

MONEY 6
TEA GROWERS FEEL
PINCH OF ASSAM PROTESTS

WORLD 7
NOT FAIR THAT I AM BEING
IMPEACHED: TRUMP

SPORT 8
INDIA FACE WINDIES
IN 1ST ODI TODAY

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USUAL SUSPECTS
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 sig-

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.



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

naling facility and torched a fire 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 private 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



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

Humsafar Express, Howrah-CSMT Geetanjali 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-Santraigachi 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.

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 cit-

izens to exercise caution while travelling to the Northeast India. In its advisory, the US Government said it has temporarily suspended official travels to Assam, the epicentre of the protests.

The empty oil tanker, on its way for refilling petrol from Sipajhar in Udalguri district, was set ablaze by a group of people at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur on Friday night, police said. The driver of the tanker was taken to a private nursing home where he succumbed to severe burn injuries on Saturday morning, they said. Meanwhile, AASU, Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad 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.

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

Accusing Prime Minister Modi of single-handedly "destroying" the country's economy, he said, "All of India's enemies wanted that its economy, which is its strength, should be destroyed."

Shah calls upon N-E residents to maintain peace

Accuses Cong of doing 'Hindu-Muslim' politics

PNS ■ RANCHI

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

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

Congress party says CAB is anti-Muslim. According to them, even the abolishment of Triple Talaq and surgical strike on Pakistan was anti-Muslim. According to them, everything we do is anti-Muslim," said Shah, adding that the Congress

party provided safe haven to terrorists in India for political benefits. "Congress party has been doing Hindu-Muslim politics since decades. And what they are doing right now is no different," said the BJP national president.

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

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

Talking from a podium in one of the 19 Maoist-affected districts in Jharkhand, Shah on Saturday said that only Modi can bring an end to Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in Jharkhand. "The BJP Government has already pushed Maoists on the back foot. Only Modi can bring an end to Naxalism," said Shah.

Giridih is set to go to polls in the fourth phase of elections here on December 16. Addressing thousands of voters who would decide the fate of



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

candidates in the constituency, Shah said that the BJP Government ensured electrifi-

cation of all the 370 villages in the constituency.

Turn to Page 4



Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with BJP candidates Nishikant Dubbey and Nirbhay Shahbadi waves party supporters during election campaign rally ahead of 4th phase State Assembly Election in Deoghar, Jharkhand on Saturday



Chief Minister Raghubar Das and BJP candidate from Dhanbad constituency Raj Sinha wave to party supporters during an election campaign (roadshow) ahead of the fourth phase of State Assembly elections, in Dhanbad on Saturday

'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 hollowess 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

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

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 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.

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.

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."

उपायुक्त, -सह- जिला दण्डाधिकारी का कार्यालय, बोकारो (निर्वाचन शाखा)

--- आम सूचना ---

एतद् द्वारा 36-बोकारो एवं 37-चन्दनकियारी (अ०जा०) विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के राजनीतिक दलों/राजनीतिक कार्यकर्ताओं/पाटी कार्यकर्ताओं/जुलूस कार्यकर्ताओं/अभियान कार्यकर्ताओं जो निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के बाहर से लाये गये हैं और जो उस निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के मतदाता नहीं हैं, उन्हें सूचित किया जाता है कि चौथे चरण का चुनाव प्रचार की अवधि दिनांक-14.12.2019 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे समाप्त हो गयी है। अतः ऐसे सभी कार्यकर्ता अभियान अवधि समाप्त होने के तुरन्त पश्चात् निर्वाचन क्षेत्र को छोड़ दें।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी,

PR 222708 (Election)19-20#D -सह-उपायुक्त, बोकारो

Plan Your Sunday

Celebrate Christmas The Irish Way

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

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

Celebrate the most magical month of the year by digging into a wide range of dishes such as spinach and feta tartlets, roast tomato, garlic and cheese flatbread, wild mushrooms and goat cheese on brioche toast, char-grilled pears, onions, brussels sprouts, chorizo, chicken ham and cheese flatbread, drunken lamb burger, christmas chicken roast, spicy pork ribs; with a chocolate, cheese and cranberry tart for a sweet ending.

So this December, eat, drink and make merry, literally. Don't think twice and head to the cafe for an amazing drunken Green Christmas experience!



Ranthambore Music & Wildlife Fest

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

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

Unwind, Innovate & Collaborate

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

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

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



Food For Thought Fest

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



The 2019 edition of the Food for Thought Fest brings in the exciting components that make this a truly unique event. There will be talks and discussions around culture and cuisine in the Thought Fest, while the Food Fest will be offering cookery workshops with master chefs of the region and an authentic flavor from the participating countries. This year the theme of the Food Court is 'A Taste of Luxury' which brings together 13 of the most well-known luxury hotels in Delhi NCR to showcase their top seven dishes in their booth, which will be served in tasting portions and priced between rupees ₹150 to ₹350 only! This is the very first time that luxury will be so affordable.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

DATE OF BIRTH

I am employed in Punam Minj Pati Anil Ekka, Village Chatter Tukotoli, Post Gumla, Thana District Gumla, Pati Army. The date of birth in my Aadhaar card is 15-9-1984. While the date of birth in the husband's service book has been 16-6-1982 This should be improved to 15-9-1984. Pledge No. 2754 date 12-12-2019

PD (8709)C



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उपस्थिति सूचना

वन अपराध में संलिप्त जप्त वाहनों के विरुद्ध प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, गढ़वा दक्षिणी वन प्रमण्डल के न्यायालय में निम्नवत अधिहरण वाद दर्ज हैं। उपरोक्त केस में जप्त वाहन से संबंधित वाहन स्वामी को सूचित किया जाता है कि वर्णित अधिहरण वाद की सुनवाई दिनांक 18.12.2019 को 12:00 बजे पूर्वानु में निर्धारित है। अतः निर्धारित तिथि को इस न्यायालय में उपस्थित होकर (स्वयं या अपने अधिकृत अधिकारता के माध्यम से) अपना पक्ष रखना सुनिश्चित करें।

क्र० सं०	केस संख्या	अधिहरण वाद संख्या	वाहन का प्रकार	वाहन निबन्धन संख्या	अभ्युक्ति।
1	मण्डरिया धाना काण्ड संख्या-1/2008	1/2008	जीप	CG15ZD-0228	
2	C-811/2016	23/2016	महेन्द्रा ट्रैक्टर 265DI	BR-26G-0639	
3	C-2673/2017	21/2017	1. मोटरसाईकिल सुपर स्पलेण्डर 2. मोटरसाईकिल-बोस्कर	CG15CY-5705 CG15-1961	
4	C-518/2018	05/2018	1. कमाण्डर 2. पीकअप मान	JH 03A-3254 JH 14 A-5070	
5	C-1048/2018	06/2018	मोटरसाईकिल-29 पीस	1. CG15BE-5985 2. CG 15CB-1428 3. CG15CH-6728 4. CG15CR-1294 5. CG15CD-8982 6. CG15CZ-8066 7. CG15E-5843 8. CG15CA-6266 9. CG15CR-5171 10. CG15CE-5068 11. CG15CZ-4087 12. CG15CJ-4295 13. CG16D-2554 14. Chassis No-MBLHA7151J4B00818 15. CG15CQ-1573 16. CG15CJ-0657 17. CG15CK-6722 18. CG15CZ-4972 19. CG15CA-7607 20. CG15CF-3894 21. CG15CK-0379 22. CG15CK-8666 23. Chassis No-OME4JCB5ADJ70522570 24. CG15CB-9564 25. CG15D-4263 26. CG15BC-8708 27. CG15CL-2726 28. CG15C-7456 29. CG15CO-6703	
6.	C 1524/ 2018	10/ 2018	टेम्पू	JHO3L-8945	
7.	C 1877/ 2018	12/ 2018	पीकअप मैन	JH19A-2871	
8.	C 2369/ 2018	15/ 2018	मोटरसाईकिल	CG15CP-0309	
9.	C 2378/ 2018	16/ 2018	ट्रैक्टर	DI740B41359SL0406SA43145	
10.	C 47/ 2019	02/ 2019	ट्रैक्टर महेन्द्रा	DI 275, Engine No.- 006511260 BI/DN011	
11.	C 2658/2018	03/ 2019	मोटरसाईकिल	JH 03Q/ 6253	
12.	रमकण्डा धाना कांड सं० 54/ 2018	04/ 2019	मोटरसाईकिल	1. TVS Star without Registration no and chasis no. 2. Hero Honda Plus-CG15DC-6729 3. Hero Honda 100ss-BR18A-9495 4. Hero Splendor pro-CG15CS-2633 5. Hero HF Deluxe-JH03K-3767 6. Hero Honda Super splendor-CG15E-3960 7. Bajaj Discover-CG15CR-4733 8. Bajaj Discover-CG15CQ-7018	
13	C 816/ 2019	06/ 2019	जेलसी0बी0	Chassis No- HAR3DXSSA01894521 Engine No- H00112415	
14	C 805/ 2019	07/ 2019	स्वराज ट्रैक्टर ट्रॉली सहित	Chassis No- QVCB30805002607 Engine No- 391331/FP005623	
15	C 958/ 2019	08/ 2019	बोलेरो पीकअप	JH03F-5822 Engine No- GHB1D-22516	
16	C1076/ 2019	09/ 2019	ट्रैक्टर टैक्टर सहित महेन्द्रा B275DI	Engine No- 006505439C1DG054AVI Chassis No.- RFNE01298	
17	C 1124/ 2019	10/ 2019	ट्रैक्टर महेन्द्रा B275DI	क्रांती नं०- CG08P3511 क्रांती नं०- RAM000074KC	
18	C 1118/ 2019	11/ 2019	पीकअप मैन	JH03U-8052 Engine No- TBJ1A27665	
19	मण्डरिया धाना काण्ड संख्या-15/ 2018	12/ 2019	ट्रैक्टर महेन्द्रा	C05566238RZ Engine No.- 5086 Chassis No.- 005558519R1-R-5504	
20	C 1275/ 2019	13/ 2019	1. सडक रोलर, टाटा जमशेदपुर इण्डिया, टाईप- 6-92001. 2. ट्रैक्टर- TAFE, MASSEY FERGUSON 241 DI	1. Engine No-4-00511) 2. Chassis No.- 0190861M01, P506240003	
21	C 1577/ 2019	14/ 2019	मोटरसाईकिल	Bajaj Discover No.- CG15CF0370	
22	C 1713/ 2019	15/ 2019	पीकअप मैन	JH03M- 7711	
23	C 1996/ 2019	16/ 2019	जेलसी0बी0 मशीन	Chassis No.- HAR3DXSSV01890628 Engine No.- 336/40106/0/145418	
24	C 2090/ 2019	17/ 2019	मोटरसाईकिल बजाज कॅसिवर	OR16A-2146	
25	C 2091/ 2019	18/ 2019	मोटरसाईकिल हिरोहोम्बा	CG15CA-6909	
26	C 2207/ 2019	20/ 2019	पीकअप मैन	Engine No.- TBJ1C37026	
27	C 2465/ 2019	21/ 2019	महेन्द्रा ट्रैक्टर B275DI	Chassis No.- C0555288P1 Engine No.- 751046R6	

प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी,
-सह- वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी,
गढ़वा दक्षिणी वन प्रमण्डल।

PR 222710 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes) 19-20 (D)

Battleground Jharkhand

Campaigning ends for 4th phase, 15 seats to go to polls

Voters in 10 urban seats to get extra polling time

PNS ■ RANCHI

High voltage campaigning for the fourth phase of polls in 15 constituencies of the State ended on Saturday with Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP national executive president JP Nadda seeking votes for candidates. From the Opposition's side JMM chief Shibu Soren and party executive president Hemant Soren also continued their campaigns in Santhal Pargana.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed three poll rallies in Giridih, Deoghar and Baghmara, while Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed rallies in Chandankiyari, Pakur and

221 candidates are trying their luck on 15 seats, out of which 198 candidates are men and 23 are women. The Bokaro constituency has maximum 25 candidates, while Nirsas has minimum eight contestants

Madhupur has 13, Deoghar (12), Bagodar (12), Jamua (14), Gandey (12), Giridih (12), Dumri (15), Chandankiyari (15), Sindri (16), Dhanbad (22), Jharia (17), Tundi (13) and Baghmara (15) candidates

Uddwa on Saturday. Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani held poll rallies in Sindri, Nirsas and Dumri in Dhabad and Giridih districts.

