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WORLD 12 20 DEAD AS BOMBS TARGET SUNDAY MASS IN PHILIPPINES

SPORT 16 SAINA WINS INDONESIA MASTERS TITLE

BHUBANESWAR, MONDAY JANUARY 28, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3 the pione

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I CAN DO MORE

THAN COMEDY: **SHREYAS** 13 VIVACITY

CAPSULE

TRAIN 18 NAMED VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS New Delhi: Acknowledging its made-in-India status, the Indian Railways has named the indigenously manufactured semi-fast Train 18 as Vande Bharat Express, which will ply

AGRI PACKAGE FOR FARMERS LIKELY TODAY

from Delhi to Varanasi.

Monday is likely to approve a package for farmers to boost their income and address distress in the farm sector, sources said, adding that the move will come ahead of the general elections.

LEFT GOVT DISRESPECTS KERALA CULTURE: MODI

Thrissur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lashed out at the CPI(M)-led Government in Kerala and said the Sabarimala issue had Government is trying to disrespect the Kerala culture

INCREASE INSTITUTIONS OF EMINENCE TO 30: PANEL

New Delhi: The Empowered Expert Committee set by the HRD Ministry has recomment to increase the number of Institutions of Eminence to 30

Queer turn in CBI probe against Kochhars

Agency shifts IO, orders enquiry into his role in leak of information about raids

RAKESH K SINGH NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Chanda Kochhar graft}}_{\text{case took a curious turn on Sunday with the CBI claiming}}$ that it transferred investigating officer Sudhanshu Dhar Mishra to Ranchi after a "discreet' enquiry against Mishra sug-gested his role in leaking information about the searches against the accused persons. Following this, the searches were conducted after the charge was given to new investigating officer Mohit Gupta, agency sources said.

Mishra was transferred a day after he registered the FIR on January 22 against Chanda Kochhar, her husband Deepak Kochhar and Videocon Group MD Venugopal Dhoot for graft and criminal conspiracy. Gupta took the charge on January 23 and the searches were conand the searches were con-

ducted the next day.

CBI officials said after a review some time ago, the pre-liminary enquiry (PE) was sped up and was converted into regular case. Immediately after the registration of the case,



the probe officials proposed searches on the premises of the accused persons, the officials

However, a discreet enquiry was conducted as it was suspected that there was a

Riddle wrapped in enigma

- But the IO could have been made a scapegoat for the delay in converting PE into a regular case as the question remains unanswered as to why other senior officers in the supervisory loop kept silent over the procrastination
- Another question that suspected of leaking the information then why he was allowed to file the FIR especially when the agency delaying the preliminary

regarding searches being leaked, agency officials claimed.
"A discreet enquiry was conducted and role of the Superintendent of Police and IO in the ICICI loan scam case. Sudhanshu Dhar Mishra, was

strongly suspected. Hence he has been transferred pending detailed enquiry in the matter, a CBI official said.

"ICICI Bank case is one of the very important cases the total was pending without progress, claimed an agency official, adding, the role of Mishra and others, if any, in "keeping the PE pending" is also being looked into.

Interestingly, the CBI did

not issue any formal statement on the controversy surrounding Mishra's transfer.

The CBI sources sought to interest sought to justify the transfer blaming Mishra for keeping the pre-liminary enquiry pending without any reasons. But Mishra could have been made a scapegoat for the delay as the question remains unanswered as to why other senior officers in the supervisory loop kept silent over the procrastination in converting the PE into a regular case. Senior officials cannot escape responsibility for the delay in conversion of the preliminary enquiry into a regu-

and every one can see the status of a particular case at the click of a button, the sources further said.

Another question that mains unanswered by the CBI is that if Mishra was suspected of leaking the informa-tion then why he was allowed to file the FIR especially when the agency had inputs on his role in delaying the preliminary

enquiry.

The officials also did not elaborate on the name of officials who cleared the registration of the FIR in the ICICI loan fraud case.

