4 in Macrobetganj colony Type-B in Kanpur Nagar	19.00	1.9	860	C.D.B., P.W.D., Kanpur Nagar	04 Month	Kanpur Circle P.W.D. Kanpur.	Kanpur Zone P.W.D. Kanpur.

Bids Can be downloaded online from date 19.12.2019 at 9:00 AM to 26.12.2019 at 12:00 Noon and bid can be submitted online on or before 26.12.2019 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 27.12.2019 at 12:30 PM. According to the provision of Government Order no. 12018/307078-2-2018/42, IT/2018 (22) Date 03.01.2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://tender.up.nic.in>

U.P.- 146569 Date 13.12.2019 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

(C.P. Gupta)  
Executive Engineer  
Construction Division Building, P.W.D, Kanpur

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RED, DIVISION-AURAIYA.**  
No.: -701 /R.E.D./ Tender Notice /2019-20 Dated: -29/11-2019

**Tender Notice**

1. The Executive Engineer UP RED, Division Auraiya on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved contractors registered with UP. RED. The Bidder may submit bids for any one or any of the works.

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	अंशित दर प्रति (रु. में)	प्रकार दर प्रति (रु. में)	प्रतिशत (रु. में)	कार्य पूरा करने की अवधि	अंशित दर प्रति कार्यवाही का पत्र			
1	Interlocking work From Nabab Singh House to Subhash House At Gohri kala.	9.94	49700.00	225+500 + GST	100	रु. माह			
2	Interlocking work From Dignber House to Ganesh Belder House At Mohalla Satesher Auraiya.	7.45	37300.00	225+ 500 + GST	100	रु. माह			
3	Interlocking work From Ravi House to Deepak House At Mohalla Bheekampur Auraiya.	6.95	34800.00	225+ 500 + GST	100	रु. माह			
4	Interlocking work From Bablu House to Ganesh Lakhpati House At Mohalla Gunahai Auraiya.	3.71	18600.00	150+ 500 + GST	100	रु. माह	विज्ञापन वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।	117/ के-19 सीटीएन नं. 10/2019	कंकर मुद्रणार्थक और।
5	Interlocking work From Shivkai House to Gopal dixit House At Mohalla Gunahai Auraiya.	4.97	24900.00	152+ 500 + GST	100	रु. माह			
6	Interlocking work From Santosh Sharma to Anurudhra House to At Mohalla Gayatri nagar Auraiya.	2.46	12300.00	75+ 500 + GST	100	रु. माह			
7	Interlocking work From Gauri Shankar House to Balbant House At Gram Janepur Dhauraha Auraiya.	7.47	37400.00	225+ 500 + GST	100	रु. माह			

3- A set of Bidding documents may be purchased from the office of Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle Kanpur, Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division Auraiya, District Magistrate Auraiya in column 8, 9 & 10 respectively of the table corresponding to the respectively works, between the hours of 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. on any working day from 26/12/2019 to 02/01/2020 or a non refundable fee for tender cost, stationery charges, per set per work as indicated in column 6 in the form of cash or Demand Draft drawn on any schedule bank in favor of "Executive Engineer" RED, Division-Auraiya Payable at Auraiya.

4- Bid document and other detail consisting of qualification, information and eligibility criterion of bidders, plans, specifications, drawings, the schedule of quantities of the various classes of works to be done and the set of terms and conditions of contract to be complied with by the contractor can be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division Auraiya.

5- Bid must be delivered to the Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer & District Magistrate mentioned in column 8, 9 & 10 of the table corresponding to the respective work on or before 12:00 noon on date 03/01/2020 and will be opened on the same working day i.e. 03/01/2020 at 03:00pm. in the office of the Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division Auraiya mentioned in column 8 in presence of the Bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt or opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same time and venue and validity of bid will be considered from the original date.

(Harendra Singh)  
Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Department Division-Auraiya

U.P.- 146398 Date 10.12.2019 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

# Not fair that I am being impeached: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The Democrats, he said were trivialising impeachment.

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

## US Supreme Court to hear Trump tax return case next year

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

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

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

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

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

# Boris Johnson goes north to celebrate election win

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

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

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

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

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

Johnson's campaign mantra to "get Brexit done" and widespread unease with the leadership style and socialist policies of opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn combined to give the ruling Conservatives 365 seats in the House of Commons, its best performance since party icon Margaret Thatcher's last victory in 1987. Labour slumped to 203 seats, its worst showing since 1935.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'Brexit election' raises hopes, fears in Northern Ireland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Pak Court adjourns hearing in terror financing case against Saeed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



American sanctions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

# Thunberg calls for 'fight for tomorrow' at Italy protest

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

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

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

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

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

# UN climate talks in limbo as rifts among countries remain

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Bomb explosion in south Nepal home kills 3

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The duo are members of outlawed group Nepal Communist Party Biplav. Police have initiated further investigation.

# Untiring protesters come up against immovable elite in Algeria

AFP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Direche suspects the real figure may be less than half that. Officials "stuff the ballot boxes, they fix the numbers. They don't even make the effort" to hide their manipulations, she said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Insider attack kills 9 Afghan militia, say officials

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 'I am similar to my character'

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

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

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

## Do you share any similarities with your character?

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

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

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

My journey has been a roller-coaster ride. I have played various roles and have explored different genres. I have done a lot of ads, shortfilms and have also been a part of films like *Sanju* and *Manmariziyaan*. I have evolved as an actor in this period of time. I have polished my skills and I still

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

keep on learning. Life never stops teaching and you should never stop learning, this is what I believe in.

## A role that came close to you.

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

my favourite.

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

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

## Apart from acting what else is keeping you busy?

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

## Can you share some behind the scene moments?

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

## Are there any plans of exploring the digital space?

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



# 'Success of big films gave me courage to do smaller movies'

Actor Sonakshi Sinha says she found the courage to do smaller films courtesy the visibility that came with the commercial blockbusters which helped her reach out to a bigger audience. Sonakshi made her big Bollywood debut opposite Salman Khan in "Dabangg" and went on to star in potboilers such as "Rowdy Rathore" and "R... Rajkumar". The 32-year-old actor simultaneously headlined movies like "Akira", "Noor" and this year's "Khanadaani Shafakhana".

"The big films that I've done and their success gave me the courage to do smaller films like that and take it all upon my shoulders. These big films have given me an audience that I wouldn't have got if I had started the other way around. I know that, which is why I am able to take those risks," Sonakshi told PTI.

The actor said even though the films weren't successful, she still gets a lot of love for them.

"As long as I do my job well, irrespective of the result of the film at the box office, I am happy. Bad box office numbers don't make a bad film. 'Lootera' didn't do well at the box office but it is my most remembered film."

She will be next seen in "Dabangg 3" and will begin 2020 with her forthcoming film "Bhuj: The Pride of India", featuring Ajay Devgn and Sanjay Dutt.

Set during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971, the film follows IAF Squadron Leader Vijay Karnik, the then incharge of the Bhuj airport, who with his team reconstructed the IAF airbase with the help of 300 local women.

"It's really exciting. It'll be my first biopic. I'm playing the role of this amazing woman, Sunderben Jetha Madharparya, who gathered 300 women from her village to build a runway overnight so that the Indian plane could land in Bhuj. It's a

phenomenal story. I'm happy I'm able to portray strong women on screen," she said.



## TELLYTALE



### SHIVIN INJURES HIMSELF

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

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

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

### AMRAPALI IS BACK

*Tujhse Hai Raabta*, one of Zee TV's popular fiction dramas, has kept its



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

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

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



### DHARMENDRA-RISHABH'S COMMON WHISKEY

Sony Entertainment Television's *Indian Idol* season 11 upcoming episode will be one of the most anticipated episode as the legendary Dharmendra and Asha Parek will be coming this weekend. The show has already become everyone's favorite because of the talented contestants and their extraordinary singing skills. The panel consists of the very Talented Neha Kakkar, Vishal Dadlani and Himesh Reshaimiya. The rockstar of *Indian Idol* Season 11 Rishabh Chaturvedi performed on the song *Pyar Deewana Hota Hai* and *Pyar Ke Iss Khel Mein*. Recently Rishabh expressed his liking for Bollywood superstar Alia Bhatt and was telling the same to Dharmendra ji and also mentioned he hasn't gotten the chance to meet her till now. Dharam ji said he to really likes the work of Alia Bhatt and till date he also hasn't met her.

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

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

### SHUBHARAMBH OF NEW SHOW

Colors has collaborated with Rouble



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

### FAHMAAN KHAN TO BE SEEN IN MDKD

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

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

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

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



# Eijaz Khan returns on TV

The wait is over and the suspense is all set to be revealed. Sony Entertainment Television's *Tara from Satara* will see the entry of Shatrughan Mehra who will be seen as the judge of Dancer No 1 alongside Sreelekha Iyengar. The character of Shatrughan Mehra will be essayed by none other than actor Eijaz Khan, who will be seen returning to television

after two whole years. Shatrughan Mehra, has a history with Sachin Mane (Upendra Limaye), Tara's father. As a part of the judging panel, Shatru will be seen as an acclaimed choreographer who rose to fame with his evolved style of dancing! Will Sachin cross paths with Shatru again? Will Shatru be a catalyst in transforming Tara's life? Speaking on his new project, Eijaz said: "I am all set to make a comeback on TV with *Tara from Satara* and the show is very close to my heart as this character is very real. He has his past experiences and the

character itself tells a story. I watched the entire run of the show in 10 days when I was offered this character and was quite impressed by the storyline. I am also glad to be a part of a show which has given birth to a complete new genre of Dramality. My character Shatrughan has a negative background but also tries to have a positive approach as he judges Dancer no. 1. He doesn't want to look completely biased. Thus, the character has different shades and I am sure audiences will love me in my new avatar on TV."

## Special gift for Reem

Zee TV's popular fiction drama — *Tujhse Hai Raabta*, has kept its audiences hooked with its heartwarming narrative of a unique mother-daughter relationship that emerges between a young girl and her step-mother.