In the fourth phase 221 candidates are trying their luck on 15 seats, out of which 198 candidates are men and 23 are women. The Bokaro constituency has the maximum 25 candidates, while Nirsas has the minimum eight contestants. In Bokaro and Jharia seats maximum five women candidates each are contesting

the polls. According to ECI Madhupur has 13, Deoghar (12), Bagodar (12), Jamua (14), Gandey (12), Giridih (12), Dumri (15), Chandankiyari (15), Sindri (16), Dhanbad (22), Jharia (17), Tundi (13) and Baghmara (15) candidates.

In the fourth phase BJP has 13 male and 2 female candidates, BSP has 13 males, CPI has 2 males, Congress has 3 males and 2 females, NCP has one male, AJSU Party has 11 males and 1 female, JVM has 13 males

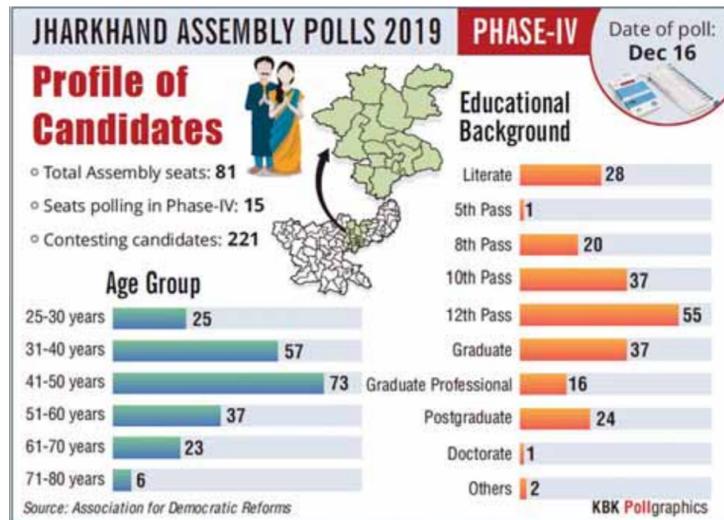
and 2 females, JMM has 8 males, RJD has one male, TMC has 4 males and 2 females.

The 15 seats, for which elections are to be held in four districts, the total number of new voters is 95,795. Under this, there are 15,199 in Deoghar, a total of 32,560 in five assembly constituencies of Giridih district, 14,905 in two assembly constituencies of Bokaro district and 33,131 voters in six assembly constituencies of Dhanbad.

Out of the 15 seats voting will be conducted from 7 AM to 5 PM on 10 seats, while in rest five seats polling will end at 3 PM. Voters will be able to exercise their franchise from 7 am to 5 pm in Madhupur, Deoghar, Bokaro,

Chandankiyari, Sindri, Nirsas, Dhanbad, Jharia and Baghmara, while in Bagodar, Jamua, Giridih, Dumri and Tundi voting will be held till 3 pm.

Chief Electoral Officer, Vinay Kumar Choubey, informed that polling personnel and polling agents are to be present at the polling station one and a half hours before the start of polling. After this, action of mock poll will be done. The voting process will start after the mock poll. In the Sssembly seats for which the voting time is 3 pm and 5 pm, all the voters present till that time will be able to vote. Under this, the Presiding Officers will give a slip with their signature to such voters and they will be allowed to vote.



Clean sweep in 4th phase: BJP

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday claimed that the party will clean sweep the fourth phase of polling for the State Assembly election out of total five phases.

Addressing a Press meet State BJP Spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said at the media centre at Argora in Ranchi that there is a strong wave in favour of BJP in the entire State.



State BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo along with party leaders during a Press conference at Media centre in Ranchi on Saturday. Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

"BJP is poised to win all the 15 seats in the fourth phase. People are openly supporting BJP candidates on the issue of development and stable government," said Shahdeo.

The party Spokesperson said that huge gathering of people is being witnessed in the election rallies of leaders of BJP like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Raghubar Das, BJP National Executive president JP Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath,

Union Minister Smriti Irani and others. This is showing that opposition will be wiped out from the State, he added.

"The public is seeing that there is contradiction within the coalition of opposition parties. The public will never accept the alliance formed to loot the State. The account of all opposition parties including Jharkhand

Mukti Morcha (JMM) will not be opened in this phase. Hemant Soren himself will be defeated from Barhet and Dumka in the last phase of polling. Soren should look for new seat for 2024," said Shahdeo.

On the issue of Saryu Roy campaigning in favour of Hemant Soren, the party Spokesperson said that this

whole episode shows personal things are more important for Saryu Roy ji. "That is why he sometimes used to call Hemant Soren as corrupt. But, at present he is going to campaign by saying that since Hemant Soren favoured him in Jamshedpur so that he is going to Santhal to help Soren," he added.

Shahdeo said that two ways of character are not appropriate in politics. "On one hand, Saryu Roy speaks of high moral ideals and on the other hand, he is going to campaign for Soren family, which has looted land of tribal and locals," he added.

"Saryu Roy had alleged that EVM hackers were staying in a hotel yesterday. Police had to interrogate some innocent people of that hotel till late night on the instructions of the Election Commission. But the whole charge turned out to be false. All this shows that Saryu Roy ji is making baseless allegations in frustration," said Shahdeo.

Hemant intensifies campaign for last 2 phases

MRITUANJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI

In a bid to give more intensity in campaigning for the fourth and fifth phase polling for the Jharkhand Assembly elections, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Executive president and former Chief Minister of the State, Hemant Soren on Saturday addressed five election rallies at Shikaripara, Jamtara, Jarmundi, Dumka and Barhet.

He addressed election rallies at Jarmundi for Indian National Congress (INC) candidate and sitting MLA from the seat, Badal Patralekh, at Jamtara for INC candidate and sitting MLA, Irfan Ansari, at Shikaripara for JMM candidate and six time MLA from the seat, Nalin Soren, at Barhet and Dumka he himself is contesting.

It may be mentioned here that JMM is contesting the State Assembly elections in alliance with INC and former Chief Minister of Bihar, Lalu Prasad Yadav led Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). Under the seat sharing



JMM executive president Hemant Soren addresses a election campaign rally ahead of fourth phase of State Assembly polls. Pioneer photo

pact will the alliance partner, JMM is contesting at 43 seats, INC got 31 seats and RJD is contesting 7 seats.

Addressing the gathering for INC candidate Badal Patralekh at Jarmundi, Soren said that in the last five years a large numbers of youths of the State have become unemployed due to misrule of the incumbent State Government as in last five years the Government

has not been able to conduct Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC). "There are huge vacancies in all departments of the State Government but the Government did not try to fill them. The youths of the State are forced to migrate for the other states for their livelihood," he added.

Soren became more vocal against the State Government, hitting hard on the Government for poor law and order situation in the State he said that incidents like rape is become common in the State as two minor girls were raped in Chatra District yesterday and just some days earlier a student of reputed law university of the State Capital became victim of gang rape but the State Government has not taken any step to prevent this kinds of incident. Women and girl are not safe in the State, he added.

Addressing a gathering in support of the party candidate, Nalin Soren at Shikaripara by wearing garland of onions, the former Chief Minister said that the Government is trying to perturb poor people deliberately by increasing prices of onions as it is necessary part of their meal. They are saying that they are providing good governance but after couple of months the prices of onion is not decreasing, this is example of good governance of them, he added.

Chirag Paswan holds rally in Giridih

PNS ■ GIRIDIH

Lok Janshakti Party National President cum MP Chirag Paswan on Saturday addressed the public meeting in favour of the LJP candidate at Jhanda maidan.



LJP president Chirag Paswan. Pioneer photo

Paswan, accompanied by MP Surjban Singh, said that development did not take place after the separation of Jharkhand State. "People say that Chirag Paswan belongs to Bihar, but I would say that I am of Jharkhand because I was born when Jharkhand was a part of Bihar. Hence Bihar and Jharkhand common to me," said Paswan.

Addressing a public meeting, he said that even on Saturday, Jharkhand is looking for development and the youth of Jharkhand are migrating to other states for employment or education.

"The youth of Jharkhand are seen wandering for employment in Delhi and Mumbai. But not a single youth from Delhi or Mumbai comes for

employment or education in Jharkhand," he said.

Chirag said some political party is working to divide people on the basis of religion, caste and region.

But LJP does not do politics of religion and caste but does politics of development by

"People say that Chirag Paswan belongs to Bihar, but I would say that I am as much of Bihar as I am of Jharkhand because I was born when Jharkhand was a part of Bihar. Hence Bihar and Jharkhand common to me

"The youth of Jharkhand are seen wandering for employment in Delhi and Mumbai. But not a single youth from Delhi or Mumbai comes for employment or education in Jharkhand

CHIRAG PASWAN

taking all classes together. He appealed to the people to vote on December 16, not in the name of caste and religion, but in the name of development. Because this is your vote on December 16 will determine the future of the next five years appealed to the people, vote in favor of Upendra Sharma, candidate of LJP, a party that does politics of development.

Admin gears up for counting exercise

STRICT VIGIL AT STRONG ROOM

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

East Singhbhum district administration is all charged up for the election counting exercise scheduled on December 23. While the Deputy Commissioner-cum-district returning officer for the election Ravi Shanker Shukla has ensured smooth conduct of the counting exercise, the political parties are also planning to hold a 'show of strength' near the strong room on the day of counting.

According to information, the administration is short listing counting personnel who would be engaged in the exercise. The counting for six constituencies in the district, Bahragora, Ghatshila, Potka, Jamshedpur East, Jamshedpur West and Jugsalai would take place at Jamshedpur Co-operative College. Separate counting tables would be arranged for each seat.

The DC, during a meeting with the district officials issued some instructions and asked them to follow them strictly. Besides, he has asked the strong room personnel to maintain the

time schedule so that complete process gets off at the earliest.

Meanwhile, sources in the district administration said that results of all the six Assembly seats—Jamshedpur East, Jamshedpur West, Jugsalai, Potka, Baharagora and Ghatshila will be announced.