The agency had on January 24 conducted searches on the premises of Videocon Group in Mumbai and offices of Nupower Renewables and Supreme Powers in Mumbai and Aurangabad. Nupower Renewables and Supreme Powers are controlled by Chanda Kochhar's husband Deepak Kochhar.
The FIR alleged that dur-

Kochhar as MD of ICICI, six

Bulandshahr slain cop's phone

cleared for Videocon Group and its associated companies in which in two cases she herself was on the sanctioning com-

In its FIR, the CBI has also named several top bankers, including the present CEO of ICICI Bank Sandeep Baxi, alleging that they were also members of the sanctioning committees to give loan to Videocon Videocon.

The role of Chairman of New Development Bank KV Kamath, Goldman Sachs India chairman Sonjoy Chatterjee, Standard Chartered Bank CEO Zarin Daruwala, Tata Capital head Rajiv Sabharwal and Tata Capital senior advisor Homi Khusrokhan need to be investigated, according to the FIR.

The names of these bankers figure in the FIR that was registered after a year-long

Following reports of the ICICI case FIR, former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley advised the CBI against "investigative

E-rickshaws seize power, cost discoms ₹150cr/year

Electricity theft cases high as only 1/4 of 1 lakh e-ricks registered

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Power distribution companies in the national Capital are putting the annual loss at approximately ₹150 crore due organised theft of electricity for charging e-rickshaws.

Power experts and discom sources said that the organised racket of power theft is being run due to lack of proper charging facilities in the city, especially in areas close to metro stations.

As per estimates, there are more than one lakh e-rickshaws plying on the city roads and only one-fourth of them are registered, despite a subsidy scheme provided to them by the Government

the Government.
"Considering that most of the e-rickshaws are not registered, the loss due to charging through illegal connections is around ₹150 crore," they said.

There are three power distribution companies — BYPL and BRPL of BSES, and Tata Power Delhi Dsitribution (TPDDL) — that supply elec-

tricity in Delhi.
"We are committed to eradicate the menace of power theft and keeping a close watch on the illegal e-charging set-ups in the area of distribution. I areas where power theft for e-rickshaw charging is "ram-systems at distribution trans-



ers to take legitimate connections and charge their vehicles in a legitimate and safe man-ner," TPDDL CEO Sanjay Banga told PTI.
On an average, an e-rick-

shaw consumes around 7-10 units per day. This comes to about 2,500-3,600 units per erickshaw per annum. Power theft is at its peak at night due to bulk charging at facilities set up by the racketeers, discom ources said.

There are scores of areas across the city where such rackets operate, although police help is sought whenever they are detected, added the sources

Sangam Vihar, Kalkaji, Tughlakabad, Sarai Kale khan, Dakshin Puri, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, Madipur, Seelampur, Yamuna Vihar, Shastri Park, Karawal Nagar, Mustafabad, Nand Nagri, Karol Bagh, Keekarwala Keshampuram, Civil Lines are some

"Most of these e-rickshaws "Most of these e-rickshaws are charged in batches as part of an organised illegal network controlled by local strongmen. The e-rickshaw owners pay fixed money in the range of ₹100 to ₹150 per day to the "parking and charging" mafia. This comes down to ₹ 50 per e-rickshaw if charged per e-rickshaw if charged through a legal connection," they claimed.

In the latest tariff order, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has fixed the rate of ₹5.50 per unit for e-rickshaw charging. A TPDDL spokesper-son said illegal charging of erickshaws is a "big menace" and results in approximately 40 lakh KWh of power loss every year to the company that sup-plies electricity to north and northwest parts of the city.

The company is employing technology to track power theft in its area of distribution and has installed AMR (Automated

SC puts off Ayodhya hearing as Justice **Bobde not available**

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Sunday cancelled the January 29 hearing of Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute case due to non-availability of one of the judges of the five-judge Constitution Bench hearing the matter causing further delay in settling the politically

sensitive issue.

"The sitting of the Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, stands cancelled as Justice SA Bobde will not be available on January 29," said a notice issued by the Supreme

Court registry.

"Take notice that due to non-availability of Justice SA Bobde on January 29, 2019 (Tuesday), sitting of Constitution Bench in Chief Justice's court, comprising the Chief Justice, Justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and SA Nazeer,

stands cancelled.
"Therefore, Constitution Bench matter will not be taken up for hearing," the notice stated.