The character of Kalyani, played by the teen heart-throb Reem Shaikh, has been getting a lot of appreciation from the viewers and the actor enjoys a whopping fan following across her social media platforms. The current track has been high on drama with Madhuri, Kalyani's biological mother, coming back on the show and Malhar being held captive by the Naxalites.

Reem, who loves to share her special



moments with fans on social media, recently put up a video about her mom's cute gesture of putting up stickers of funny emojis around her mirror. While the actor

seemed awed by the gesture, fans turned curious about this special gift from Reem's mom.

Feeding their curiosity, Reem said: "My mother gave me a sweet surprise by putting up quirky emojis around the mirror in my makeup room. I love using a lot of emojis, I feel they can express feelings when words fail and can make anyone smile. Whenever I am tired or a bit stressed out, my mom sends me cute emojis to cheer me up. This gift will remind me of those sweet messages from mom whenever I am back into my room on the set."

Expressing her love for her mother, Reem added: "I share a very special bond with my mother as she is more like a sister to me. I am glad to have such a loving person as a mother, who is the reason behind what I am today."

Well, not just on-screen, Reem is a lovely daughter off-screen as well and we wish to see more of such cute moments between the mother-daughter duo.

## Viacom 18's new offering

The vivacious, chirpy and a fun-loving mother, Soha Ali Khan was spotted recently on the launch of Viacom18's new kid on the block — Voot Kids along with handsome and humorous father, Ashish Chowdhry and renowned educationist, Dr Swati Papat where all of them shook a leg as the Happy Dance video played along.

At the launch, the Pataudi mother, Soha Ali Khan revealed what came right in time for her and we are really shocked to know!

When quipped Soha about her association with Voot Kids she spilled: "I am very excited about this app and I was looking how to introduce my daughter who is turning two, to screen content, which is educational and entertaining. I think it was fortuitous that Voot kids came into my life when I was looking for something like this."

Well, the app is certainly what this millennial mother was looking for her daughter. So now, you know where to head if you want to find the right content for your child's early development. Download the app to know why Soha loves it.

## Riya Shukla to play Pinki

Love can fight all odds and every shortcoming/hurdle can be conquered with the right attitude. With this insight, Colors has strengthened its content line-up with its upcoming show *Naati Pinky Ki Lambi Love Story*.

Based out of New Delhi it is a unique, light-hearted love story that is sure to tug the heartstrings of viewers.

Riya Shukla who has carved a niche for herself with various Bollywood projects will be seen essaying the lead role of Pinky in the show.

Excited Shukla says: "The show came as a big surprise and was destiny's blessing for me. I was home in Lucknow when I got a call from the production team, and my life



has changed thereafter. I am the first one in my family to walk down this road and fortunately they are super proud of me. While I have done a couple of Bollywood projects, with this I make my television debut and I am extremely excited. I hope Pinky's character resonates with our viewers."

# MASTER OF THE MIND

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

slightly worse.

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

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

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

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

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

The worst was in Chennai against Magnus Carlsen in 2013.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

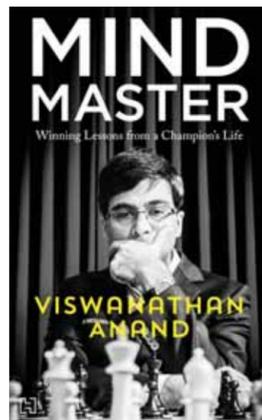
Anand tells you the method that he has applied all these years to keep himself motivated for the challenges that came across. "The most important thing is to find what are the circumstances under which, you play best. I found that I learn new things in chess and I played the best when I am enjoying myself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

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

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

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

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



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



# India start favourites against WI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

they did well in the series against Afghanistan recently.

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

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

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

INDIA-WINDIES IN ODIS					
Venue	P	WI	Ind	T	N/R
In India	55	27	27	1	-
Total	130	62	62	2	4
Day matches	97	53	40	-	4
Last 5 matches	4	-	4	-	1
HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS					
India	418-5 in 50 overs (Indore)			08-12-2011	
Windies	333-8 in 45 overs (Jamshedpur)			07-12-1983	
LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS					
India	100 in 28.3 overs (Ahmedabad)			16-11-1993	
Windies	104 in 31.5 overs (Trivendrum)			01-11-2018	
HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES					
India	219 Virender Sehwag			08-12-2011	
Windies	152* Desmond Haynes			21-03-1989	
BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES					
India	6-12 Anil Kumble (Kolkata)			27-11-1993	
Windies	6-19 Patrick Patterson (Nagpur)			08-12-1987	

Skipper Kieron Pollard, who has a rather modest record in the ODIs, will have to lead by example and provide the thrust in the slog overs. Sheldon Cottrell will lead the Caribbean bowling attack and will need to strike early if the team hopes to restrict a formidable Indian batting unit with Rohit, Kohli and Rahul in ominous form. The other pacers including former captain Jason Holder will have to step up as would the spinners. Leggie Hayden Walsh Jr bowled

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

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

**SQUADS**  
India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (WK), Shivam Dube, Kedarr Jadhav, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Shami, Shardul Thakur.  
West Indies: Kieron Pollard (captain), Sunil Ambris, Shai Hope, Khary Pierre, Roston Chase, Alzarri Joseph, Kieron Pollard (Captain), Sheldon Cottrell, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran, Shimron Hetmyer, Evin Lewis, Romario Shephard, Jason Holder, Keemo Paul, Hayden Walsh Jr.

## Mayank knows how to switch between formats

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

Since making his Test debut last December in Australia, Agarwal has made rapid strides, ending the 2019 season as one of the top-run-getters in the format. Irrespective of whether he is playing Test or limited overs cricket, Agarwal is always focussed on the task.

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

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

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



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

## We are on mission to do better in ODIs: Pollard

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Australia's lead balloons to 417

AFP ■ PERTH

Australia was in a commanding position despite a late batting collapse on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand at Perth Stadium on Saturday. Having led by 250 runs on the first innings, the home side were 167 for six at stumps, with Matthew Head on eight and Pat Cummins on one — an overall lead of 417.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the eve of the first ODI.

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

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

"He was asked to do a certain job in the last T20 which he did. That's what the team looks for." About K L Rahul who did well in the recent T20s and if any changes had been made in his technique, Rathour said there was no doubt he would do well.

"He went through a lean patch which every cricketer goes through. A couple of technical changes and change in mindset and the result shows. "He has always been a good player. There was absolutely no doubt he will do well," the batting coach added. **PTI**

# Rahul 'serious keeping option' for T20 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Dhoni will play World T20: Bravo

ANS ■ CHENNAI

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

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

Bravo recently reversed his international retirement and made himself available for T20Is. The 36-year-old former ODI captain said that he still has a lot to offer and it was the change of leadership both on and off the field that convinced him to make the comeback.

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



DJ Bravo & MS Dhoni in file photo

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Have lot of respect for Sourav: Shastri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"To hell with those who don't understand" was Ravi Shastri's inimitable response to the sceptics, who have constantly made conjectures about his alleged frosty relationship with BCCI president Sourav Ganguly. A week back, it was Ganguly who had cleared the air on his part making it clear that rumours of bad blood between him and the head coach of the Indian cricket team are merely "speculations". "As far as the Sourav-Shastri 'game' goes, that is a brilliant *chaat* and *bhelpuri* for the media with all *mirch* and *masala*," Shastri said.

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

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



KL Rahul arrives for training session

ethic should be solid. You have to have a solid approach to your batting. You can't think everything is going to happen the way I want it to happen from

ball 1. No, it won't happen like that. This game teaches you. There's a method to madness as well. So, he has to learn that method."

# MAGIC MO

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

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

of the table not in evidence in their performances.

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

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

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

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

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

Abdoulaye Doucoure missed the first golden chance when com-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Real not thinking about Clasico



Real Madrid players train ahead of La Liga game against Valencia

AFP ■ MADRID

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

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

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

winners.

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

Asked about the Clasico, Zidane said in a press conference on Saturday: "I'm not thinking about that at all and I include everyone who works here at the club in that. Our only concern is tomorrow's game. The rest may be close but at the same time it's far away. Tomorrow's game has all my energy and about Wednesday, I'm not interested."

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

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

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

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

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

Madrid are short of other options in defensive midfield.

"I have to pick a starting line-up thinking only about tomorrow's game — if I think about Wednesday, that would be a mistake," said Zidane. "I always talk with the players because I'm interested in the feelings they all have. And with Casemiro, it's the same. We know his importance and what he gives to the team."

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

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



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

## 'Beware a wounded buffalo' warns new SA coach Boucher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## IPL auction table is always unpredictable: Ponting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

"There's going to be a lot of focus and attention on fast bowlers, overseas ones in particular," the former Australian captain said.

"Pat Cummins could go for big money, as could Chris Woakes. All-rounders are always interesting in my opinion. Players like Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Marsh,



Ricky Ponting and Sourav Ganguly in a file picture

Delhi Capitals/Twitter

Jimmy Neesham, Colin de Grandhomme could all be big picks."

"Going into the auction you have to be very specific about the kind of players you need," he said.

"For instance, we've got three openers, so we don't need to look for one. You need to identify the problem areas in your starting eleven, and essentially plug the gaps."

On the addition of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ajinkya Rahane to the side, Ponting said, "They are the kind of players who are likely to do well on the Kotla wicket, and of course, bring tremendous experience with them."

## Top guns all confirm for Aus Open



Rafael Nadal in a file picture

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

All the world's top 50 men and women players, bar Victoria Azarenka, have confirmed they will start the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the season, at Melbourne Park in January, organisers said.

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal and Ashleigh Barty lead the field at the 115th edition of the tournament from January 20-February 7, which will mark the return to action of former world number three Juan Martin del Potro.

The Argentinian has a protected ranking of 22 as he makes a comeback from a six-month injury break.

Seven-time winner Serena Williams will play as she targets an elusive 24th Grand Slam title to match the all-time haul of

Margaret Court.