Counting will be done simultaneously in 14 tables in each of the six Assembly seats and each counting table will have a counting supervisor and counting micro-observer. Each assembly segment will have an assistant returning officer (ARO) and three micro-observers.

Like in past this time too, the political parties in fray for elections have up make shift tents outside Jamshedpur Co-operative College, venue of the counting exercise.

"We are planning to take out a victory procession in the city after winners are declared," said Anil Modi of BJP.

In addition to this the representatives of the political parties too, have been well informed in advance about the conduct warranted of them on the D-day.



Parties like Jharkhand Mukti Morcha are also planning a big show on the day of counting.

"We have decided to be present in large numbers near the strong room as a part of support to our candidate. Our

idea is to showcase unity and faith in the party," said a leader of JMM.

Meanwhile, the police administration has asked the policemen to get strict with the people or, for that matter, political party members who throng

A security personnel stands guard outside strong rooms where EVMs are kept after Assembly polls, Co-Operative College Strong Room in Jamshedpur on Saturday. Pioneer photo

the strong room area in drunken state of mind.



Girls pose with a boy dressed as Santa Claus during Christmas Carnival procession ahead of the Christmas celebration, in Ranchi on Saturday. Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

Eyewitness's account of kidnapping keeps police busy

No trace in CCTV footage, cops begin investigation

PNS ■ RANCHI

Unidentified miscreants allegedly pulled a minor girl into their Maruti Omni and disappeared from Namkum on Saturday early morning while the girl was on her way to school, an eyewitness told the police. However, the victim's identity remained a mystery for the cops by the time this report was filed.

Later in the day, Ranchi Superintendent of Police (Rural), Rishabh Kumar Jha visited the spot along with a police team. The police, he said, were scanning CCTV footage of the area to trace the kidnappers.

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Jha expressed surprise over the fact that no member of the girl's family approached the police by sunset on Saturday

We could not find any Maruti Omni in the CCTV footage. We also checked in different schools of the area and none of the school administrations reported about any missing student... There are many missing links in the case, but we are still investigating the matter from all perspectives, said Jha

perpetrators if at all any such incident has occurred. The police stations in Ranchi and suburbs have been informed about the incident and asked to keep a watch on any suspicious vehicle," said Jha.

Jha expressed surprise over the fact that no member of the girl's family approached the police by sunset on Saturday. "We could not find any Maruti Omni in the CCTV footage. We also checked in different schools of the area and none of the school administrations reported about any missing student," Jha added.

The eyewitness, another girl from Namkum, could not give details about the abducted girl's appearance and the name of her school. She could only tell the police that the victim was wearing a skirt – a part of her school uniform. "There are many missing links in the case, but we are still investigating the matter from all perspectives," said Jha.

Police have been on their toes since the abduction and gangrape of a 25-year-old law student in Ranchi last month. They are not taking any chances despite the lack of eyewitnesses and details related to the girl in the abduction case reported on Saturday, police said.

Door-to-door campaigning intensified in Bokaro

PNS ■ BOKARO

High-decibel campaigning came to an end across Bokaro and Chandankiyari Assembly constituencies on Saturday evening as the two seats are going to poll in the fourth phase on December 16.

All political candidates and their group of supporters were seen engaged in distributing pamphlets in lanes and inten-

sifying the door-to-door campaign to reach out to maximum voters and to win their hearts in both urban and rural areas.

Sitting BJP MLA, Congress, JVM, AJSU, Janta Party, AAP including other candidates on Saturday visited in the interior colonies of Bokaro and Chandankiyari after the high-decibel campaign stopped; visits continued till late evening.

"I personally feel that the

door-to-door campaigning leaves an impressive impact on the voters. Though it's quite not possible to meet individual voters but I tried my best to meet as many electorates as possible," said Sunil Kumar (Bokaro -36) and Umakant Rajak (Chandankiyari -37).

All total of 25 candidates are in the poll fray for Bokaro and 15 for Chandankiyari assembly seats.

Congress candidate Sweta Singh also on move, running from pillar to post to woo voters while Dr Prakash (JVM), Dev Sharma, Rajender Mahato (AJSU), Ashok Choudhary (JDU), A Alam Siddiki (AIMIM- All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen), Sunil Kumar (Janata Party), KK Kaushal (PPI), F Bhattacharya (TMC), Ramakant Verma (Swaraj India), NP Mahato (Hindustan Awam Morcha), Nawal Sharma (RPI), H Nath (AAP), Manoj Kumar (NUCI) while Rajesh Kumar, M

Sharma, Sanjay Kumar, P Burman, N Dutta, Jayanti Kumari, Uma Kumari, Renu Sharma, Lalita Devi and Madhusudan along with their supporters are electioneering door-to-door.

In Chandankiyari constituency Amar Bauri (BJP), Umakant Rajak (AJSU), Bijay Rajwar (JMM) and other candidates are also electioneering from door-to-door across the constituency.

Little Hearts School holds fundraiser exhibition for special children

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Little Hearts School synonymous with children's education since 1995 as run up to its 25 year celebration organised a fundraiser exhibition Art and Soul at its school campus in Bistupur on Saturday.

The school organised exhibition in which artwork of school students and teachers were displayed.

This event was organised in aid to 'Gyanodaya Noble Academy'. This school caters to 43 children with multiple disabilities. They work towards making each and every child independent to their maximum potential and abilities. There are children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Physical and Mental Retardation, Hearing Impaired, Down Syndrome, etc. The fund collected will be used for these children.

Rubina Bodhanwala, principal, Little Hearts School said that in its 25 years of existence



has learnt the importance of changing with the times.

Through its programmes and exhibitions, it attempts of spread awareness about various issues to toddlers as well as their parents and society as a whole.

To celebrate this occasion, the school has also planned a special show named 'Being One'. At this show, the young

children with special abilities shall make their debut performance. The idea of the show is not to raise sympathy, contrary to that, it is a celebration. 'Being One' aims to celebrate the beauty in every individual, inside and out. It is an opportunity to bring all humans on an equal keel and applaud the confidence and positivity in each one of us.

No more friendship with BJP, time for wrestling: Sudesh

PNS ■ BOKARO

AJSU Party chief Sudesh Mahato on Saturday claimed that his party (AJSU) will form government in Jharkhand and his party will not merely provide support in the formation of the government like earlier.

Addressing an election rally at Bokaro on Saturday, Mahato said, "There is no longer friendship with BJP. Now it's time for wrestling with them. Friendship with BJP has become history now," said Mahato.

He said, BJP should not teach us politics, as we know it (politics) better than them. "This is the land of Binod Bihari Mahato who taught politics to all of us," he added.

"For the development and inclusive growth of Jharkhand, we (AJSU Party) can go against anyone. He urged masses to cast your right in support of AJSU candidates. "Time and need, demands a good gov-



ernment under good leadership in Jharkhand for inclusive

growth," added Mahato.

"We will form domicile plicity based on 1932 Khatiyan, if our government will be formed. Mid-day meal will be arranged in Madrasa's too. Personnel on contractual employment will be given the equivalent pay scale. COs and BDOs will have to come and work in the panchayats," he promised.

Campaigning for the party candidates Umakant Rajak (Chandankiyari) Mahato alleged that the sitting MLA Amar Kumar Bauri became 'Lat Sahab' as soon as he became a minister in the last government.

The people of Chandankiyari want a 'Sewak' (servants) and not a 'lat sahib'. Rajak is ready to be your 'Sewak', he said.

Mahato urged, 'people of Chandankiyari to be cautious for the next two days and take the revenge of their humiliation (from sitting MLA) by giving massive victory to Rajak'.

422 cases disposed in special mediation drive

PNS ■ RANCHI

In a three-day special mediation campaign for family cases in all 24 district and sessions courts, 422 family disputes were resolved across the State. The special drive was the fourth such drive under the aegis of Jharkhand High Court's Family Court Committee, which has been running special mediation campaigns since 2016.

As many as 11,060 cases are pending in the Family courts of the State till November 2019, out of which 1419 cases were referred for the fourth special mediation cam-

paign and finally 422 were resolved through mediation. During the campaign mediation could be done for only one day in Ranchi due to advocates pen down strike for two days. On the first day 19 cases were resolved in Ranchi and the special campaign will be organised on December 16 and 17 for the remaining cases.

Notably, the success rate of mediation in the State is more than 55 per cent and the success rates of mediation centres in Ranchi and Jamshedpur is more than 70 per cent. The success rate of Ranchi mediation centre is about 90 per cent for several months.

Punjab CM Amarinder attacks Sukhbir on CAB

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Countering Sukhbir Badal's "Cretaceous" remarks on Afghan Sikhs in the context of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday said it seemed the SAD president was more interested in dirty politicking than in protecting the Constitutional ethos.

"Do you have no shame? You are ready to destroy the country's secular character to promote your vested political interests," said Capt Amarinder, taking on Sukhbir over his latest comments on the issue.

While people were getting killed in their fight to save India's secular character, and its

Constitution, Sukhbir was busy indulging in politics over an issue of such grave concern, lashed out the Chief Minister, adding that what was at stake was the very survival of the country as a democratic and secular entity.

Responding to Sukhbir's question "if he (Amarinder) favours granting Indian citizenship to Sikhs who migrated from minorities Afghanistan," the Chief Minister said the issue at hand was not granting or not granting citizenship to a particular community.

The matter related to the brazen attempt of the central government, of which Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) was a part, to tinker with the

Indian Constitution - the very bedrock of the country's existence, he added.

"Sukhbir claims SAD has been fighting for the last 10 years for ensuring Indian citizenship to these people (Afghan Sikhs). Without getting into any argument over his claim, I want to ask him whether he has favours exclusion of Muslims from Indian citizenship," said the Chief Minister.

"Did the SAD not, in its initial reaction to CAB, declare that Muslims should also get the benefit of the amended Act" the Chief Minister asked, demanding an explanation for the sudden U-turn of the Akalis on the issue. With these contradictory statements,

Sukhbir had once again exposed himself as an unprincipled leader with no values or morality, said Captain Amarinder, asking SAD to clarify its stand on the issue.

India's secular fabric has always been its strength and any attempt to rip it apart will be vehemently opposed by the Congress, as well as the people of the country, said Captain Amarinder.

The BJP and its allies, however, seemed hell-bent on destroying this foundation with its ill-conceived actions, without thinking of the consequences, he said, citing the latest incident of a Kargil war veteran being declared a foreigner and sent to a detention camp in Assam.

Villagers must rise against Maoists: IG CRPF

Pressure IEDs killing civilians

PNS ■ DAL TONGANJ

Use of 'pressure improvised explosive device' by CPI Maoists is a symptom of Maoists' insecurity and immense fear of security forces, said Inspector General (IG) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Sanjay Anand Lathkar while speaking to the Pioneer on Saturday.

Lathkar said "The Maoists used pressure IED (Improvised Explosive Device) at Bulbul forest under Lohardaga district on Thursday, which took the life of an innocent tribal man Etwa Parhaiya, who got blown up when his feet fell on the pressure IED laid there."

The blast injured one Suraj Parhaiya too who after first hand treatment in the Latehar Government Hospital was rushed to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi, said SP Latehar Prashant Anand. Suraj has sustained splinter injuries.