The five-judge Bench was re-constituted on January 25 as Justice UU Lalit, who was a member of the original Bench, had recused himself from hearing the matter. When the new Bench was constituted. Justice NV Ramana was also excluded from the re-constituted



No reason was cited for the exclusion of Justice Ramana in the new Constitution Bench. In the fresh Bench, justices Bhushan and Nazeer made a comeback to hear the matter.

Both of them were part of an earlier Bench headed by then CJI Dipak Misra (now retired). It had on September 27, 2018, refused to refer to a five-judge Constitution Bench the reconsideration of the observation in its 1994 judgment that a mosque was not

integral to Islam.
While Misra and Bhushan
had said it has to find out the context in which the five-judge Bench had delivered the 1994 judgment, Justice Nazeer had given a minority verdict disagreeing with the two judges. Nazeer had said whether a mosque is integral to Islam has to be decided considering reli-gious belief which requires

On January 10, Justice Lalit had recused himself after expressing disinclination to participate in the hearing any further as he had appeared as a lawyer for former Uttar | could be kept hidden at Natt's Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh in a related matter Singh in a related matter

detailed consideration.

found in key accused's house **Prashant Natt who** allegedly shot the inspector is in jail

since December 18

PTI MEERUT

The official mobile phone of an inspector killed in the December mob violence in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district has been recovered from the residence of the man who allegedly shot him, offi-

cials said on Sunday.

The recovery comes nearly two months after the incident in Bulandshahr's Siana area where on December 3 a mob fought pitched battles with police, apparently after right-wing activists were angered by the discovery of cow carcasses strewn outside a

Inspector Subodh Kumar's phone with a CUG (closed user group) number was recovered along with five more phones on Saturday from the house of key accused Prashant Natt, a senior police officer said. Natt, who had allegedly shot the inspec-tor during the violence, was arrested on December 18 from Sikandrabad and is languishing

in prison.

"We had got information from sources that inspector Subodh Kumar's mobile phone



Superintendent of Police, City, Atul Kumar Shrivastava, said. "The CUG mobile phone of the inspector was recovered from Natt's house during the search. Some other phones were also found and all the phones have been sent to a forensic lab for finding more details like their call records," he told reporters.

However, the pistol that was used to open fire on the inspector is still missing, and the Additional SP said a "search

is on for it".

Natt, 26, a resident of Chingrawathi village, would work part-time as a driver in Delhi and nearby areas, and other times worked locally as a labourer, police said.

During the violence, 20-year-old Chingrawathi resi-dent Sumit Kumar was also killed of gunshot.

attempt to murder, rioting, disrupt public order.

sedition, damaging public property, among other charges. Twenty-seven were "So far, 38 accused have

been arrested in connection with the violence," Siyana Circle Officer Raghvendra Mishra told PTI on Sunday.

Those arrested include Bajrang Dal's Bulandshahr unit convenor Yogesh Raj, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha's Siyana unit head Shikhar Agarwal, Army jawan Jeetender Malik, and Kalua, who first attacked the inspector, surrounded by five to six men.

A separate FIR for cow slaughter was filed on December 3 in which six accused have been arrested.

Three of them, Azhar

Khan, Mehboob Ali and Nadeem Khan, were on January 14 booked under the An FIR was lodged at the National Security Act by the Siyana police station against at least 80 people for murder, which said their release may

Pench Princess on record-breaking spree, proud mother of 8th litter



ARoyal Bengal tigress in Madhya Pradesh's Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), popular-ly known as Collarwali Baghin, continues to break records as she has yet again given birth the eighth time — to four cubs. Before this eighth litter, she was already a proud mother of 26 cubs.

The heartwarming news has come on the eve of an international meet being held in Delhi from Monday where 12 tiger-range countries will discuss the status of target set in 2010 to double global wild tiger population.

In 2010, 13 countries had In 2010, 13 countries had committed to and endorsed the St Petersburg declaration for doubling global wild tiger population and the global tiger recovery programme. This is the third such stocktaking after two previous ones in 2012 and

2014, which were held in Delhi and Dhaka, respectively. Globally, between 3,500

and 3,800 tigers are estimated to be in the wild with 2,226 of them in India alone.