The controversial Australian, who has upset some players with her views on homosexuality and gay marriage, will be honoured during the tournament to mark the 50th anniversary of her calendar-year Grand Slam. Williams' 39-year-old sister Venus will also be back for another year.

Missing among the top 50 is two-time champion Azarenka, who withdrew prior to the entry deadline Saturday for unspecified reasons.

"We are delighted to welcome this extremely strong player field to Melbourne in what promises to be a once in a generation event," said tournament director Craig Tiley.

Over the past decade, with the exception of Swiss Stan Wawrinka in 2014, the men's event has been dominated by Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, while Nadal won his first and only crown in 2009.

Djokovic is the defending champion and is gunning for an eighth title while Federer, at age 38, is looking for his seventh.

The women's event has been far more open with seven different champions in the past 10 years, including Japan's Naomi Osaka in 2019.

Former winner Caroline Wozniacki recently announced that the tournament would be her last before retiring.

## Momota one win from 11th title of the year



Kento Momota celebrates after defeating Wang Tzu Wei in their men's singles semifinal

SHANGHAI: Kento Momota will play Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in today's final of the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals as the Japanese closes on an 11th title of 2019.

World number one Momota has reigned over badminton this year and defeated Taiwan's Wang Tzu-wei 21-17, 21-12 in their semi-final on Saturday in Guangzhou.

He is enjoying a spectacular season, with the World Championships, Asia Championships and prestigious All England Open among his haul of tournament victories.

Momota will be hot favourite in southern China against Ginting having defeated the Indonesian 10 times in their 14 meetings.

The world number eight Ginting sealed his place in the championship match with a 21-15, 21-15 victory over China's reigning Olympic champion Chen Long. In the women's final, China's world number two Chen Yufei faces Taiwan's top-ranked Tai Tzu-ying.

Chen defeated Akane Yamaguchi 21-18, 21-9 in their semi-final while Tai beat another Japanese, Nozomi Okuhara, 21-15, 21-18.

## All India final in Asian Jr c'ship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian shuttlers Tasnim Imir and Tara Shah made their way into the final of the Asian U-17 & U-15 Junior Badminton Championships in Surabaya, Indonesia, on Saturday following their dominating victories in the U-15 women's singles semifinals. Tasnim will take on Tara for Gold medal in the all-Indian final today.

While, top-seeded Tasnim thrashed Japan's Sora Ishioka 21-16, 21-11, Tara also beat her Japanese opponent Kazune Iwato 21-18, 21-14 in straight sets.

Earlier in the quarter-finals played in the morning, both Tasnim and Tara claimed easy wins against Japan's Maya Taguchi and Mei Sudo respectively. Gujarat girl Tasnim won the match 21-11, 21-13 while Pune's Tara registered 21-11, 21-17 wins.

However, apart from Tasnim and Tara, other Indian shuttlers could not manage to progress. In the men's U-15 singles quarter-finals, top-seeded Tanmoy Boruah and Ankit Mondal suffered defeats. While, Tanmoy went down 21-12, 21-12 against local boy Indonesia's fifth-seed Alwi



Farhan, Ankit lost to Malaysia's Low Han Chen

21-12, 21-13.

In the women's doubles category, Pranavi Natarajan and Sarumathi Venkatesh lost their U-17 quarter-finals match 21-18, 21-19 against Indonesian pair of Meilyssa Trisas Puspa Sari and Rachel Allessya Rose while, in U-15 Ganabhadra Karthikeyan and Sania Sikkandar went down fighting 21-19, 19-21, 21-16 against Korea's Yeon Ju Oh and Seul Park.

However, in the men's double U-15 quarter-finals, Tanmoy and Lakshay Sharma lost to Chinese Taipei pair of Lai Po Yu and Tsai Fu Cheng 21-15, 21-10 while, Lokesh Reddy and Ankit suffered 21-17, 21-13 defeat against Japan's Yudai Okimoto and Daigo Tanioka.

## Focusing on service and receives: Sathiyam

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Terming them as "boring and neglected" areas of table-tennis, ace paddler Gnanasekaran Sathiyam on Saturday said he was focussing on "services and receives" to improve his overall game. "Service and receives, we have been focusing on, that's the area which is neglected quite a lot in Indian TT. That is the only stroke which is in your control. At the top-level I have realised that you don't get to play your game at all if you don't serve and receive well," Sathiyam told reporters.

"That is a very boring part of sport, but I think the

more boring thing you play, the better you get in the sport. That is why we started working on that and looking forward to get aggression on my receives and not just try to put the ball into play," he explained. Sathiyam said compatriot Sharath Kamal also has a very good serve and third ball attack and most of the Indians have a very good rally game. "In India most of the players have a good game when actually the ball gets into play. With the Asians we have realised that it does not go to that extent at all if the serve or receive is not up to the mark," he said.

Sathiyam, the first Indian to break into top 25 of world

rankings, also said he would be training in Korea and Germany. "Heading to Tokyo Olympics, I will be going to Korea. It would be the first kind of initiative and we have already spoken to the Korean Federation, I will be training with the Korean national team from December 22-30."

"It is the first time that an Indian player will train at the national centre of the Olympics medalist team, so I am looking forward to that. And after that the Indian team will be training in Dusseldorf, Germany. Germany has already qualified (for the Olympics) and that is why we chose it," he added.

## LOCAL EVENTS

EKLAVYA, MANVI, ABID, SHAYAN BAG GOLDS

Eklavya Chaudhary, Manvi Singhal, Abid Khan and Mohd Shayan bagged the gold medals for Uttar Pradesh on the opening day of the 1st National Junior Ju Jitsu Championship at KD Singh 'babu' Stadium on Saturday. Earlier, ADG Chandra Prakash inaugurated the championship.

SELECTED

Four players of Chowk stadium have been selected for the SGFI Taekwondo Nationals. Gayatri Shukla and Ayushi Yadav has been selected in sub-junior category while Rishima Jaiswal and Namita Yadav will represent in junior category.





# SWEET TREATS

With only nine days left for Christmas, it is time to whip up some tasty and sweet treats for friends and family. SUNDAY PIONEER brings you some exclusive recipes for the festival



## TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING

**HISTORY:** The pudding originated as a 14th Century porridge called frumenty. It was made of beef and mutton with raisins, currants, prunes, wines and spices. By 1595, it slowly changed to plum pudding and became the customary Christmas dessert around 1650.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Mixed dried fruit (raisins, currants, sultanas)	350g
Ready-to-eat prunes, chopped or left whole	100g
Sugar	100g
Dark rum	4 tbsp
Walnuts (chopped)	100g
Almonds (blanched)	100g
Almonds (ground)	100g
Fresh white breadcrumbs	100g
Plain flour	50g
Frozen butter (grated) plus a little extra for greasing	100g
Nutmeg	½ tsp
Cinnamon	1 tsp
Mixed spice	2 tsp
Cherries (chopped)	100g
Free-range eggs, beaten	03

- METHOD**
- Combine the mixed fruit, prunes, sugar and rum in a mixing bowl. Stir well to mix, cover and leave for 24 hours to soak.
  - After 24 hours, mix the walnuts, almonds, ground almonds, breadcrumbs, flour, butter, spices, cherries and eggs along with the soaked fruit mixture in a large mixing bowl, making sure you include all the soaking liquor from the soaked fruit.
  - Mix well until completely combined (let all the members of the family have a stir and make a wish).
  - Cover with cling film and leave to stand in a cool place for 24 hours.
  - After 24 hours, grease a 1.2 litre pudding basin with butter.
  - Cut a circle of baking paper and place into the bottom of the pudding basin and then grease it with a little more butter. Pack the pudding mixture into the pudding basin, pressing as you add it. Fold a pleat into the middle of a large piece of baking paper and place over the pudding. Cover with a large piece of pleated foil, ensuring the pleats are on top of one another.
  - Secure tightly with kitchen string tied under the lip of the pudding basin.
  - Place an upturned saucer into a large saucepan one-quarter full of water. Fold a long piece of foil into quarters lengthways to create a long strip and place the pudding basin in the middle of the strip. Bring the sides of the strip up the sides of the pudding basin and lower into the saucepan. Ensure the water in the saucepan comes one-third of the way up the side of the pudding basin, but nowhere near the top of the basin. Leave the ends of the foil strip hanging over the side to make it easy to remove the pudding later.
  - Bring the water to a boil and then reduce the heat to a gentle simmer. Simmer gently for 5-6 hours, topping up the water level as necessary throughout cooking (do not allow the pan to dry out).
  - Once the pudding is cooked, remove from the pan and set aside to cool. The pudding can be stored in a cool, dry place. To serve, reheat the pudding by steaming again (in the same way) for two hours, or until hot all the way through. Alternatively, remove the foil and reheat in the microwave.

—By pastry Chef Abdul, The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi



## HERB CHICKEN, ROASTED BEETS, BRUSSELS

**HISTORY:** It is said that original Christmas meal consisted of roast swan, pheasants and peacocks. It was Henry VIII, sometime in the 15 C who enjoyed eating turkey. But it was Edward VII, in the 19th C, who made eating turkey fashionable at Christmas.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Kosher salt	1 tablespoon
Paprika	2 teaspoon
Dried thyme	1 1/2 teaspoon
Freshly ground pepper	1 teaspoon
Whole chicken	1 No
Lemon	1 No
Large celery rib	1 No
Red onion	1 No
Clove garlic	4 No
Baby carrots	1/2 lb
Small assorted beets	3/4 lb
Large brussels sprout	12 No
Dijon mustard	1 1/2 teaspoon
Fresh rosemary leaves	5-6 No

- METHOD**
- Stir together first four ingredients. Remove and discard neck and giblets from chicken. Sprinkle chicken with salt mixture.
  - Place lemon into cavity of chicken. Tie legs together with kitchen string, and tuck wingtips under.