Anand said seven people of Ghaghree village under Latehar district, including a child, were going to the hillock at Bulbul forest in Lohardaga forest to cut bamboos from a clump there when a pressure IED of Maoists' top gun Ravinder Ganju went off leading to Etwa's death on the spot.

IG CRPF said "Pressure IED is called anti personnel IED. It targets the individual. Anti personnel IED has a limited destruction scale unlike the huge IEDs weighing 40 to 70 Kg - explosives that throw up in air heavy vehicles with cops inside them."

Lathkar said this is the second pressure IED casualty caused by the Maoists where civilians have lost lives. The previous one was triggered at Jhurree, where two lives of civilians were lost and many were injured. The Bulbul incident on Thursday was the latest of Maoists' IED targeting civilians and not security forces.

"It is the ripest time now for the villagers to rise, unite and refuse to provide shelter, food, water and medicine to

Maoists who beg of the villagers for privileges. Villagers must tell them to stop killing innocent people," iterated Lathkar, adding "Villagers must stop giving them food. It will leave Maoists nowhere."

He said villagers' united refusal to the Maoists will harm them more than the guns of security forces. The IG CRPF reminded that Maoist's explosives have also taken lives of elephants near Burha Pahar area in the recent past.

He said "Maoists lay pressure IEDs as part of their own fortification to keep cops at bay and also to cause harm to security forces that keep hunting for them."

The Bulbul pressure IED was laid in the well trodden and beaten gully in the forest to which Lathkar said, "The pressure IED was in the beaten track of the forest. The Maoists know that security forces now prefer their legs to vehicles. Cops walk and walk more in operations against naxals."

Lathkar said "The Maoists also know that cops may under compulsion negotiate beaten

tracks in forest in the event of dense and deep bushes enroute or huge stones lying on the route difficult to scale up and down for fear of getting slipped and thus the Maoists rely on the pressure IEDs laid by them in the beaten track to entrap cops."

Asked if pressure IEDs are difficult to be discovered, he said "All IEDs are a life threat. We have GPR (ground penetrating radar). It is to be calibrated."

He said the soil texture of Jharkhand is varied like there is bauxite beneath the soil in Lohardaga, iron ores in Chaibasa, mica in Giridh, and in such a situation calibration of GPR after some kilometers of walking down is just time taking and is also an obsessive work which a contingent of security force seldom afford to do as perilous condition is around them.

Asked if sniffer/ tracker dog can sniff it out, Lathkar said "It can do. Have you noticed one thing that handler of such a dog shuts the mouth of the sniffer dog to help it sniff more and more."

Sukhbir Singh Badal re-elected SAD chief for third time

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

For the third time in a row, Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday was re-elected as the president of the Shiromani Akali Dal on Saturday.

The 57-year-old former Punjab deputy chief minister's name was proposed by senior party leader Tota Singh and seconded by another senior leader, Prem Singh Chandumajra while Jagmeet Singh Brar endorsed it.

Around 600 party delegates gave their approval, paving the way for Sukhbir Singh Badal to lead the party that was founded on this day in 1920. The SAD observed its 99th foundation day on Saturday.

The election for the post was held at Teja Singh Samundri Hall of the SGPC complex here. Party patron and former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal, who is the father of Sukhbir Singh

Badal, could not attend the event due to health reasons. He had already conveyed his inability to attend the session.

After his election, Sukhbir Singh Badal, was presented a "Siropa" (robe of honour) by the Sikh priests. His wife and Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal was also present at the event. SAD MLA and former Punjab finance minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa, who is the son of rebel leader and Rajya Sabha member Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, was conspicuous by his absence.

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa was in the city attending a parallel programme organised by rebel SAD (Taksalis) to mark the foundation day. He along with Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee leaders Paramjit Singh Sarma and Manjit Singh GK were present at the function organised by splinter Akali groups, led by the SAD (Taksali).

INBRIEF

FRENCH WORD POWER



SBPS students participated in the State level competition of French Word Power organised by Prayatna Educational Society, India in collaboration with Bureau de Québec and performed impeccably. In Level A1, Shreya, Md. Ammar Ahmad and Paridhi Kabra of grade VI secured the First, Second and Third position respectively. In Level A2, Piyush Agarwal of grade VII and Ranvir Raj and Ridhima Berlia of grade VIII have bagged the first, second and third positions respectively. A total of 44 students have qualified for the Nationals in Level A2. In addition, the students participated in the Concours Romain Rolland organised by Prayatna Educational Society, India in collaboration with Alliance Française de Rouen in France and 18 students have qualified for the Nationals. Amongst these 18, Akshata Mohan, Avani Choudhary and Apurbo Roy of grade VIII grabbed the first, second and third positions respectively.

TWS BAGS 15TH BEST SCHOOL AWARD



Taurian World School received the 15th Best School in India, No.1 in Jharkhand & No.1 in Ranchi Award under "Top 20 Boarding Schools in India" category during India School Merit Awards 2019 today in Bangalore. The Awards were presented to Dr. Subhash Kumar, Principal, Taurian World School on Saturdayat The Chancery Pavilion, Bangalore. Congratulating the students, parents, teachers and staff, Dr. Subhash Kumar said that he is delighted that TWS is scaling higher with every passing year in the Education World league and the honour is actually of the children, teachers, parents and the whole fraternity of TWS who together had worked hard towards realizing this dream. He also added that TWS is rapidly growing and receiving appreciations for its distinctive educational approach which ensures learning in a happy and safe environment.

SANJAY SETH ON MINING ACCIDENTS

Ranchi MP Sanjay Seth sought information related to mining in Jharkhand from the Ministry of Labour and Employment through a letter during the Lok Sabha Unrequited Question Hour. He wanted to know how many accidents have occurred in mines in Jharkhand in 5 years and in the current year and such accidents by the government. What measures have been taken to prevent and what measures have been taken to deal with the above accidents and other hazards and Shihow much amount of funds allocated for protection of mines in Jharkhand. Minister of State for Labor and Employment, Independent Charge, Santosh Kumar Gangwar said that according to DGM, Directorate General of Mines Safety under the Ministry of Labor and Employment, mining accidents have decreased in the last 5 years and the current year.

Shah calls upon N-E residents to maintain peace

From Page 1
At least 40,000 families in Giridih got LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), added Shah.

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

In a bid to ensure a BJP win in Jharkhand, he requested all the BJP supporters at the rally to make phone calls to at least 50 people and ask them to vote for the BJP.

"Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has joined hands with the parties that were against the idea of Jharkhand's formation," Shah said, recalling the days of Jharkhand Movement when Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress party protested the bifurcation of Bihar.

A five-phase election is underway in Jharkhand for

the 81 Assembly constituencies here since November 30. By now, three phases of elections have been completed and the fate of candidates in these constituencies is sealed in EVMs. BJP has set a target of winning at least 65 seats in the Assembly here and form a majority Government.

On the other hand, Congress party, JMM and RJD have formed a tripartite alliance to turn the tables here.

Meanwhile, addressing rallies in Borio and Mahagama constituencies on Saturday, BJP Executive President JP Nadda said that the people of Jharkhand have made up their mind to bring the BJP to power once again in Jharkhand. He said that the voting trends so far indicated that the BJP will win in Jharkhand by a huge margin.

"Congress party, JMM and RJD will try and manipulate you to vote for them. But whenever they come to you seeking votes, you must ask them what all developmental works did they do when they were in power," Nadda told the BJP supporters at his rallies.

As per Section 3A of the Act, there is provision for prohibition of sex-selection:



HINDU WOMEN RIGHTS IN INDIA

determination of sex has been prohibited:

"6. Determination of sex prohibited.- On and from the commencement of this Act,— (a) no Genetic Counselling Centre or Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic shall conduct or cause to be conducted in its Centre, Laboratory or Clinic, pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultrasonography, for the purpose of determining the

sex of a foetus; (b) no person shall conduct or cause to be conducted any pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultrasonography for the purpose of determining the sex of a foetus; (c) no person shall, by whatever means, cause or allow to be caused selection of sex before or after conception."

ü Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 prohibits the giving or taking of dowry at or before or any time after the marriage from women.
ü Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 provides for the more effective prevention of the commission of sati and its glorification on women.
ü Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act,

1986 prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner.

ü Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is a comprehensive legislation to protect women in India from all forms of domestic violence. It also covers women who have been/are in a relationship with the abuser

and are subjected to violence of any kind—physical, sexual, mental, verbal or emotional.

However, social legislations have not been very effective in India because the women are not fully aware of the measures adopted by the State for their upliftment and even if aware they do not use them because of the old social values that are still persisting. Legal or legislative sanctions alone cannot bring any substantial change in the down-trodden position of women

and less there is a marked change in their attitude and consciousness of men and women both. In this regard, their illiteracy is one of the great hindrances. Thus, the status of women has been raised in the eyes of law, but they are still far from equal to men in every sphere of life. A lot of work has to be done in this sector for awareness of the legal rights to women in India.

The writer is a senior advocate at Jharkhand High Court and the views expressed are her own.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Comptroller and Auditor General audited the

BHARAT BACHAO RALLY

Time to rise to save constitution, democracy: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The Congress chief said



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

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

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

The Congress has been

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

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

On his part Manmohan

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

In his brief address, Manmohan Singh urged the

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

Priyanka takes jibe at 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai'



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks during the party's Bharat Bachao rally at Ramilla 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 under

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

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

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

Govt to conduct Economic Census

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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.

Government eases FASTag execution

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The ministry clarified that



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

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

ways.

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

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

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

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

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

संशोधन-पत्र
निगम की वाहनो का सर्वर लक्षण 2200 सरो का सतरीय पक्ष एवं यणियों का जोषिय बीमा करवाए जाने के लिए टेंडर आई डी 2019.RSRTC.169963 1 एवं सुधील नं. RAC19205LOB00331 के द्वारा अप्रवक्ष की गई थी। चला बोली आमंत्रण की दिनांक को 09.12.2019 से बढ़ाकर दिनांक 16.12.2019 समय 15:00 बजे तथा बोली खोलने की दिनांक को भी सदनसुवार 10.12.2019 से बढ़ाकर दिनांक 17.12.2019 समय 15:00 बजे किया जाता है। शेष सारस्वत शर्तें सथागत रहेंगी।
राज. संवाद/सी/4135/2019-20 वि. सं. 130/2019-20 वित्तीय सलाहकार

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
NIIFT Campus, Karwar, Jodhpur-342037, Rajasthan, India Ph: 0291-2639520

E-TENDER-NOTICE
NIIFT, Jodhpur invites E-tenders for under mentioned supply and installation of machinery & equipment for labs at campus at Karwar, Jodhpur:-

(1) Supply & Installation of Wi-Fi Device (2) Supply & Installation of Lab Equipment for Foundation Programs (3) Supply and Installation of machinery & equipment for BFT department (mechanics & IoT Lab) (4) Supply and Installation of machinery & equipment for BFT department (Ergonomics lab) (5) Supply and Installation of machinery & equipment for BFT department (Artificial Intelligence lab) (6) Supply & Installation of Smart Board

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

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 shut-down, gardens were mostly closed. Plucking activities took place on Friday but not in a

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

full-fledged scale as many workers could not come due to lack of transport," All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association general secretary Karuna Mahanta told PTI. The legislation has put the state on boil as people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration. Violent protests broke out in the State earlier this week with agitators engaging in pitched battles with the police, forcing the administration to impose curfew in several places. Planters also said the Tea Board has extended the plucking time till December 19 on account of shortage and non-availability of workers. The board had earlier asked them to shut plucking and manufacturing operations by mid-December to prevent production of inferior quality tea, according to growers.