Collarwali, who lives in the Karmajhiri range in the core area of Pench, had given birth to 26 cubs in seven litters between 2008 and 2017, field director Subhranian Sen said Officially called T-15, she is a major tourist attraction at the tiger reserve and has become almost as popular as "Machhli", the legendary Ranthambore National Park tigress who died last year.
The Department of Posts

had issued a special cover envelope featuring Collarvali last year. Also called the "Queen of Pench" and "Pench Princess", Collarwali was born to another famous tigress, "Barimada" who featured in the



The radio collar that lent her name "Collarwali Baghin" had been fitted on her in 2009, when she was four, for moniof the reserve's 50 tigers and tigresses are radio-collared. The collar fitted on the "Collarwali Baghin" worked for about two years, and fell off her neck in August 2016. While India and Nepal



have doubled their tiger pop-ulation since the 2010 declara-tion, officials from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) said, most other countries, with the exception of Thailand, are largely strug-

CM off to Delhi on 2-day visit

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik left for New Delhi on Sunday on a two-day visit

According to his programme, Patnaik would attend a crucial meeting with Central Government officials regarding Central projects in the State at the Odisha Bhawan on Monday.

Besides, he would meet some Union Ministers to discuss some important developmental projects pertaining to the State, the

The Chief Minister would return here on Tuesday. PNS

IMD: Rain likely in parts of State

BHUBANESWAR: As a cyclonic circulation is intensifying over eastern parts of Vidarbha, a few places in the State are likely to experience rain in next 24 hours, forecasted the Regional Office of the Indian Meteorological Centre (IMD) here on Sunday.

There would be rainfall in

interior parts of southern Odisha and one or two places in other parts of the State. There would be no change in minimum temperature in next 24 hours. However, there will be a gradual fall of temperature by three to four degrees Celsius in the night

hours in some parts of the State said the IMD.
"On Tuesday, one or two

places of southern Odisha Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Baleswar districts would experience rainfall while dry weather would prevail in rest parts of the State, said the weather office.

As per the IMD, several interior parts of the State have received light rainfall on the day with Jharsuguda receiving 3.4 mm rainfall, Sambalpur 0.2 mm, Sundergarh 7 mm, Balangir 2 mm

Ignoring Biju shows BJP's lack of political foresight | Kejriwal to visit

As his daughter Gita declines Padma honour

PNS RHUBANESWAR

Amid a political debate over Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's sister Gita Mehta humbly declining to accept Padma Shri award, questions are being raised over lack of political foresight on part of the BJP leadership.
Though the Union

Government recommended names of former President Pranab Mukherjee, late Assamese singer Bhupen Hazarika and late social activist and RSS veteran Nanaji Deshmukh for the coveted Bharat Ratna, it clearly ignored legendary leader Biju Patnaik.



The highest civilian award is denied to Biju ignoring his worth and stature. The denial of the honour to Biju is mostly seen due to political reasons as Congress ruled the country

When BJP formed the Government with majority in 2014, the people of Odisha were expecting that Biju will certainly get the honor, he

Mehta, the worthy daughter of Biju, humbly declined to accept the award citing political reasons

fighter, once again became a victim of injustice despite contributing to the security of the country during Chinese aggression in 1962 and war with Pakistan in 1965.

Everybody in Indian politics knows that Biju had a major role for which Jammu Kashmir is now part of India. Bijubabu carried VK Krishna Menon to Kashmir in his plane and convinced Raja Hari Singh to keep Jammu and Kashmir with India. Biju follower former Minister Damodor Rout had said this when the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 2015 ssed a resolution for giving passed a resolution is Bharat Ratna to Biju.

When Pakistan along with

helm failed to read the people's mood in Odisha and quietly ignored their loving leader.