- Place celery, onion, and garlic in a single layer in a lightly greased 6-quart slow cooker. Place chicken on top of onions, breast side up.
- Arrange and tuck remaining vegetables around chicken. Sprinkle vegetables with any remaining salt mixture.
- Cover and cook on low 8 hours or until done.
- Remove chicken to a serving dish. Rub skins from beets and cut into quarters; arrange with other vegetables around chicken.
- Garnish with rosemary.
- Whisk mustard into remaining cooking juices in slow cooker; season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve sauce with chicken. (3 lines more)

—By Chef Shibendu Ray Chaudhury, Executive Sous Chef, Renaissance Mumbai

## CORN CHOWDER

**HISTORY:** In the US, the recipes for corn chowder date back to at least 1884, at which time a corn chowder recipe was published in the *Boston Cook Book*. Another corn chowder recipe was published in the *Boston Cooking-School Cook Book* in 1896, which was authored by Fannie Farmer, Lincoln's successor at the Boston Cooking School. After Lincoln's published recipe in 1884, myriad recipes for corn chowder began circulating in various cookbooks in the US, with many types of recipe variations.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Sumeru's frozen corn	4cups
Water	8cups
Refined sunflower oil	2 tbsp
Potatoes (peeled and chopped)	1 large
Red onion (peeled and chopped)	1 large
Thyme sprigs (washed)	4sprigs
Garlic cloves (crushed)	3large
Salt	3tsp
Black pepper (crushed)	1tsp
Fresh coriander (finely chopped)	2tbsp
Lime juice (freshly squeezed)	1each
Fresh cream	1cup

- METHOD**
- Measure all the ingredients according to the recipe and set aside.
  - Thaw Sumeru's frozen corn according to instructions on the packet.
  - In a heavy-bottomed pan, pour oil, add crushed garlic cloves and sauté until golden. Add half of the chopped onions, thyme sprigs and cook on a low flame until transparent.
  - Add Sumeru's fresh frozen corn, chopped potatoes and sauté for 15 minutes. Pour water and let it boil. Add salt. Reduce the flame and cook for about 1 hour until the potatoes are cooked through. Add water if necessary.
  - Ensure the stock is half evaporated. Turn off the flame and let it cool.
  - Remove half of the chowder in a blender and process it roughly. Add the puree to the remaining chowder and let it boil.
  - Add fresh cream and turn off the flame.
  - Divide evenly and serve.

—By Inderjith Singh, Chef Incharge Innovations, Innovative Foods Ltd, Brand Sumeru



## MULLED WINE

**HISTORY:** The earliest known winery is the 6,100-year-old Areni winery in Armenia. One of the earliest known traces of wine are from Georgia (6000 BC), Iran (5000 BC), and Sicily (4000 BC) although there is evidence of a similar alcoholic drink being consumed earlier in China (7000 BC). Wine reached the Balkans by 4500 BC and was consumed and celebrated in ancient Greece, Thrace and Rome. Throughout history, wine has been consumed for its intoxicating effects.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Cloves	10
Cinnamon sticks	2
Caster sugar	1/4 cup
Roughly grated nutmeg	1
Water	2 cups
Roughly grated rind of orange	1
Roughly chopped apple (skin on)	1
Light, fruity red wine (such as a merlot)	750ml

- METHOD**
- Heat cloves, cinnamon, sugar, nutmeg, water, orange rind and apple in a large saucepan over medium heat.
  - Bring to the boil and then reduce heat to low and simmer for 10 minutes.
  - Add red wine and simmer for another 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Strain and serve immediately.



—By Chef Satyaseelan, La Uppu, Grand Mercure Mysore

## APPLE CINNAMON MUFFINS

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Apples	3 big (500 Gram approximately)
Wheat Flour	1cup
All-Purpose Flour	1cup
White Sugar (Crushed)	1cup
Baking Soda	½ teaspoon
Baking Powder	2 teaspoon
Cinnamon Powder	½ teaspoon
Milk	1 cup
Melted Butter	150 grams
Oil	1tablespoon

- METHOD:**
- Pre-heat Oven to 180 degrees.
  - Prepare a muffin tray with muffin liners. Spray the liners with oil.
  - Puree 2 and a half apples in a blender. Reserve the half apple for use later on.
  - Melt the butter and keep aside.
  - Sift all the dry ingredients and mix together in a bowl.
  - When the butter has cooled down slightly mix the apple puree in it. Add milk to this and mix well.
  - Add all the dry ingredients to the above butter, milk & puree mixture. Add oil to this and mix well.
  - Pour the mixture into the prepared muffin tray.
  - Slice the reserved apple into extremely thin slices (preferably with skin on).
  - Put one slice each, slightly bending into each muffin.
  - Bake for 12-15 minutes or until slightly brown on top and skewer inserted comes to clean.
  - Take out the tray and let the muffins cool on a wire rack.
  - Store in a container & refrigerate for up to 5 days. (The recipe yields 20 medium-sized muffins)



—By Unwind Cafe, Saket, New Delhi



## EGGLESS FESTIVE CAKE

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Mixed dried fruits and nuts, roughly chopped	2 cups
Orange juice	1.5 cup
Butter	½ cup
Rum	150 ml
Flour	2 cups
Baking powder	1 tsp
Cinnamon powder	1 tsp
Ginger powder	½ tsp
Grated nutmeg	¼ tsp
Fresh orange zest	1 tbsp
Butter, softened	250gm
Castor sugar	200gm
Brown sugar	70gm
Eggs	04

- METHOD**
- Place the roughly chopped fruits and nuts in a bowl. In a saucepan set over medium heat, bring the orange juice to a boil. Add butter and let it melt.
  - Set off the heat and add rum. Mix well. Pour the rum mixture over the fruits. Cling wrap it and let it sit overnight. Next day, preheat the oven to 180C and line a 9" cake pan with parchment paper.
  - In a medium down, whisk flour, cinnamon, ginger powder, nutmeg and orange zest. In another bowl, beat both sugars and butter until the mixture is light and fluffy.
  - Add eggs, one at a time and beat well after each addition. Combine the wet and dry ingredients. Mix in the rum soaked fruits along with the liquid. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake at 180C for 40-50 minutes.

—By pastry Chef Abdul, The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi

I think that people should absolutely be allowed to do whatever they want with their bodies and to live the life they want to lead  
— Elisabeth Moss



FROM THE INSIDE

**The unending Baloch saga**

A book that traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948



**Correct your weaknesses**

Identify, acknowledge, and address your own fault lines, and things will change sooner than later

Our textiles are our communiqué. These bear imprints of diverse cultures and their traditions. There is deep history and heritage attached to what we wear and re-create over and over again, writes SAYALI GOYAL as she shares her impressions from



# TEXTILE JOURNEY THROUGH BENGAL

When talking about Bengal, one must start the narrative from a weaving cluster village as the textile heritage of the region boasts of some of the finest weaving traditions of the country. Upon reaching Bengal, about four hours north of Kolkata, lies Shantipur, a village of Jamdani weavers, who migrated from Bangladesh during partition. Traditionally, these weavers made *dhotis*, a drape worn by Bengali men, now reduced to occasional wear. Which is why they mostly weave saris for the local women.

A master weaver, who hosted us at his workshop, shared with us how weaving involves the critical labour of his family members — his wife and his brother's family weave for nearly six to eight hours a day. Sometimes it takes up to a week to make one sari which they sell for ₹1500. An average of ₹10,000 is what a weaver makes per month, which is slightly above the minimum wage. The information is enough to make you sit up and wonder: what is the fair price for a traditional craft? Where does the difference lie between a skilled labourer and an artisan? Our host explained that they visit the *melas* organised by the ministry that provide a platform to sell directly to customers; at other times, boutiques from the city commission their pieces. He shared that for him, this is the best job as he can stay close to his artisanal tradition and family. Working in the city, he said, that would require him to live alone.

It was pleasing to see the community spirit in the weavers and that women held an equal position in the trade. There are 50,000 weavers in Shantipur who mostly work on handlooms, but the market demand has been in the hold of power looms as well. He talked about the use of natural dye only on request or when the weavers are specifically provided with naturally dyed yarns by the boutique. Chemical dyes are cheaper to produce, thus making it a competitive product. The community has now formed a weavers' society to bring more structure to the craft village where they try to solve issues of daily business. They hope for bigger, more concrete support from larger organisations in buying more looms and raw materials like threads. For the weavers, the biggest challenge is the money circulation, as they are only paid at the end of the month; most of their cash is invested in raw materials by that time. A common complaint is that the larger buyers work on consignments and refuse to pay for raw materials in advance, which for them is a big risk.

My rendezvous with the weavers in Shantipur and interactions with the master craftsmen left with me questions but also ideas. My visit to Mahamaya, a third generation Kantha artist and a National Award winner proved insightful. Some of her masterpieces include scenes from

Ramayana with Kantha stitch work.

"Illustrations make for a *naksha* on Kantha which is the stitched layered fabric", explained Mahamaya. Kantha stitch is typically a long running stitch; however, there is innovation today and Herringbone, Satin, and Button stitches are also used. Browsing through her pile, I came across one that her grandmother had made, a 70 year old piece with natural colours.

Kantha is a way of storytelling through geometric patterns, figurative narratives, and floral illustrations. Mahamaya talks about her process and shares that she like to draw first on the fabric and then go by her instinct to fill colours into the piece of work. "Some of these works take years to make. Sometime I do the border and then another artisan fills the space inside. Reds and black were traditionally used but now there are more options in colours. I look for inspiration in other forms of art as well as in books and museums. During my mother's time, they used to pull out threads from old saris to embroider but now I use anchor thread. I also collaborate with other artisans like Kashmiri, who I have worked with for sixteen years. She is in the craft for tradition and it is a skill that gets her money as well".

Mahamaya has trained artists and taught them to preserve the art. Speaking of innovation, Mahamaya likes to experiment with the base fabric like cottons and tussars. There is a lot of scope where the artist could bring themselves in the work with experimentation within the technique. Some of her new projects include graphic inspiration and also a mix of techniques like applique. A new series is being developed under her, which is inspired from the panels of *Kamasutra*. Mahamaya shares that most of the works are commissioned art pieces such as the ones recently sold to Reliance Foundation at the Swadeshi Bazaar, but a lot of orders in the form of wearable art such as *dupattas* or bed linen keep the workshop running.