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



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

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

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

BUSINESS CORNER

WORKSHOP ON FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS HELD AT SRM



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

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Jeevan Jangra, S/o: Late Kundan Lal Jangra R/o: H. No. WZ 48, Shadipur Village, near Badi Chopal, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **01.12.2019** at 3:00 pm from the area of P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 26A dated 02.12.2019** has been registered at P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing person are as under: **Age: 67 years, Height: 5' 9", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Normal, ID Mark: Mentally Disturbed/ A cut mark on right eye brow, Wearing: Red colour checkard shirt, grey colour pant and black colour sleeper in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
SHO P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi
Tel.No. 011-25704008, 8750874036
DP/6787/CD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Nazrana W/o Pappu R/o H.No. 134, Opposite Tiranga Market, Bulla Colony, Village-Kanjhawala, Delhi, Age-26 years, Height-5'3", Face-Round, Complexion-Sallow, Wearing-Pink Colour T-Shirt, Violet Lower, Black Burka & White Colour Sandal in her feet** has been Missing since 11.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No.24 Dated 13.11.2019** has been lodged of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.
E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25951486
25952485/7065036125
DP/3488/RD/19

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

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

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

Jewellery segment sees silver lining

FIANS ■ JAIPUR

The gems and jewellery segment sees a silver lining after a long slump as the number of queries has increased since last month, said former chairman of Gem and Jewellery Exports Council and Jaipur Jewellery Show secretary Rajiv Jain. Jain was speaking at a press conference called to announce the dates of 16th edition of Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS), which is the largest business to consumer show and second largest business to business show in India, attracting around 40,000 visitors including buyers from India and abroad. "This year, JJS is putting up its best foot forward with 800 booths for exhibitors. Out of 800 booths, 188 shall display gemstones, 535 will showcase jewellery, 62 will display allied machinery, costume jewellery and artefacts. Many new exhibitors too are showing interest in the 'December Show,'" said JJS chairman Vimal Chand Surana. Jain further said that the present Hong Kong crisis can benefit India if India amends the present SEZ rules. "Recently Union commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan and representatives of industry had an interaction where Wadhawan was

informed that many players from China and Hong Kong are looking to shift their manufacturing base to India. In fact, many Jaipur players have also been receiving calls with queries," said Jain. "Many of us in the Sitapura gem and jewellery special economic zone received queries from Chinese manufacturers who want to relocate their manufacturing facilities to Jaipur. However, the present SEZ laws prohibit any kind of renting or selling out facilities. If this law is amended, it can benefit state government as well as stakeholders," he further said. Jain said that Wadhawan promised to look into the issue during the meeting, adding that the Chinese entrepreneurs have their running facilities and they want to shift in shortest time to ensure their operations do not suffer. Apart from this, there will also be a stall of 'Museum of Gem and Jewellery Federation' in Jaipur. This time JJS will be attended by 100 new participants. JJS is also called the 'December show', where products are not only limited to Jaipur but feature merchandise from exhibitors worldwide. The Department of Tourism, government of Rajasthan, has listed the event on their annual calendar for the tourists and visitors.

US-China trade deal gets tepid reception

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US officials announced a truce in the trade war with China with much fanfare, but economists and trade experts call it largely a victory for Beijing. After a dispute that raged for close to two years, with several fumbled efforts at a resolution, the US agreed to cancel planned tariffs and rollback others immediately, without a similar commitment from China to lift tariffs it imposed on the US. "Pardon me if I don't pop champagne, but aside from a cessation of continued escalation, there is not much worth cheering," leading China expert Scott Kennedy said in an analysis of the agreement. "The costs have been substantial and far reaching, the benefits narrow and ephemeral." The US Trade Representative office said they expect to sign the phase one agreement in the first week of January, and issued a fact sheet highlighting key points, including enforcement provisions and improved protection for American technology. In addition, it includes a Chinese commitment to buy \$200 billion more in US goods and services over two years, USTR said. That would be a significant

increase: China imported just shy of \$190 billion in goods and services in 2017, so if the target is met it would cut the US trade deficit with China by a third. President Donald Trump has long railed against the trade imbalance, citing it as proof China is using distorting policies to gain an unfair advantage. Trump tweeted that Beijing "agreed to many structural changes and massive purchases of Agricultural Product, Energy, and Manufactured Goods, plus much more." Alliance for American Manufacturing President Scott Paul said agreeing to remove tariffs amounted to "giving away much of our leverage, while kicking the can down the road on the most meaningful trade issues with China." And trade economist Mary Lovely said the deal could only be viewed as a "partial win" which "didn't move the needle very much." "We were kind of on a brink, and we saw the negotiators reach a deal that pulled us back, and I think that is important," she said of the news Trump canceled the 15 percent tariffs on electronics that were due to hit Sunday. But the gains in the deal do not compensate for the damage to US farmers and businesses, she told reporters.

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

dual carriageway, high-speed and access-controlled motorway from Peshawar to Torkham border point with Afghanistan in a bid to promote economic development and ensure uplift of the areas adjoining the expressway and falling in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The project envisages public-private partnership and private financing for developing clusters of economic activity, economic zones and expressways.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Gourav Duva S/o Vishambhar Duva R/o G-6/282, Ground Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS KNK Marg, since **06.11.2019**. In this regard **DD No. 17-A dated 07.11.2019** has been registered at **PS. KNK Marg, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 34 years, Height: 5'6" ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Shirt, and Black Pant. Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No.: 011-270061294, 27061295
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Mob. No.: 8750870327
Fax No.: 011-24368639
DP/3503/RD/19

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To avert inconvenience to citizens, the Government on Saturday announced to convert up to 25 per cent of FASTag lanes at national highway toll plazas to hybrid lanes for a month. The hybrid lane will accept FASTag and other modes of payment. The government earlier had announced rollout of mandatory FASTag under electronic toll collection from December 1, which was later extended to December 15, 2019.

Adani Transmission gets Lol for project in Maha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The project 'Kharghar Vikhroli Transmission Pvt Ltd' comprises approximately 34 km of 400 kV and 220 kV transmission lines along with 400kV GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) Substation at Vikhroli in Mumbai. According to the statement, this will be the first ever 400 kV substation facility in Mumbai. The project is critical to Mumbai as the existing capacity of transmission corridor is not sufficient to carry further power into the city. It would enable additional power to be brought into the city, thus helping in meeting the future demand of Mumbai. Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) on Saturday said it has received a Letter of Intent for a power transmission project in Maharashtra. The Letter of Intent (LoI) to ATL has been awarded under a tariff based competitive bidding model from Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (MSETCL). "ATL has received the LoI from MSETCL to build, own, operate and maintain a transmission project in Maharashtra for a period of 35 years," a company statement said.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is among the top 10 nations as per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) which is based parameters like renewable power and energy use efficiency, Power Minister RK Singh said on Saturday. This assumes significance in view of India's resolve to reach 175 GW of clean energy capacity by 2022. The country has already achieved around 84 GW of clean energy capacity, including 32 GW of solar and 37 GW of wind energy.

At present, India's total installed power generation capacity is around 365 GW. "I am happy to share that as per CCPI report, released during COP 2019 at Madrid, India is ranked among the top 10 countries in CCPI, which was released after analysing four parameters, that is green house gases emission, renewable energy, climate change and energy use," Singh said while addressing the 29th National Energy Conservation Awards ceremony. The minister said 355 industrial units and other establishments have participated in the awards and have collectively achieved savings of Rs 5,283 crore by saving 105.66 billion units of electricity. This year, energy conservation was celebrated through week-long activities culminating in the National Energy Conservation Day on Saturday. Singh highlighted the importance of energy conservation in the country's sustainable development approach. He emphasised the need for taking measures in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions so as to minimise the adverse impact of climate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Office of the Executive Engineer (Distribution)

Jaipur Power Distribution Corporation Limited Electric Division Kathua
Email: xemrekhathua12@gmail.com
Extension Notice-01
In view of limited response, the last date for submission of e-bids of following e-NIT is hereby extended as per below mentioned details:
S.No.1 e-NIT No. :- e-NIT No. KED/23 of 2019-20 dated 03.12.2019
Name of work :- Creation of 250KVA Substation along with 11kV Line of Gov Degree College at Bani falling under the jurisdiction of Electric Division, Kathua (JPDC), on turnkey basis.
Last date for submission of e-Bids (Extended) :- 23.12.2019 01.00 P.M.
Opening of Technical and commercial bids :- 23.12.2019 01.00 P.M.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Distribution)
No. DP/19-107419 JPDC, Electric Division Kathua
Dated :- 14-12-2019

Chela Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Branch Office: Plot No.5, 2nd Floor, Opp Metro Pillar No.81, Pusha Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005
PUBLIC NOTICE
An advertisement was published under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 for the above mentioned company. In this advertisement of Symbolic Possession (For Immovable Property) on 28/11/2019 and Sale cum Auction Notice on dated 11/12/19 in hereby recall and stand cancel for the below mentioned property.
Property Address:- Property Admeasuring:- Entire Upper Ground Floor with 1/4th roof right of property bearing No 33/39 area measuring 145.44 sq.Yards. Situated in Model Town Delhi-110009. (Borrower Name-RAMA RANI, Loan A/c No-XOHEELD00001718711 & XOHEDES0002242525)
Auction of all remaining properties remains same and auction shall be done on the date, time and venue scheduled on 31/12/19. Sd/-
Place: Delhi-NCR (Authorised Officer)
Date: 15/12/2019
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

WESTERN RAILWAY

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

Not fair that I am being impeached: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The Democrats, he said were trivialising impeachment.

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

US Supreme Court to hear Trump tax return case next year

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

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

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

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

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

Boris Johnson goes north to celebrate election win

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Brexit election' raises hopes, fears in Northern Ireland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pak Court adjourns hearing in terror financing case against Saeed

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

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

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

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

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

The ATC court on Wednesday indicted Jammata-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 had told the court that founder of terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba and others were involved in terror financing case and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police had 'solid evidence' in this regard.

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

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

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

According to the CTD, investigation launched into financing matters of proscribed organisations - Jammata-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 Hague.

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

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

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

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

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

US response," Pompeo said in a statement.

"Iran must respect the sovereignty of its neighbours and immediately cease its provision of lethal aid and support to third parties in Iraq and throughout the region," he said. The United States has expressed mounting concern about the flurry of attacks on Iraqi bases used by US troops, several of which it has blamed on Iranian-backed Shiite paramilitary groups.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Thunberg calls for 'fight for tomorrow' at Italy protest

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

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

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

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

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

UN climate talks in limbo as rifts among countries remain

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bomb explosion in south Nepal home kills 3

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**

India start favourites against WI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

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



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

they did well in the series against Afghanistan recently.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAISEL FEATURES

Skipper Kieron Pollard, who has a rather modest record in the ODIs, will have to lead by example and provide the thrust in the slog overs.