On the other hand, it is learnt that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a 90war against India in 1965, the then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Sastri sought Biju's minute discussion with Gita Mehta and her husband before recommending her name for Padma Shri Award. Mehta, the worthy daughhelp to ensure that Indonesian naval warship do not come to the rescue of the enemy country and Patnaik used his per-

ter of Biju, humbly declined to accept the award citing politi-Sukarno and stopped Indonesia's warship moment. cal reasons. Now it is debated in the

people love Biju. However, the people at the

political circles that the purpose of recommending Gita's name has been defeated. Had it been the case of Biju, the people of Odisha would have been very happy. Meanwhile,

recommended name of Biju for Minister and close aide, Dilip Ray has criticised the Central peoples' mood towards the party could have been totally different in this election year as Government for denying Bharat Ratna to Biju.

city on Jan 31

Srikant, Sagaria to attend meeting

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $D_{\text{national convener of Aam}}^{\text{elhi Chief Minister and}}$ Aadmi Party (AAP) Arvind Kejriwal is scheduled to visit here on January 31 and address a public meeting at Lower PMG. The meeting would be organised by the Samajika

Nyaya Abhijan.

AAP Rajya Sabha member
Sanjay Singh, former Union
Minister Srikant Jena, former
MLA Krushsna Chandra Sagaria, Dalit leader Akshava Kumar Mallick and Dehiprasad Prusty would remain present at

Shashikant Mishra and general secretary Soumya

Ranjan Swain on Sunday. Kejriwal is also scheduled to meet intellectuals and other

party activists on the day.

With the general and Assembly elections ahead in Odisha, Kejriwal's visit and his views on the performances of the Central and State Governments would hold sig-nificance in Odisha in view of the political developments hav ing started to gather pace with the recent visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Rahul

Cop gives AK-47 to girl during R-Day parade

Video goes viral; Constable suspended

PNS BHUBANESWAR

A policeman was suspended for handing over his AK-47 rifle to an unidentified girl at the State-level Republic Day parade at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg here on Saturday.

A Constable of the 6th Battalion, Cuttack, Bhagyadhar Nayak was placed under suspension for violating the police service code of conduct, a senior official said.

The matter came to light after a video of the Constable giving the AK-47 rifle to a girl ent viral on social media platforms.

The Constable was

deployed for Republic Day cel-ebrations here and incident took place at around 9.30 am at



In the video clip, the contable was seen giving his gun to the girl, whose face was cov ered with a black stole, and exchanged words before she returned the weapon to the cop. The girl was seen checking the gun for a few seconds.

Soon after the video went

Commissioner Mohanty has ordered a probe and subsequently action was taken against the cop in the However, it is yet to be

ascertained under which circumstances the police Constable had handed over

IN CASE OF NO PROHIBITION

Anti-liquor youths vow to defeat Excise Minister

sonal relation with President

tion is long. However, the BJP

Government preferred to ignore the veteran freedom

this year's Bharat Ratna, the

The list of Biju's contribu

Had the BJP Government

The Mada Mukti Yuva Bahini (MMYB) organised a bike rally here on Sunday demanding total prohibition in the State. It gave a memoran-dum to Excise Minister Sashi Bhusan Behera demanding that an announcement for an antiliquor law be made before the election code of conduct comes into effect, failing which the MMYB would campaign against the Minister in his constituency if he contests in the ensuing elections.

The MMYB held the rally

to mark its first anniversary with participation of its volun-teers from across the State.

Speaking on the occasion, MMYB convener Satyabrata Prusty said liquor is destroying thousands of families. The



revenue from liquor sale is absolutely fallacious. Rather, it is losing revenue manifold.

He further said, "A welfare

Government must not resort to revenue of liquor to run administration.

Among others present on the occasion were Tarakant

Nayak, Bipin Kumar Routray, Lalatendu Patra, Priti Navak, Rajesh Deo, Saumya Ranjan Mohanty, Akshaya Routray, Samash Sarangi, Abhijit Patra, Malay Tripathy, Kanhu Charan Behura and members of the Milita Odisha Nisha Nibarana

> village on Sunday. A pall of gloom has descended on

> martyr's village soon after his death.

Earlier in the day, two militants of the

Jaish-e-Muhammad

(JeM) outfit were killed in a gunfight

begins

INBRIEF

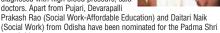
SINGER ARJUN SAMAL PASSES AWAY

Bhubaneswar: Veteran singer an former bureaucrat Ariun Charan Samal (77) passed away at a private hospital here on Saturday. He was a ormer Secretary of the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi. Samal is particularly known for the Ollywood

song 'Michha maya bhara ye sara dunia kehin nuhen apanara...' from the 1978 blockbuster 'Suna Sansara'. He also sang the devotional songs and Chhanda. Many of his songs aired on AIR and Doordarshan.