The textile documentation trip to Kolkata would be incomplete without a meeting with Namrata, Founder of Biome Conscious Textiles. Her story of entrepreneurship came together as she was looking out of the window of life for inspiration to make her financially independent while also staying true to her values. She was at that time questioning consumerism. So, there she was, with no prior experience in business other than having some entrepreneurial DNA by virtue of belonging to the Rajasthani Marwari community. Then, she encountered someone who was invested in herbal dyeing process for almost a decade. Naturally, it was the opportunity she was waiting for, to work in a social impact space through the world of clothing and fashion that she understood very well ever since her childhood. She finally found a product in her hands that was in harmony with nature and did not promote consumerism.



**Au Naturelle**

Indigo process that Biome follows and shares at workshops:

Take 2 parts of refined lime powder and mix some warm water and stir for almost 10 minutes. Now add 1 part of indigo sweetened powder and mix slowly and cover, removing all oxygen supply and light exposure for 3-4 hours. Open and check if the top is metallic purple and bottom is green. If yes, your indigo is active, alive and ready to go. Dilute if needed and put your fabric inside. Let it soak the dye, and as you bring it out, it magically comes out green turning blue on exposure to sun's light and oxygen. In time, it's bright blue. Wash it after it's dry with a mild soap and rinse in vinegar water and dry again. Ready to wear!



"I am but a tool in the hands of this movement," she said. "I like to think, and question, and that is what makes me act the way I do. I love clothes but not the indulgence".

Namrata believes that clothes are a symbol of need, comfort, artistic expression, dignity, celebration, attraction, and more but they must not become the reason for environmental degradation and human exploitation. Her organisation represents the idea of a communiqué — of a clean present and a cleaner future that is invested in the welfare of everyone involved in the process.

Working with bio-degradable products is what keeps her going ahead in her journey. Endorsing, embracing and collaborating with other like-minded people are her sources of joy. Biome makes natural-dyed fabrics and customised garments. It identifies with the movement of integrating with nature. As part of that process, Biome also sells natural dyes and Namrata travels with natural dyeing workshops throughout the country.

She believes that work should not be for one person's fancy but instead should be collaborative and transcendent differences. "In the end, work should unite, not divide". Revolution starts with an individual but it must expand to the community as we are parts of one big whole. Nature is the intelligent system that has prevailed ever since life started, we can only grow and survive in harmony with it.

Namrata realised that we as humans need to engage our senses to relate to our physical presence in life. And only listening or reading are incomplete ways of sharing, understanding and experience the beauty of natural dyes. Through workshops, Biome facilitates spaces and guidance to dye your own fabrics, engage with the look, smell and feel of the dyes, and know how real and alive it is. Just like us.

Biome is interested to adopt 'grow local, buy and sell local and decentralise'. Hence, they have been exploring work with the strong weaving heritage of Bengal and introduce natural dyeing to the weavers. Also, instead of thinking of 'export', the focus is on spreading awareness amongst Indians, who form a significant hub of consumers and can afford the best fabrics. Biome also concentrates on natural fibres, sustainable man-made fibres, and hand woven fabrics along with naturally dyed threads and fabrics. Natural dye is the boundary that does not limit, but instead creates a balance between environment and our need for colours.

Namrata makes it a point to collaborate with

other sustainable field workers when she is touring for her workshops, especially with those who are working in education, food, lifestyle, and the like.

A piece of textile is a symbol of creation. So much has been created, imagined with warp and weft and has been an expression of art and design. Our textiles are our communiqué, our language various cultures marked it with their sense of aesthetics and there is deep history and heritage with what we wear and re-create over and over again. Design has been evolved in textiles in rhythmic dance with our lifestyle, socio-economic conditions, geography of a place and now it marks globalisation. Another important driver has been 'fashion' and it has both pros and cons as anything in excess can result in.

Biome has always loved and learnt from collaboration and sharing. That's been the constant motivation and satisfaction. "This one time, we happened to meet this bright, young student from Srishti School of Design and we came in touch with her work on flora and fauna, and a very imaginative expression of human mating a flower and the resultant evolution of life. When we interacted with her more, we discovered that she loves trees, can communicate with them and sketching plants alive is her passion. We took a look at her sketches and decided to convert them on our clothes through batik and herbal dyes. Thus started this experimental project of batik and painting with herbal paste. On board was the batik artist, Sushanto and Ghana, an artist from Chennai who was with us for that period. We released a collection and it was like a dream come true", Namrata reminisces.

Paramita Kar Choudhury is a batik and block printing artist who also dabbles in shibori and clamp techniques. She started her journey with synthetic dyes but soon found the calling for natural dyes. She took her training from an experienced practitioner from Shantiniketan. Then she opened her unit and heart to embrace Biome as a collaborating partner to use our herbal dyes and process orders together in batik, block printing, and dyeing.

As I traversed through the landscape of Bengal, it was heartening to see skilled craftsmen dedicating their time to keep the age-old traditions alive. So many ideas bubbled inside my mind after all the interesting conversations, but for the moment I treated myself to a naturally dyed blue and white Jamdani.

The writer is the founder and cultural curator at [www.cocoonandjasmine.com](http://www.cocoonandjasmine.com)



ARNOLD BENNETT, THE AUTHOR OF *THE OLD WIVES' TALE* AND *CLAYHANGER*, HAS AN OMELETTE NAMED AFTER HIM. THE OMELETTE WAS INVENTED AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL WHERE BENNETT OFTEN STAYED

With his keen understanding of the region, the author traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of the princely state of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

# The unending struggle of the Baloch

The statement by General Rawat, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is controlled by terrorists and Gilgit-Baltistan and POK have been under illegal occupation of Pakistan is to be noted seriously. A perusal of history shows that many such provinces in the North West region as well as North East region of the country were part of India and the country was forced to surrender the rights over them as part of a ploy by the British rulers.

One such independent country that existed during the colonial rule of the British and enjoyed the status of a sovereign nation was Balochistan. Ironically, nothing much has been written or taught in India about Balochistan, its glorious past and communal amity (which is in stark contrast to that of Pakistan). One of the TV news channels in Kerala had telecast a programme about Hinglaj Mata Temple in Balochistan which is being preserved with utmost care by the tribal community. Every year, the Mandir draws thousands of Indian devotees to this country and the pilgrims are treated with respect by the tribal communities. In modern times, the term Balochistan was heard in the Indian narrative for the first time in 2009 when the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani that India was doing nothing in Balochistan. "Indeed nor should it be doing anything there," the economist-turned-politician is reported to have said in the joint statement with Gilani issued on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in Egypt.

An attempt has been made to unravel the hitherto untold and unpublished details about Balochistan. "Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum" authored by Tilak Devasher, a former senior official of the Cabinet Secretariat. Devasher is an authority on Indian politics which could be understood from his first book "Pakistan At The Helm", published by HarperCollins. His lucid style and articulation are the reasons why readers prefer his works. Devasher tells the required facts in a straightforward manner. His intentions are clear because he wants people to get enlightened and educated. The style is as elegant as Devasher himself.

The author takes the readers straight to Balochistan and gives us



some important facts which would kindle passion in the mind to know more about the subject. The population of Pakistan is 21 crore while that of Balochistan is 1.23 crore. Balochistan constitutes 44 per cent of Pakistan's landmass. This is just one of the reasons behind Pakistan's avarice for this once sovereign country. Balochistan is a treasure house of minerals and energy resources. "Had there been no Balochistan, there would not have been any Pakistan," felt the British rulers who had manipulated the geo-politics of the region before they lowered the Union Jack and gave way to the national flags.

The British colonialists wanted to manipulate and influence the sub-continent by remote controlling from London. They had a fear that the ever increasing influence of the then Soviet Union was detrimental to their political, commercial and other strategic

interests. Hence they felt the need to have a region, a long strip from the Gilgit to Balochistan administered directly by the Britain. This was what suggested by a British army officer R C Money in charge of strategic planning in India during the period.

"However by 1947, the British felt that instead of locating a base in a weak Balochistan, such a base could be established in Pakistan that was more than willing to accommodate the British. Hence it was in British interests to ensure that Balochistan was kept within Pakistan and did not become an independent entity," writes Devasher (Page 85).

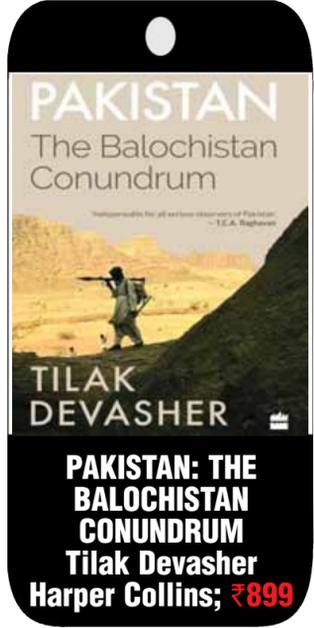
As per various treaties entered into by the then rulers of the princely State of Balochistan (the Khans of Kalat) with the British government, the former had been assured by the colonial masters that Balochistan would remain a

sovereign country with no obligation of any kind either to India or Pakistan. What Devasher has done is to bring to light the palace coup staged in Kalat with the political script authored in the corridors of power in Lahore, New Delhi and London. It shocks us and further embarrasses as because it was another *faux pas* committed by Jawaharlal Nehru which resulted in Mohammed Ali Jinnah annexing Balochistan to Pakistan.

This backstabbing came within weeks of Jinnah issuing a statement declaring that "the Government of Pakistan recognises Kalat as an independent sovereign State, in treaty relations with British government with a status different from that of Indian States." Needless to tell, Jinnah's statement was issued immediately after a well publicised meeting the former had with the Khan of Kalat and his aides.