Sheldon Cottrell will lead the Caribbean bowling attack and will need to strike early if the team hopes

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

Leggie Hayden Walsh Jr bowled

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

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

SQUADS

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

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

Mayank knows how to switch between formats

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

We are on mission to do better in ODIs: Pollard

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the eve of the first ODI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dhoni will play World T20: Bravo

FIANS ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Australia's lead balloons to 417

AFP ■ PERTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After the home side made 416 the Kiwis were dismissed for only 166 in their first innings as Australian pacesman 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 pacesman 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.



Ravi Shastri

Rahul 'serious keeping option' for T20 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"The rest would have done him a

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

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

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

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



KL Rahul arrives for training session

Have lot of respect for Sourav: Shastri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FROM THE INSIDE

The unending Baloch saga

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

2



4

Correct your weaknesses

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

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



TEXTILE JOURNEY THROUGH BENGAL

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

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

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

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

Ramayana with Kantha stitch work.

"Illustrations make for a *naksha* on Kantha which is the stitched layered fabric", explained Mahamaya. Kantha stitch is typically a long running stitch; however, there is innovation today and Herringbone, Satin, and Button stitches are also used. Browsing through her pile, I came across one that her grandmother had made, a 70 year old piece with natural colours.

Kantha is a way of storytelling through geometric patterns, figurative narratives, and floral illustrations. Mahamaya talks about her process and shares that she like to draw first on the fabric and then go by her instinct to fill colours into the piece of work. "Some of these works take years to make. Sometime I do the border and then another artisan fills the space inside. Reds and black were traditionally used but now there are more options in colours. I look for inspiration in other forms of art as well as in books and museums. During my mother's time, they used to pull out threads from old saris to embroider but now I use anchor thread. I also collaborate with other artisans like Kashmiri, who I have worked with for sixteen years. She is in the craft for tradition and it is a skill that gets her money as well".

Mahamaya has trained artists and taught them to preserve the art. Speaking of innovation, Mahamaya likes to experiment with the base fabric like cottons and tussars. There is a lot of scope where the artist could bring themselves in the work with experimentation within the technique. Some of her new projects include graphic inspiration and also a mix of techniques like applique. A new series is being developed under her, which is inspired from the panels of *Kamasutra*. Mahamaya shares that most of the works are commissioned art pieces such as the ones recently sold to Reliance Foundation at the Swadeshi Bazaar, but a lot of orders in the form of wearable art such as *dupattas* or bed linen keep the workshop running.

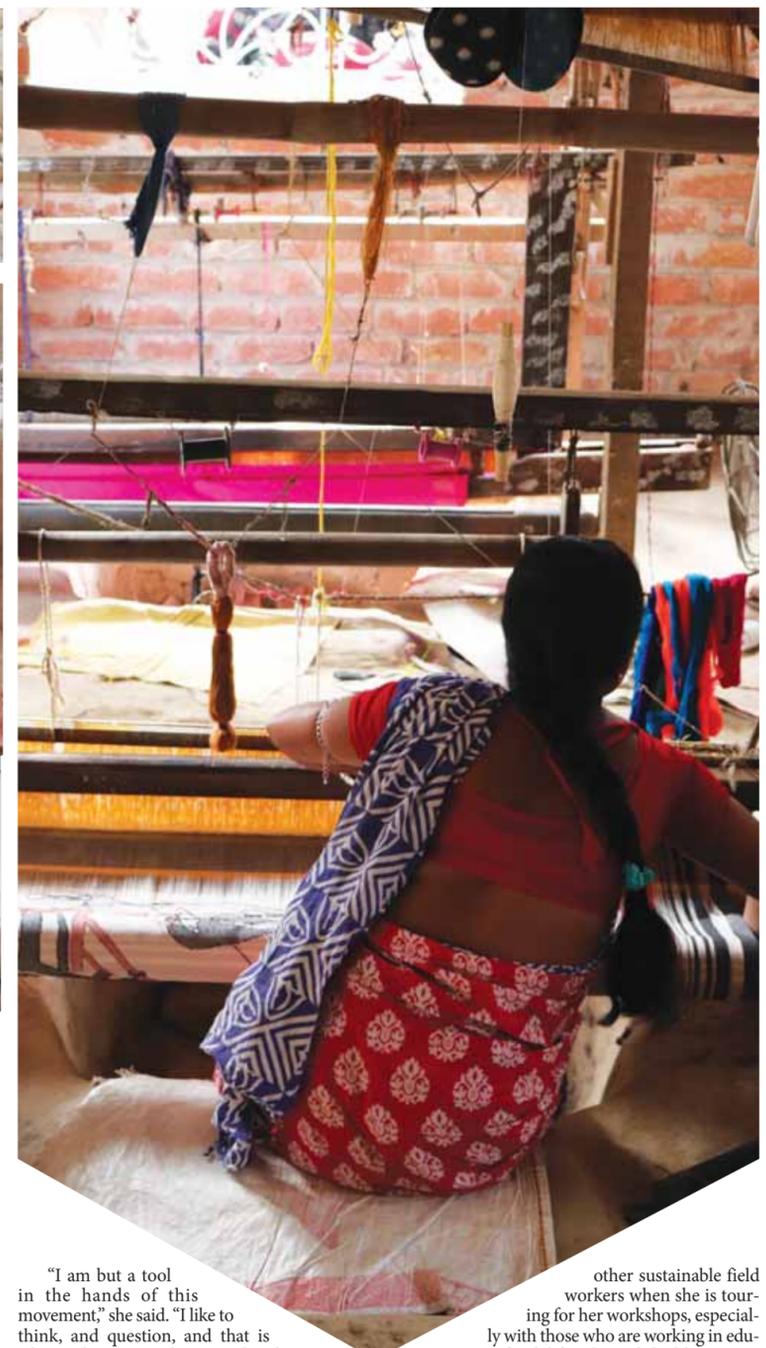
The textile documentation trip to Kolkata would be incomplete without a meeting with Namrata, Founder of Biome Conscious Textiles. Her story of entrepreneurship came together as she was looking out of the window of life for inspiration to make her financially independent while also staying true to her values. She was at that time questioning consumerism. So, there she was, with no prior experience in business other than having some entrepreneurial DNA by virtue of belonging to the Rajasthani Marwari community. Then, she encountered someone who was invested in herbal dyeing process for almost a decade. Naturally, it was the opportunity she was waiting for, to work in a social impact space through the world of clothing and fashion that she understood very well ever since her childhood. She finally found a product in her hands that was in harmony with nature and did not promote consumerism.



Au Naturelle

Indigo process that Biome follows and shares at workshops:

Take 2 parts of refined lime powder and mix some warm water and stir for almost 10 minutes. Now add 1 part of indigo sweetened powder and mix slowly and cover, removing all oxygen supply and light exposure for 3-4 hours. Open and check if the top is metallic purple and bottom is green. If yes, your indigo is active, alive and ready to go. Dilute if needed and put your fabric inside. Let it soak the dye, and as you bring it out, it magically comes out green turning blue on exposure to sun's light and oxygen. In time, it's bright blue. Wash it after it's dry with a mild soap and rinse in vinegar water and dry again. Ready to wear!



"I am but a tool in the hands of this movement," she said. "I like to think, and question, and that is what makes me act the way I do. I love clothes but not the indulgence".

Namrata believes that clothes are a symbol of need, comfort, artistic expression, dignity, celebration, attraction, and more but they must not become the reason for environmental degradation and human exploitation. Her organisation represents the idea of a communiqué — of a clean present and a cleaner future that is invested in the welfare of everyone involved in the process.

Working with bio-degradable products is what keeps her going ahead in her journey. Endorsing, embracing and collaborating with other like-minded people are her sources of joy. Biome makes natural-dyed fabrics and customised garments. It identifies with the movement of integrating with nature. As part of that process, Biome also sells natural dyes and Namrata travels with natural dyeing workshops throughout the country.

She believes that work should not be for one person's fancy but instead should be collaborative and 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



ARNOLD BENNETT, THE AUTHOR OF *THE OLD WIVES' TALE* AND *CLAYHANGER*, HAS AN OMELETTE NAMED AFTER HIM. THE OMELETTE WAS INVENTED AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL WHERE BENNETT OFTEN STAYED

With his keen understanding of the region, the author traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of the princely state of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The unending struggle of the Baloch

The statement by General Rawat, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is controlled by terrorists and Gilgit-Baltistan and POK have been under illegal occupation of Pakistan is to be noted seriously. A perusal of history shows that many such provinces in the North West region as well as North East region of the country were part of India and the country was forced to surrender the rights over them as part of a ploy by the British rulers.

One such independent country that existed during the colonial rule of the British and enjoyed the status of a sovereign nation was Balochistan. Ironically, nothing much has been written or taught in India about Balochistan, its glorious past and communal amity (which is in stark contrast to that of Pakistan). One of the TV news channels in Kerala had telecast a programme about Hinglaj Mata Temple in Balochistan which is being preserved with utmost care by the tribal community. Every year, the Mandir draws thousands of Indian devotees to this country and the pilgrims are treated with respect by the tribal communities. In modern times, the term Balochistan was heard in the Indian narrative for the first time in 2009 when the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani that India was doing nothing in Balochistan. "Indeed nor should it be doing anything there," the economist-turned-politician is reported to have said in the joint statement with Gilani issued on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in Egypt.

An attempt has been made to unravel the hitherto untold and unpublished details about Balochistan. "Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum" authored by Tilak Devasher, a former senior official of the Cabinet Secretariat. Devasher is an authority on Pakistani politics which could be understood from his first book "Pakistan At The Helm", published by HarperCollins. His lucid style and articulation are the reasons why readers prefer his works. Devasher tells the required facts in a straightforward manner. His intentions are clear because he wants people to get enlightened and educated. The style is as elegant as Devasher himself.

The author takes the readers straight to Balochistan and gives us



some important facts which would kindle passion in the mind to know more about the subject. The population of Pakistan is 21 crore while that of Balochistan is 1.23 crore. Balochistan constitutes 44 per cent of Pakistan's landmass. This is just one of the reasons behind Pakistan's avarice for this once sovereign country. Balochistan is a treasure house of minerals and energy resources. "Had there been no Balochistan, there would not have been any Pakistan," felt the British rulers who had manipulated the geo-politics of the region before they lowered the Union Jack and gave way to the national flags.

The British colonialists wanted to manipulate and influence the sub-continent by remote controlling from London. They had a fear that the ever increasing influence of the then Soviet Union was detrimental to their political, commercial and other strategic

interests. Hence they felt the need to have a region, a long strip from the Gilgit to Balochistan administered directly by the Britain. This was what suggested by a British army officer R C Money in charge of strategic planning in India during the period.

"However by 1947, the British felt that instead of locating a base in a weak Balochistan, such a base could be established in Pakistan that was more than willing to accommodate the British. Hence it was in British interests to ensure that Balochistan was kept within Pakistan and did not become an independent entity," writes Devasher (Page 85).

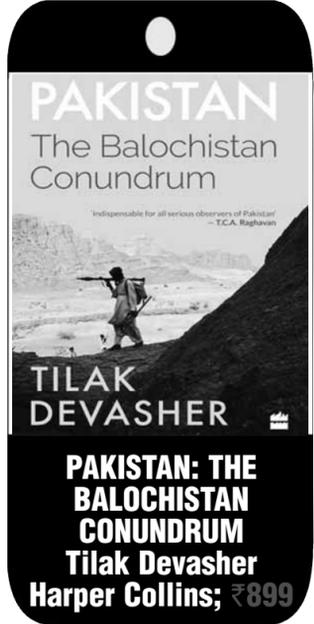
As per various treaties entered into by the then rulers of the princely State of Balochistan (the Khans of Kalat) with the British government, the former had been assured by the colonial masters that Balochistan would remain a

sovereign country with no obligation of any kind either to India or Pakistan. What Devasher has done is to bring to light the palace coup staged in Kalat with the political script authored in the corridors of power in Lahore, New Delhi and London. It shocks us and further embarrasses as because it was another *faux pas* committed by Jawaharlal Nehru which resulted in Mohammed Ali Jinnah annexing Balochistan to Pakistan.

This backstabbing came within weeks of Jinnah issuing a statement declaring that "the Government of Pakistan recognises Kalat as an independent sovereign State, in treaty relations with British government with a status different from that of Indian States." Needless to tell, Jinnah's statement was issued immediately after a well publicised meeting the former had with the Khan of Kalat and his aides.

Jinnah was a visionary as well as an Islamic fundamentalist. As on date, '36 per cent of Pakistan's total current natural gas production, as also reserves of coal, gold, copper, silver, platinum, aluminium and uranium are in Balochistan. Reko Diq, Saindak, Sui and Chamalang produce a wealth of resources like copper, gold, natural gas, coal and other minerals. Reko Diq is a copper and gold mine in Chagai district with an estimated mineral resource of at least 54 billion pounds of copper and 41 million ounces of gold,' writes Devasher. All these details establish the fact that Pakistan without Balochistan is a big zero. Jinnah and the subsequent rulers of Pakistan have made use of all games in the trick to keep the people of Balochistan in perpetual poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. This is what the Grand Old Party did in India too.

Devasher has revealed the details of



how the then Prime Minister Nehru rejected and refused the offer from the Khan of Kalat to merge with India. What the author has stated in pages 81 and 82 is sufficient to expose the then Prime Minister's inefficiency, failure to read the writing on the wall and his larger than life image hyped up by the media.

This book is a must read for all those who are interested in the history of the sub-continent, prior to and after the exit of the British rulers lest we are cheated by manipulated and distorted history. Balochistan is waiting for India. India's safety and security could be ensured only through the liberation of Balochistan and Tilak Devasher is an author who has to be taken seriously by our policy makers and those who want to excel in the game of diplomacy.

While reading the book, what crossed the mind was the football teams from Balochistan, namely Makran United and Makran Sports Club which used to figure in the Sait Nagjee Football Tournament which was held at Kozhikode in Kerala. They were favorites of Malabar's football lovers. Balochistan is loved by people who know about the country.

NEW ARRIVALS

KHANTASTIC: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BOLLYWOOD'S TRIO
Sanjukta Nandy
Rupa, ₹295

Did Shah Rukh Khan reject *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*? Did Amir Khan audition for *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*? Was Salman Khan's voice dubbed by another in *Maine Pyar Kiya*? Did Salman's and Amir's film rejections give Shah Rukh Bollywood a platter? KHANTastic answers all these questions. Destiny binds together this charismatic trio. Three different, yet magnetic personalities—they form the three points of the invisible Bandra Triangle in Mumbai.

NAKED
Papa CJ
Westland, ₹499

Papa CJ is able to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. And then destroy it. Only to rise again like a phoenix. As Papa CJ lays bare his life, from the streets of Calcutta to the University of Oxford and stages across the world, you will bask in nostalgia, laugh your guts out, feel your heart ache, and find a new lens with which to look at your own life. A lens that allows you, like Papa CJ, to always see the positive. And of course, the funny.

PAPER MOON
Rehana Munir
HarperCollins India, ₹299

When her estranged father passes away, Fiza, fresh out of college, discovers that he has left her a tidy sum in the hope that she will open a bookshop... Overnight, Fiza's placid life is thrown into a whirl of decor decisions and book-buying sprees, unconventional staff and colourful patrons, small pleasures and little heartbreaks, as the store — Paper Moon — begins to take shape in a charming, old Bandra mansion...

In a refreshing departure from stereotypical portrayals of muslim women, their helplessness and ignorance, the book *Resilience: Stories of Muslim Women* explores the lives of 11 women who fought against all odds to shine, once they got the opportunity to study in a tiny adult education centre. The author, Shubha Menon, has documented life of girls and women of Nizamuddin Basti, Delhi, in a manner that makes the reader a partner in her adventure. The reader is taken through the winding *gullies*, narrow staircases and tottering houses, right into the homes of the girls.

The Seher Centre was an experiment in education started by social activist Shabnam Hashmi. At the time, Shabnam herself was a young girl studying in Russia. She was home for the summer holidays and went with a friend to Nizamuddin Basti to volunteer as a teacher for young girls. When it was time for her to go back to Russia, two of the girls begged her not to, as they had seen hope in their lives after she had started teaching them. Shabnam could not turn her back on the girls. She stayed back and started the Seher Education Centre. From 1980 to 1985, about 400 girls studied in the Centre. The book encompasses the stories of 11 girls whose stories unfold one by one.

The girls' stories are poignant and real. There is Farida, who started wearing a burqa at 9, got married at 12 and was a mother of two, divorced and abandoned by 16. Today, she runs a non-profit, teaching other young girls like her. Mussarrat, who was virtually a prisoner in her own home, forced to do domestic chores all day. She is now a health supervisor with the Aga Khan Foundation. And Parveen, who was turned away from the Gandhi residence because she

Hope lives behind the veil

Resilience is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. It brings out stories untold. There are so many layers to examine, writes JAYSHREE M SUNDAR



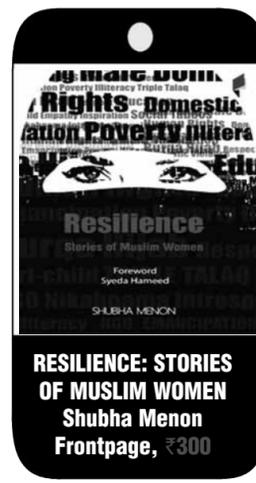
couldn't write her name in the entrance register. Today she a Sewa Dal worker and political voice for a political party. The stories of Syeda, Asma, Ishrat, Shahjahan, Najma and Ayesha also show the transformation that the Seher Centre brought about.

The writer recreates the tiny room where classes were held. We learn about the rivalry between the girls, their favourite teachers and how their thoughts are gradually changed, till from burqa-clad silent citizens they become agents of change in their own right. We also learn about the various forces at play in the *basti*, those that opposed girls education. There are the elders

of the *basti* who disapprove of girls going to school. There are the Pirzadas who want Shabnam to teach their kids exclusively because they do not want their children to share space with lowly 'Ghosis'. There are opposing forces in the *basti* and old mores are at loggerheads with new thinking. The Shah Bano case is at the centre of this dichotomy. The author dwells upon the case at some length.

The writer has included conversations with eminent, educated Muslim women — Syeda Hameed, Warisha Farasat, Zarina Bhatti, Seema Mustafa, Noor Zaheer — who talk about the state of Muslim women in the country. These conversations

are a good counterpoint to the conversations with the Seher girls. The Markaz versus the Dargah is another contradiction of the *basti*. The Markaz propagates pristine orthodox Islam which is strident and austere. The author does not deride one practice at the cost of the other. Their parallel existence may occasionally clash but seldom becomes a major flare-up. The reader is gently led through this labyrinth of contradictions and incongruities which are both literary and figurative. A hidden world is revealed in easy flowing prose. What gives the book its unique flavour is the anecdotes and tales about the Nizamuddin Basti, the *dargah*, the *Auliya*, the



graves, monuments, etc. The book is full of interesting details that lend colour to the stories of the girls. It was not just the old and new that were clashing in the *basti*. There was Shabnam Hashmi herself, a communist-atheist, ultra-liberal rebel of sorts. She never wore a burqa and sported short hair and spectacles. Just the way she looked, raised the red flag for many in the *basti*. Subjects like sex, reproductive rights, gender parity, taboo for Basti dwellers, were freely discussed in the Seher Centre. Shabnam's total lack of fear against a menacing, threatening phalanx of Basti old men, guardians and gatekeepers of the

'izzat' of their women and girls, was cause for alarm. Girls, who were not allowed to uncover their heads in their own homes or sit on a chair in front of their elders, began to learn alphabet of rights. The Seher teachers who included Shabnam's mother and sister, were berated because of the fear that they would make the girls 'azaad' and 'la mazhab'. Underlying this popular slogan verbiage was the larger fear that *Basti* women may begin to think and assert their rights.

This book brings out the unique world of the Nizamuddin Basti. One which you may not find on a map. Where, in the by lanes of crowded homes with limited means women broke out of the shackles of stereotypical roles and fearlessly fought their way to an education. Where women helped women. The book has interesting anecdotes about the ghosts that coexist with human beings there and the sounds of urdu, the music from the *dargah*, and the fragrance of *kebabs* which create the unique atmosphere of this area.

Resilience is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. There are so many layers to examine. And, Seher comes out as a unique experiment, which not only transformed all those women who studied there but their future generations.

The writer is a senior advertising professional and a visiting professor at B-schools

What do Iraqi protesters strive for?

Iraq has once again descended into an abyss. Since the downfall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, the country has not witnessed peace for almost two decades now. Modern Iraq was established in 1932 from the amalgamation of three provinces of Baghdad, Basra and Mosul that formed Mesopotamia. This new country was primarily centred around tribes purely external to the main city centres. Thus from the very beginning, Mesopotamia was vulnerable to both security and unity.

The Ottomans overestimated their ability to control Iraq and did not emphasise on domestic development and the existing tribal structures. Like many other ancient empires, the Ottomans were forging ahead with the concept of "the strong do what they want, they have the power to do" and thus committed remarkable errors in their handling of the West Asian sojourn. What historians say is that the Ottomans failed to understand the existing cultural, ideological and ethnic divisions existing in the Mesopotamian region. From 1299 to 1921, the mighty Ottomans ruled this region and lost it during the First World War. And henceforth, the British and the French established the political boundaries of Iraq, bordering the Persian Gulf between Iran and Kuwait.

In 1920, the UK was awarded a League of Nations mandate over Iraq. This heralded a western style governance structure in Iraq. In 2014, Tim Marshall described the geographical division of this region in his book, *Prisoners of Geography* this way: "When the Ottoman Empire began to collapse, the British and the French had a different idea. In 1916, British diplomat Colonel Sir Mark Sykes took a grease pencil and drew a crude line across a map of West Asia. It ran from Haifa on the Mediterranean, what is



now Israel, to Kirkuk now in Iraq in the northeast. It became the basis of his secret agreement with his French counterpart Francois Georges Picot to divide the region into two spheres of influence. North of the line was to be under French control, south of it under British hegemony."

This grease pencil drawn boundary lacked the acknowledgement of all the existing demographic arrangement of the region, which later came to be known as the historic Sykes-Picot Agreement. This arbitrary demarcation of boundaries of states in West Asia brought complete anarchy to the entire region. Clearly, all the states that were created by the Sykes-Picot were not based on the logic of socio-economically driven conditions but purely out of the ruins of the empires. Thus the competing aspirations of different communities and ethnic groups could not be fused into a melt-

ing pot and, hence, schism has been remained as a potent anomaly in Iraq and the rest of West Asia.