Jinnah was a visionary as well as an Islamic fundamentalist. As on date, '36 per cent of Pakistan's total current natural gas production, as also reserves of coal, gold, copper, silver, platinum, aluminium and uranium are in Balochistan. Reko Diq, Saindak, Sui and Chamalang produce a wealth of resources like copper, gold, natural gas, coal and other minerals. Reko Diq is a copper and gold mine in Chagai district with an estimated mineral resource of at least 54 billion pounds of copper and 41 million ounces of gold,' writes Devasher. All these details establish the fact that Pakistan without Balochistan is a big zero. Jinnah and the subsequent rulers of Pakistan have made use of all games in the trick to keep the people of Balochistan in perpetual poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. This is what the Grand Old Party did in India too.

Devasher has revealed the details of



how the then Prime Minister Nehru rejected and refused the offer from the Khan of Kalat to merge with India. What the author has stated in pages 81 and 82 is sufficient to expose the then Prime Minister's inefficiency, failure to read the writing on the wall and his larger than life image hyped up by the media.

This book is a must read for all those who are interested in the history of the sub-continent, prior to and after the exit of the British rulers lest we are cheated by manipulated and distorted history. Balochistan is waiting for India. India's safety and security could be ensured only through the liberation of Balochistan and Tilak Devasher is an author who has to be taken seriously by our policy makers and those who want to excel in the game of diplomacy.

While reading the book, what crossed the mind was the football teams from Balochistan, namely Makran United and Makran Sports Club which used to figure in the Sait Nagjee Football Tournament which was held at Kozhikode in Kerala. They were favorites of Malabar's football lovers. Balochistan is loved by people who know about the country.

## NEW ARRIVALS

**KHANTASTIC: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BOLLYWOOD'S TRIO**  
Sanjukta Nandy  
Rupa, ₹295



Did Shah Rukh Khan reject *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*? Did Amir Khan audition for *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*? Was Salman Khan's voice dubbed by another in *Maine Pyar Kiya*? Did Salman's and Amir's film rejections give Shah Rukh Bollywood on a platter? KHANTastic answers all these questions. Destiny binds together this charismatic trio. Three different, yet magnetic personalities—they form the three points of the invisible Bandra Triangle in Mumbai.

**NAKED**  
Papa CJ  
Westland, ₹499



Papa CJ is able to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. And then destroy it. Only to rise again like a phoenix. As Papa CJ lays bare his life, from the streets of Calcutta to the University of Oxford and stages across the world, you will bask in nostalgia, laugh your guts out, feel your heart ache, and find a new lens with which to look at your own life. A lens that allows you, like Papa CJ, to always see the positive. And of course, the funny.

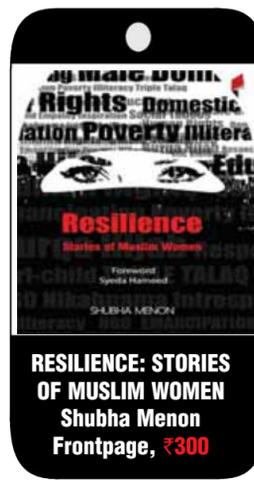
**PAPER MOON**  
Rehana Munir  
HarperCollins India, ₹299



When her estranged father passes away, Fiza, fresh out of college, discovers that he has left her a tidy sum in the hope that she will open a bookshop... Overnight, Fiza's placid life is thrown into a whirl of decor decisions and book-buying sprees, unconventional staff and colourful patrons, small pleasures and little heartbreaks, as the store — Paper Moon — begins to take shape in a charming, old Bandra mansion...

# Hope lives behind the veil

*Resilience* is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. It brings out stories untold. There are so many layers to examine, writes JAYSHREE M SUNDAR



couldn't write her name in the entrance register. Today she a Sewa Dal worker and political voice for a political party. The stories of Syeda, Asma, Ishrat, Shahjahan, Najma and Ayesha also show the transformation that the Seher Centre brought about.

The writer recreates the tiny room where classes were held. We learn about the rivalry between the girls, their favourite teachers and how their thoughts are gradually changed, till from burqa-clad silent citizens they become agents of change in their own right. We also learn about the various forces at play in the *basti*, those that opposed girls education. There are the elders

of the *basti* who disapprove of girls going to school. There are the Pirzadas who want Shabnam to teach their kids exclusively because they do not want their children to share space with lowly 'Ghosis'. There are opposing forces in the *basti* and old mores are at loggerheads with new thinking. The Shah Bano case is at the centre of this dichotomy. The author dwells upon the case at some length.

The writer has included conversations with eminent, educated Muslim women — Syeda Hameed, Warisha Farasat, Zarina Bhatti, Seema Mustafa, Noor Zaheer — who talk about the state of Muslim women in the country. These conversations

are a good counterpoint to the conversations with the Seher girls. The Markaz versus the Dargah is another contradiction of the *basti*. The Markaz propagates pristine orthodox Islam which is strident and austere. The author does not deride one practice at the cost of the other. Their parallel existence may occasionally clash but seldom becomes a major flare-up. The reader is gently led through this labyrinth of contradictions and incongruities which are both literary and figurative. A hidden world is revealed in easy flowing prose. What gives the book its unique flavour is the anecdotes and tales about the Nizamuddin Basti, the *dargah*, the *Auliya*, the

graves, monuments, etc. The book is full of interesting details that lend colour to the stories of the girls.

It was not just the old and new that were clashing in the *basti*. There was Shabnam Hashmi herself, a communist-atheist, ultra-liberal rebel of sorts. She never wore a burqa and sported short hair and spectacles. Just the way she looked, raised the red flag for many in the *basti*. Subjects like sex, reproductive rights, gender parity, taboo for Basti dwellers, were freely discussed in the Seher Centre. Shabnam's total lack of fear against a menacing, threatening phalanx of Basti old men, guardians and gatekeepers of the

'izzat' of their women and girls, was cause for alarm. Girls, who were not allowed to uncover their heads in their own homes or sit on a chair in front of their elders, began to learn alphabet of rights. The Seher teachers who included Shabnam's mother and sister, were berated because of the fear that they would make the girls 'azaad' and 'la mazhab'. Underlying this popular slogan verbiage was the larger fear that *Basti* women may begin to think and assert their rights.

This book brings out the unique world of the Nizamuddin Basti. One which you may not find on a map. Where, in the by lanes of crowded homes with limited means women broke out of the shackles of stereotypical roles and fearlessly fought their way to an education. Where women helped women. The book has interesting anecdotes about the ghosts that coexist with human beings there and the sounds of urdu, the music from the *dargah*, and the fragrance of *kebabs* which create the unique atmosphere of this area.

*Resilience* is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. There are so many layers to examine. And, Seher comes out as a unique experiment, which not only transformed all those women who studied there but their future generations.

The writer is a senior advertising professional and a visiting professor at B-schools

# What do Iraqi protesters strive for?

Iraq has once again descended into an abyss. Since the downfall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, the country has not witnessed peace for almost two decades now. Modern Iraq was established in 1932 from the amalgamation of three provinces of Baghdad, Basra and Mosul that formed Mesopotamia. This new country was primarily centred around tribes purely external to the main city centres. Thus from the very beginning, Mesopotamia was vulnerable to both security and unity.

The Ottomans overestimated their ability to control Iraq and did not emphasise on domestic development and the existing tribal structures. Like many other ancient empires, the Ottomans were forging ahead with the concept of "the strong do what they want, they have the power to do" and thus committed remarkable errors in their handling of the West Asian sojourn. What historians say is that the Ottomans failed to understand the existing cultural, ideological and ethnic divisions existing in the Mesopotamian region. From 1299 to 1921, the mighty Ottomans ruled this region and lost it during the First World War. And henceforth, the British and the French established the political boundaries of Iraq, bordering the Persian Gulf between Iran and Kuwait.

In 1920, the UK was awarded a League of Nations mandate over Iraq. This heralded a western style governance structure in Iraq. In 2014, Tim Marshall described the geographical division of this region in his book, *Prisoners of Geography* this way: "When the Ottoman Empire began to collapse, the British and the French had a different idea. In 1916, British diplomat Colonel Sir Mark Sykes took a grease pencil and drew a crude line across a map of West Asia. It ran from Haifa on the Mediterranean, what is



now Israel, to Kirkuk now in Iraq in the northeast. It became the basis of his secret agreement with his French counterpart Francois Georges Picot to divide the region into two spheres of influence. North of the line was to be under French control, south of it under British hegemony."

This grease pencil drawn boundary lacked the acknowledgement of all the existing demographic arrangement of the region, which later came to be known as the historic Sykes-Picot Agreement. This arbitrary demarcation of boundaries of states in West Asia brought complete anarchy to the entire region. Clearly, all the states that were created by the Sykes-Picot were not based on the logic of socio-economically driven conditions but purely out of the ruins of the empires. Thus the competing aspirations of different communities and ethnic groups could not be fused into a melt-

ing pot and, hence, schism has been remained as a potent anomaly in Iraq and the rest of West Asia.

The current crisis in Iraq has emerged due to entrenched corruption in public offices and the rising gap between the elites and the ordinary citizens. The demonstrations which started since October 1 have already taken more than 400 lives of ordinary Iraqi citizens. Probably the international community is too used to hear Iraqis being killed in huge numbers, whether it was under the horrific Saddam regime, the US-occupied Iraq or under their own leadership in the post-Baathist era. Today the young protesters highlight the way the Adel Abdul Mahdi Government made appointments to Government services on ethnic lines or sectarian quotas which is popularly known as "Muhassasa" in Iraq.

The aggrieved citizens air their anguish that this spoils

system is sharpening the divides among the Shias, Sunnis, the Kurds and the rest of the ethnic minorities across Iraq and bringing no benefit to the ordinary folks. But definitely a small section of the party sympathisers, supporters and cronies extract rich benefits from the Government.

Since the departure of the US forces, the youth of the country has been utterly frustrated with the façade of reforms and with the political class who promised but failed to deliver the basics and introduce much-needed reforms in public offices.

However, what is worrying the global community is that this saga of mass demonstrations is purely leaderless. The protesters are not backed by any organisational structures and ideological narratives. Only common chord among them is a strong sentiment of anti-Government agenda. Therefore, the guardians of

end of Iraq".