The current crisis in Iraq has emerged due to entrenched corruption in public offices and the rising gap between the elites and the ordinary citizens. The demonstrations which started since October 1 have already taken more than 400 lives of ordinary Iraqi citizens. Probably the international community is too used to hear Iraqis being killed in huge numbers, whether it was under the horrific Saddam regime, the US-occupied Iraq or under their own leadership in the post-Baathist era. Today the young protesters highlight the way the Adel Abdul Mahdi Government made appointments to Government services on ethnic lines or sectarian quotas which is popularly known as "Muhassasa" in Iraq.

The aggrieved citizens air their anguish that this spoils

system is sharpening the divides among the Shias, Sunnis, the Kurds and the rest of the ethnic minorities across Iraq and bringing no benefit to the ordinary folks. But definitely a small section of the party sympathisers, supporters and cronies extract rich benefits from the Government.

Since the departure of the US forces, the youth of the country has been utterly frustrated with the façade of reforms and with the political class who promised but failed to deliver the basics and introduce much-needed reforms in public offices.

However, what is worrying the global community is that this saga of mass demonstrations is purely leaderless. The protesters are not backed by any organisational structures and ideological narratives. Only common chord among them is a strong sentiment of anti-Government agenda. Therefore, the guardians of

end of Iraq".

We need to enquire into the recent political history of Iraq to find out the malaise that is killing the country today. It all started with the deposition of the Saddam rule and the American invasion of Iraq. Besides, subsequent political upheavals accompanied by regime changes in the West Asia and fast-changing global political scenario had a strong impact on the future course of action in Iraq. Saddam was no more a nincompoop, as the western leaders thought, as he was able to maintain a stable political rule for more than two decades. Of course his authoritarian streak spearheaded the systematic persecution of the minorities and fast marginalisation of the majority Shias.

In addition to Sunni-Shia divide, the third major political player in Iraq is the Kurds, mainly concentrated in the north and north-eastern provinces of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk and their surrounding areas. The Kurdish people inhabit a swath of land through northern Iraq, Syria, Iran and Turkey. They are primarily a people without their own homeland, a major victim of the Sykes-Picot deal.

The way the global liberal order is crumbling under the leadership of Donald Trump, the world could hardly look for any respite from the volatile political atmosphere raging in West Asia. With the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq in 2011, gradually the country has fallen into a complete anarchy. And this has happened because

Washington wanted to dislodge the erstwhile political regime, secret forces and security forces of the Saddam era. The coming of a Shia regime, after the fall of Saddam, has completely changed the power structure of almost three decades of Sunni political establishment, its entitlements and its beneficiaries. Thus many of the elite guards, offi-

cers and former army commanders have quietly joined the Islamic State, an affiliate of the al-Qaeda.

The US Army in Iraq knew very well that these officers joined various insurgent groups and offered tactical support to the al-Qaeda.

What could be seen from the ruins of Saddam empire is a pure chaos. And in this anomie has brought more differences and violence back to the Iraqi society. Much beyond these, Iraq has become a playground for many big powers, such as Iran and the US.

Iran's influence in Iraq is of great importance. But in the last few months, this Iranian led Shia coalition has been largely fractious as the Government forces killed Shias who were demanding better social services, mainly basic needs. It is coming out in public space that Iran is seriously trying to repress the civil rebellion in Iraq. Its elite Quds Force, the foreign arm of the Revolutionary Guard in Iran, view these protests as masterminded by foreign hands. The outcome of the counterproductive attempts by the Iranian backed forces to repress the protesters may trigger a new Arab Spring to the entire West Asia in the days to come.

The impending departure of Mahdi is symbolic victory of the protesters. But unfortunately too many people were killed and it could be regarded as a mass uprising of the Shia community against their own leadership. Mahdi has proved himself to be an ineffectual leader.

It seems the ruling elite of Iraq are simply interested in sticking to power at any cost. Therefore, it is truly doubtful whether the demands of the protesters for sweeping changes in the Iraqi political system could be agreed upon by the opportunist leadership.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

What is worrying the global community is that the saga of mass demonstrations in Iraq is leaderless. The protesters are not backed by any organisational structures and ideological narratives. The only common chord among them is a strong sentiment of anti-Government agenda



MAKHAN SALKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Iraq protests: A terrible political-economic predicament

Post-Saddam Iraq has graduated from the demands and desires of the generations which felt satisfied with whatever the Government gave them. The younger generation knows that the exchequer is earning enough revenue from oil but the Government is unwilling to spend the same for their welfare. Till the Government delivers on its promises, there is no end to protests in Iraq

The world witnessed a spate of violent protests in Iraq, Lebanon, Hong Kong and Chile in the last few months. However, the Iraqi protests stand out in terms of intensity of violence: over 300 young protesters have been killed and thousand others injured in the crackdown by the Government security forces. After the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003, it has been the largest popular demonstration across Iraq, mainly in Shia south.

Protesters have blamed the successive Governments for large-scale unemployment, rampant corruption, and poor civic services, despite the exchequer getting easy revenue from the lucrative oil businesses. However, the authorities claim that Iraq does not get reasonable chunk of its share from the complex and unfair system of international oil markets to revive its fractured economy. Majority of the people lack access to adequate healthcare, schooling, water or power supplies as the promises made by successive Governments have remained unfulfilled. According to a World Bank report, nearly three-fifths of its 40 million people live on less than \$6 a day. The Iraqi protesters, primarily comprising the economic poor class, are venting their anger against some filthy rich political leaders and businessmen who are pillaging the country's wealth, pushing the commoners into further poverty.

The trigger for the latest round of protests was the news of demotion of Lieutenant General Abdul Wahhab al-Saadi, the Commander of the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Force (ICTF). He gained wide popularity during the anti-ISIS military campaign and became a national hero. Protests in Baghdad jog the memory of



Anti-Government protesters gather in Tahrir Square, Baghdad on November 29. Celebrations erupted following the announcement of resignation by Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi AP

Arab Spring in 2011, where the protesters had swarmed the streets in the Arab world. The year-long Prime Minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi, has witnessed the most tumultuous phase of his tenure as protesters are demanding his immediate removal from office and fresh elections.

Sistani calls for reform

The initial response of the Baghdad authorities, using unnecessary lethal force, was shockingly unscrupulous that made matters worse. Iraq's most revered Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussaini al-Sistani, who holds unprece-

dent moral authority among the Shia believers, had called upon the ruling clique to initiate major political reforms. He issued the statement through his representative in a Friday prayer gathering. He urged, "The marjiayya (Shia religious authority) has made clear its position calling for reform in the last Friday sermon. It stressed that the demonstrations must be peaceful and free from violence and vandalism. It also underlined the sanctity of Iraqi blood, and the need for political forces to respond to the rightful demands of protesters." While influential Shia leader Sayyid Moqtada al-Sadr too called for reforms and

urged protesters to continue to press for their demands.

Show of solidarity

One of the significant features of the anti-governmental protests in Iraq is that it has an element of cross-sectarian or ethnic identity i.e. Iraqi nationalism. Unlike previous protests, symbols of Shia piety have not taken a central place in the demonstrations which signifies the gravity of the demands which entirely stick to its legitimate socio-economic demands. It reflects the growing disenchantment of Iraqi people towards the religious parties who have been ruling

for 16 years. It is an alarming curve for the ruling elites and they need to pay heed to the people's voice. It also signifies a new turn of events in country's beleaguered history which only experienced repression by ruthless dictators and started craving for the idea of social justice and citizenship. However, despite having a broad nature of the protests largely participated by young and poor social class from Shia background, the Sunni and Kurdish areas haven't extended solidarity with the protesters. Sunni and Kurdish leaderships are suspicious that any break in the status quo will

dismantle their positions in the power structure what they are enjoying in the unofficial mohassasa system (confessional system) introduced by the Americans after 2003.

External factors

There is no denying the fact that after the US occupation, the CPA-led administration had created such mayhem in the country. The menace of terrorism and sectarianism gained enormous foothold among multi-confessional society. There is an ample evidence of external intervention by regional actors in fomenting political unrest in Iraq. The attacks on Iranian consulates and embassy substantiate this argument. Since 2003, arch rival Iran has turned Iraq's staunchest ally.

Iran's ties with Shia political groups which have been at the helm of power irked the regional actors led by Saudi Arabia, and they perceived it as the revival of Shia politics in West Asian and North African (WANA) region. Iran's role in repulsing the rise of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) further brought these two neighbours closer. Most of the Iran-backed factions like Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Saraya al-Salam, Badr Corps, Harkat Hezbollah al-Nojaba constitute the backbone of Hashd al-Shabi (Popular Mobilisation Forces, PMF), an umbrella group of militias which came into existence after the ISIS' blitzkrieg attacks, further alarmed the US, Israel and other regional powers. Displaying extraordinary courage in countering the ISIS tide, PMF achieved pre-eminence in the society. By virtue of its popularity, the political bloc of PMF, called al-Itilaf al-Fatah (Conquest Alliance) led by Hadi Amiri, secured a sizeable chunk of

seats in the parliamentary elections last year. However, al-Hashd has kept restraint despite anti-social elements camouflaging into the crowd to sabotage the peaceful protests. However it had vowed to crush any coup attempt with malicious intent.

Tuk tuk, a vehicle of change: Indian connection

There is a little Indian connection with the ongoing protests in Iraq i.e. Tuk-Tuk. The three-wheeled Tuk-Tuk, a word referred in common parlance to autorickshaw has its origin in India. It was being manufactured by a prominent automobile company Baja Auto and exported to Iraq. It functions as frontline ambulances, ferry protesters and supplies necessary stuff. The most interesting part is that some activists started a tabloid named after it in order to circumvent information blackout by authorities. Iraq's once marginalised Tuk-Tuk drivers took a centre stage in Iraq and the vehicle become a symbol of resistance called 'Markabat al-Thawra' (vehicle of revolution).

Despite the resignation of the Prime Minister, people are still angry and protests will go on until new political and economic reforms are introduced. But what comes after these demonstrations will not be the same as before. Iraq is going through a phenomenal phase. The new opposition that is emerging can play an important role to lead status quo towards change. The authorities should initiate a process for structural changes and must pay heed to their legitimate demands.

(The writer is a PhD student at Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)



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

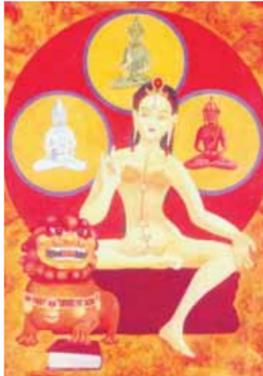
MADHU KOTIYA



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.

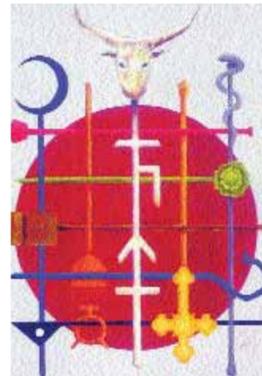
Lucky number 33
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Wednesday



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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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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