We need to enquire into the recent political history of Iraq to find out the malaise that is killing the country today. It all started with the deposition of the Saddam rule and the American invasion of Iraq. Besides, subsequent political upheavals accompanied by regime changes in the West Asia and fast-changing global political scenario had a strong impact on the future course of action in Iraq. Saddam was no more a nincompoop, as the western leaders thought, as he was able to maintain a stable political rule for more than two decades. Of course his authoritarian streak spearheaded the systematic persecution of the minorities and fast marginalisation of the majority Shias.

In addition to Sunni-Shia divide, the third major political player in Iraq is the Kurds, mainly concentrated in the north and north-eastern provinces of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk and their surrounding areas. The Kurdish people inhabit a swath of land through northern Iraq, Syria, Iran and Turkey. They are primarily a people without their own homeland, a major victim of the Sykes-Picot deal.

The way the global liberal order is crumbling under the leadership of Donald Trump, the world could hardly look for any respite from the volatile political atmosphere raging in West Asia. With the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq in 2011, gradually the country has fallen into a complete anarchy. And this has happened because

Washington wanted to dislodge the erstwhile political regime, secret forces and security forces of the Saddam era. The coming of a Shia regime, after the fall of Saddam, has completely changed the power structure of almost three decades of Sunni political establishment, its entitlements and its beneficiaries. Thus many of the elite guards, offi-

cers and former army commanders have quietly joined the Islamic State, an affiliate of the al-Qaeda.

The US Army in Iraq knew very well that these officers joined various insurgent groups and offered tactical support to the al-Qaeda.

What could be seen from the ruins of Saddam empire is a pure chaos. And in this anomie has brought more differences and violence back to the Iraqi society. Much beyond these, Iraq has become a playground for many big powers, such as Iran and the US.

Iran's influence in Iraq is of great importance. But in the last few months, this Iranian led Shia coalition has been largely fractious as the Government forces killed Shias who were demanding better social services, mainly basic needs. It is coming out in public space that Iran is seriously trying to repress the civil rebellion in Iraq. Its elite Quds Force, the foreign arm of the Revolutionary Guard in Iran, view these protests as masterminded by foreign hands. The outcome of the counterproductive attempts by the Iranian backed forces to repress the protesters may trigger a new Arab Spring to the entire West Asia in the days to come.

The impending departure of Mahdi is symbolic victory of the protesters. But unfortunately too many people were killed and it could be regarded as a mass uprising of the Shia community against their own leadership. Mahdi has proved himself to be an ineffectual leader.

It seems the ruling elite of Iraq are simply interested in sticking to power at any cost. Therefore, it is truly doubtful whether the demands of the protesters for sweeping changes in the Iraqi political system could be agreed upon by the opportunist leadership.

*(The writer is an expert on international affairs)*

What is worrying the global community is that the saga of mass demonstrations in Iraq is leaderless. The protesters are not backed by any organisational structures and ideological narratives. The only common chord among them is a strong sentiment of anti-Government agenda



MAKHAN SALKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# Iraq protests: A terrible political-economic predicament

The world witnessed a spate of violent protests in Iraq, Lebanon, Hong Kong and Chile in the last few months. However, the Iraqi protests stand out in terms of intensity of violence: over 300 young protesters have been killed and thousand others injured in the crackdown by the Government security forces. After the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003, it has been the largest popular demonstration across Iraq, mainly in Shia south.

Protesters have blamed the successive Governments for large-scale unemployment, rampant corruption, and poor civic services, despite the exchequer getting easy revenue from the lucrative oil businesses. However, the authorities claim that Iraq does not get reasonable chunk of its share from the complex and unfair system of international oil markets to revive its fractured economy. Majority of the people lack access to adequate healthcare, schooling, water or power supplies as the promises made by successive Governments have remained unfulfilled. According to a World Bank report, nearly three-fifths of its 40 million people live on less than \$6 a day. The Iraqi protesters, primarily comprising the economic poor class, are venting their anger against some filthy rich political leaders and businessmen who are pillaging the country's wealth, pushing the commoners into further poverty.

The trigger for the latest round of protests was the news of demotion of Lieutenant General Abdul Wahhab al-Saadi, the Commander of the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Force (ICTF). He gained wide popularity during the anti-ISIS military campaign and became a national hero. Protests in Baghdad jog the memory of



Anti-Government protesters gather in Tahrir Square, Baghdad on November 29. Celebrations erupted following the announcement of resignation by Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi

Arab Spring in 2011, where the protesters had swarmed the streets in the Arab world. The year-long Prime Minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi, has witnessed the most tumultuous phase of his tenure as protesters are demanding his immediate removal from office and fresh elections.

### Sistani calls for reform

The initial response of the Baghdad authorities, using unnecessary lethal force, was shockingly unscrupulous that made matters worse. Iraq's most revered Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussaini al-Sistani, who holds unprece-

dent moral authority among the Shia believers, had called upon the ruling clique to initiate major political reforms. He issued the statement through his representative in a Friday prayer gathering. He urged, "The marjiayya (Shia religious authority) has made clear its position calling for reform in the last Friday sermon. It stressed that the demonstrations must be peaceful and free from violence and vandalism. It also underlined the sanctity of Iraqi blood, and the need for political forces to respond to the rightful demands of protesters." While influential Shia leader Sayyid Moqtada al-Sadr too called for reforms and

urged protesters to continue to press for their demands.

### Show of solidarity

One of the significant features of the anti-governmental protests in Iraq is that it has an element of cross-sectarian or ethnic identity i.e. Iraqi nationalism. Unlike previous protests, symbols of Shia piety have not taken a central place in the demonstrations which signifies the gravity of the demands which entirely stick to its legitimate socio-economic demands. It reflects the growing disenchantment of Iraqi people towards the religious parties who have been ruling

for 16 years. It is an alarming curve for the ruling elites and they need to pay heed to the people's voice. It also signifies a new turn of events in country's beleaguered history which only experienced repression by ruthless dictators and started craving for the idea of social justice and citizenship. However, despite having a broad nature of the protests largely participated by young and poor social class from Shia background, the Sunni and Kurdish areas haven't extended solidarity with the protesters. Sunni and Kurdish leaderships are suspicious that any break in the status quo will

dismantle their positions in the power structure what they are enjoying in the unofficial mohassasa system (confessional system) introduced by the Americans after 2003.

### External factors

There is no denying the fact that after the US occupation, the CPA-led administration had created such mayhem in the country. The menace of terrorism and sectarianism gained enormous foothold among multi-confessional society. There is an ample evidence of external intervention by regional actors in fomenting political unrest in Iraq. The attacks on Iranian consulates and embassy substantiate this argument. Since 2003, arch rival Iran has turned Iraq's staunchest ally.

Iran's ties with Shia political groups which have been at the helm of power irked the regional actors led by Saudi Arabia, and they perceived it as the revival of Shia politics in West Asian and North African (WANA) region. Iran's role in repulsing the rise of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) further brought these two neighbours closer. Most of the Iran-backed factions like Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Saraya al-Salam, Badr Corps, Harkat Hezbollah al-Nojaba constitute the backbone of Hashd al-Shabi (Popular Mobilisation Forces, PMF), an umbrella group of militias which came into existence after the ISIS' blitzkrieg attacks, further alarmed the US, Israel and other regional powers. Displaying extraordinary courage in countering the ISIS tide, PMF achieved pre-eminence in the society. By virtue of its popularity, the political bloc of PMF, called al-Itilaf al-Fatah (Conquest Alliance) led by Hadi Amiri, secured a sizeable chunk of

seats in the parliamentary elections last year. However, al-Hashd has kept restraint despite anti-social elements camouflaging into the crowd to sabotage the peaceful protests. However it had vowed to crush any coup attempt with malicious intent.

### Tuk tuk, a vehicle of change: Indian connection

There is a little Indian connection with the ongoing protests in Iraq i.e. Tuk-Tuk. The three-wheeled Tuk-Tuk, a word referred in common parlance to autorickshaw has its origin in India. It was being manufactured by a prominent automobile company Baja Auto and exported to Iraq. It functions as frontline ambulances, ferry protesters and supplies necessary stuff. The most interesting part is that some activists started a tabloid named after it in order to circumvent information blackout by authorities. Iraq's once marginalised Tuk-Tuk drivers took a centre stage in Iraq and the vehicle become a symbol of resistance called 'Markabat al-Thawra' (vehicle of revolution).

Despite the resignation of the Prime Minister, people are still angry and protests will go on until new political and economic reforms are introduced. But what comes after these demonstrations will not be the same as before. Iraq is going through a phenomenal phase. The new opposition that is emerging can play an important role to lead status quo towards change. The authorities should initiate a process for structural changes and must pay heed to their legitimate demands.

*(The writer is a PhD student at Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)*



YASIR ALI MIRZA



LETTING GO MEANS TO COME TO THE REALISATION THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE A PART OF YOUR HISTORY, BUT NOT A PART OF YOUR DESTINY —STEVE MARABOLI



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

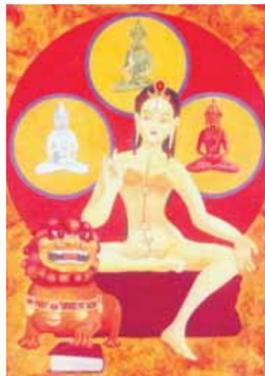
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

You need to manage your stress level in order to stay in good health. Face your problems rather than avoid them. Those looking for spiritual healing, ensure you get adequate rest. Avoid temptations or addictions; otherwise you may face health hazards. Your dream job may come your way. Your accomplishments will make your peers look bad. That's mostly their problem, but don't be obnoxious about it. Some of you may attain a position where you can exert power and authority. Control your temper when dealing with subordinates at workplace. You may feel the negative vibes in the relationship as well. Conflict with near and dear ones is predicted. Think calmly and carefully about the person you are in a relationship with, before you react.

**Lucky number 9**  
**Lucky colour** Black  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You will witness a complete change in your health. Those suffering from serious ailments will be surprised by the unexpected changes such as improvement in their test results. A disciplined and controlled lifestyle is always welcome. Curb your craving for sweet and fried food. On the career front, be careful of the source you are making money with. An unfair deal to get quick success might put you in legal action. Be cautious, as this is the time when you can use your power in a negative way. On the relationship front, your love life seems to be going very well. Those who are committed, a strong relationship that is mutually supportive and beneficial will bring you happiness. Singles, this is a good time to meet new people.

**Lucky number 18**  
**Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Friday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

Health may cause worry this week. Those awaiting test results, need to stay calm as there is nothing much you can do. Relax, things are not as bad as you fear. You will experience a spiritual strength that will help you gain good health. Connect with deeper joy and love for living. It is advised you do breathing exercises and meditation now. On the work front, you may feel stagnated. You don't have to stay in a situation that is unhealthy for you. Those who wish to pursue higher studies and simultaneously work may go ahead. Love life looks promising. Singles, a new and very positive, romance is on the horizon. Just, don't get carried away. Keep your balance and perspective. Those in a committed relationship will enjoy a new level of understanding.

**Lucky number 22**  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Friday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

Confusion about a medical test/result is foreseen. Go for a second opinion. Any health changes are likely to take place slowly. This may be for the best, regardless of how fast you would like things to move. Take things one day at a time and note small changes. Professionally, you can win any situation with your skill and intelligence. Your logical and analytical skills will help you to overcome any difficulties. This is the right time to appear for an interview, or write a competitive exam. Your writing and communication skills could give you an extra edge over others. Relationship wise there could be explosive arguments with the near and dear ones. This is not the time to look for love as you may take wrong decisions. Existing relations could suffer due to misunderstanding.

**Lucky number 33**  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

Confront your dark side. This is a good time to explore your fears, limitations, and unhealthy attachments. Addictions and indulging in material pleasures in order to forget about your worries are foreseen. Be aware and avoid falling into any material traps. Career-wise, beginning of a project is indicated in which a great deal of creative energy will be invested. This is the time when you need emotional support to go forward in life. Try to meet your immediate demands at the workplace with maturity and sensitivity. On the love front, you may get hyper on small things with the people who matter to you. Your mind will empower your heart and emotions will take a back seat. Remember words speak louder than action.

**Lucky number 12**  
**Lucky colour** Mustard  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

Stay grounded to do justice to your body this week. It is important you take rest and relax. Stay away from spicy and junk food. You may experience stress due to certain unavoidable factors. Stay calm and avoid anger or aggression. Release your frustration to express it rather than keep it to yourself. Professionally, you will find stability after a long time. Those who are looking for a job change, you need to disconnect yourself with the current company. People sitting for an interview or a competitive examination will be successful. Any pending work needs to be completed now. Relationship wise, this is a highly emotional time. Situations can instantly become heated or uncomfortable. Take a break if you need to. Don't hurry to end or to begin a relationship.

**Lucky number 15**  
**Lucky colour** Purple  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week your health regime will move to the next level and so will your maturity and intelligence. You will not think twice before spending money on health. Your views in terms of health are conventional and practical and will pay you rich dividends. On the career front, clear communication will bring changes in your work life. Travel to a foreign land on account of the job is likely. Your initiatives blend with your people skill. Explore and see where it takes you. Your finances will improve considerably and you may plan a deal in property. On the romantic front, this week you are all charged and lovable. Online love messages will revive your energy and passion. Singles may find a suitable partner or get marriage proposals.

**Lucky number 9**  
**Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Those dealing with a health problem, need to look for treatments beyond your family doctor. What you need is a vacation or a change of environment. Focus on your dreams. You are likely to find spiritual answers that will help you a lot. On the career front, new opportunities will tempt you. New projects, deals or assignment could be signed this week. Those in business would be able to increase their networking and convert them into benefits. Securing a big deal is on the cards. At a personal level, new friendships or bonding is likely to turn into a loving relationship for you. An existing relationship will become more intense. If someone is interested in you, give him/her a chance. This relationship could be just what you are looking for.

**Lucky number 23**  
**Lucky colour** Green  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week your health will be good. You are in the right place, doing the right thing. You are likely to achieve what you have wished for. The week holds new beginnings that naturally emerge out of the accomplished cycle. To balance your energies, avoid rich food and oversleep. Work life may not be very satisfactory. You may feel uncomfortable at your work place. Your seniors may feel that you are not putting your 100 per cent effort into a project or task. Your honest nature may fetch you a suspension or some kind of displeasure. Avoid any kind of investment or a new deal in business/property. Those in love may face conflict and difficult phase. However, a balanced approach will work in your favour.

**Lucky number 11**  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

Your perseverance and hard work on the health front will bear results. Your self-confidence will draw people to you like a magnet. Those who are worried about health need to relax. Things are not as bad as you fear. There is an underlying, spiritual strength that will sustain your health. Career-wise good news is on the cards. You are likely to use your power and leadership for the benefit of others. Success in the project is foreseen. Those who are looking for a transfer, or job change, should approach an authoritative person to help you in your endeavour. On the love front, doubts about a relationship may nag you. This is the time to be very clear about what you want out of life and your relationships and accordingly, plan your actions.

**Lucky number 10**  
**Lucky colour** Blue  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

You will enjoy good health. This week there will be occasions when three generations of the family will get together. The youngsters may receive a gift in form ancestral property, it could be money or invaluable advice. On the career front, your insight and mental clarity will generate good results. This is a good time to act and achieve your target. Be alert as new opportunities will knock at the door. You are likely to get promoted. Draw upon your creativity and mental ability for making more money. In love life, relations will blossom and may materialise into marriage. You will feel at ease with your spouse/partner, and take important decisions with regard to your family. This is a good week for family reunions and to bask in the bliss of love and relations.

**Lucky number 5**  
**Lucky colour** Dark Grey/ Grey  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Change is inevitable. You will seek spiritual answers that have eluded you for some time. This week you will experience high energy and self-confidence. You may plan a vacation or time out in nature. Someone new and exciting will make a move in your direction. Be prepared for a surprise. Relax as everything is under control. Career-wise you will be exerting yourself for a job change. Those in arts fields could collaborate for the first time on a project that will give a boost to your career. Good opportunities are coming your way. Promote your ideas. Make sure to seek intelligent advice before accepting an invitation. Romance is likely to be bloom this week. Extension in the family, the birth of child or news of conception is indicated.

**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour** Magenta  
**Lucky day** Monday

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**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Correct your own weaknesses

It is in human nature to improve one's lot, which tempts one to look towards a better tomorrow. So, invariably we begin life with high hopes and aspirations. Accordingly, we set our dream destination. Dreams are necessary for reaching heights one is capable of, as they serve a focus to reach an objective. Since time immemorial the Moon fascinated and evoked man's curiosity, seen every day — yet unknown. A longing to know and understand it, led scientists to send man on the Moon. Yet, not everybody's dreams get fulfilled. Non-realisation often brings in frustrating experiences. Why? Are we so helplessly fated?

Not really, provided we optimally use our indwelling empowerment tools. Remember, we are all born carrying limitless potential, which if unfolded would know no limits. The paradox, however, is that major part of our mind-power remains untapped, as it remains clouded by lot of inherent limitations. Truth be told — ordinary mortals are hardly able to use five to seven percent of their mind power. The irony, however, is that even this, if judiciously used, can enable one to negotiate life with relative ease and comfort. Bear in mind; even people like

Einstein are said to have used just 10 to 14 percent of their mind-power to create history.

You need to strive to unfold your full potential. It may then spontaneously lead you through. You may then discriminate between 'What you want' and 'What is worth' before you take any call. Also, you would be able to put forward your best foot. So, the real challenge is to overcome limitations of our mind and expand its outreach. The way forward is to get into self-search mode. The process helps identify, acknowledge and then rise above the limitations of mind.

It is pertinent to note here that we seldom remain conscious about invoking one's most profound empowerment tool — *Buddhi* (the faculty of discriminate intelligence) — before jumping into action. Not to say anything about getting over the limitation of mind. And *buddhi* won't come into play by itself. Consequently, we blindly submit ourselves to indwelling desire trends, coming as they may with karmic imprints carried over from the past. We neither try to figure out whether the desires pursued are worth it or not, nor do we care whether we are geared up for the



purpose. When we meet failure, either we try to shift the blame on others, or our destiny. Truth, however, remains that we do not strive sufficiently to unfold the immense power within. So said Swami Vivekananda: "The history of the world is the history of few men who had faith in themselves. Faith calls out divinity within. You can do anything. You fail because you have not sufficiently strived to unfold immense power within."

Here is the case of someone, who came asking the other day: "Sir, since last year, I am having a tough time both in terms of career as well as my personal life. I get lot of offers but at the last moment, they all fizzle out. I am afraid, those envious of me have been playing foul with my life. My wife is self-centric and is least bothered about my sensibilities and concerns. The worst is she discourages me from pursuing spirituality. When do you think the situation may change?"

Don't try to rationalise peculiar beliefs you carry, coming as it may with Jupiter ill-disposed off to Neptune. Before blaming others, better identify, acknowledge, and address your own fault lines, and things will change sooner than later. Look at your astrological

pointers. You are born in Aries *lagna*, with its lord Mars, erratic *Rahu* and the Sun firmly placed in *lagna bhava* itself. That makes you, impulsive, aggressive, arrogant, irritable, intolerant, and impatient. You wish to live in a demanding mode, expecting from all others to follow your dictates. You have the tendency to jump into action without applying proper forethought. If that would not be enough, both the luminaries, the Sun and Moon as well as Mercury, all locked in adverse formation to Uranus, makes you self-willed, tactless, eccentric, and opinionated. Mercury ill-disposed off to Saturn and Moon, brings in a rigid one-track mind, and makes you resentful of others. Moon placed adverse to Saturn brings in a negative mindset. Also, you would be jealous and over critical of others. Let me add here that the calling of spirituality is to first set the thought process right, which doesn't anyway reflect in your conduct. It means you are simply hallucinating over your illusionary perceptions.

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