AGRI ACTIVIST KAMALA PUNJARI HOSPITALISED

Jeypore: Noted organic farming promote Kamala Puiari, who has been selected to get the Padma Shri Award. has heen admitted to the Koraput District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) after falling ill on Friday night. Pujari, also a State Planning Board Member, has been diagnosed with high blood pressure, said doctors. Apart from Pujari, Devarapalli



ECOR CELEBRATES R-DAY

Bhubaneswar: The East Coast Railway celebrated the 70th Republic Day at the Railway Stadium, Mancheswar. ECoR Additional General Manage Sudhir Kumar unfurled the National Flag. Contingents of RPF. Bharat Scouts & Guides and Civil Defence and schoolchildren participated ir

SBI CELEBRATES REPUBLIC DAY



Bhubaneswar: The State Bank of India (SBI) Local Head Office celebrated the 70th Republic Day with SBI Chief General Manage Praveena Kala unfurling the National Flag. SBI Chief Security Officer Major JK Sisugoswami conducted a special quiz on India's freedom struggle and heritage of SBI in which the guests, staffs and families participated, Former Circle Security Officer Capt Ailt Kumar Das. homoeopath Dr Akhaya Kumar Mishra and winners of quiz and drawing competitions were felicitated by Kala and GMs Devi Shankar Mishra and Gautam Bhattacharya. The in-house cultural team 'Ninaad' enthralled the audience. A replica of the Presidential palace was the star attraction as a 'selfie zone'. A sand art by Subala Maharana was

AWARENESS ON EVMS HELD IN VSS NAGAR

Bhubaneswar: The voters of Veera Surendra Sai (VSS) Nagar here were sensitised or Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) on the National Voter Day. On the occasion, the oters were explained about the functioning and transparency of the EVMs



Nagar Unnayan Parishad general secretary Dillip Dashsharma and other voters of the area were present and asked their doubts about the EVMs to the concerned officers.

R-DAY OBSERVED AT DAV. KALINGA NAGAR

Bhubaneswar: The DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar observed the 70th Republic Day amidst much enthusiasm. School Chairman Sarat Chandra Misra hoisted the National Flag and advised the student to devote themselves to the service and development of the motherland A grand parade was organised by the students. The chief guest felicitated the successful students in different categories with certificates and trophies. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Principal Bipin Kumar Sahoo and staff members.



Int'l cruise ship docks at Paradip Port

TOURISTS TO VISIT **BUDDHIST SITES**

PNS PARADIP

An international luxury cruise liner carrying 120 passengers anchored at the Paradip Port here on the Republic Day on Saturday, adding to the development of n international luxury Odisha Tourism.
Sources said the luxury

cruise liner 'MV Silver Discover' docked at the Paradip Port after a gap of around 10 years. The ship with visitors from countries like the US, the UK, Australia and South Africa arrived at the Port at around 8 am on the day. After the arrival, the port authorities gave a rousing welcome to the visitors in traditional way. PPT Chairman Rinkesh Roy said



the cruise liner would boost and inspire tourism in the

The cruise liner would take

the visitors to the ancient Buddhist heritage sites at

Ratnagiri, Udayagiri and Lalitagiri in Jajpur district, sources added.

The Tourism Department has made all arrangements for comfortable stay and moveand to provide comprehensive information to them on the historical, cultural and religious heritage of the Buddhist sites,

ment of the international guests

Odia jawan martyred in terror attack on **Republic-Day**

An Odia jawan was martyred during ty forces in Baramulla

with security forces in Jammu & Kashmir's Srinagar district, police sources said Both were killed in Khonmoh area on the outskirts of Srinagar city. They had

fied as Hemanta Panda of Atharanga village under Begunia block in Khordha district. Panda had joined the Indian Army two years ago. The mortal remains of Panda

Kashmir on the
Republic Day.

The deceased was identified as Assemble Page 1

is expected to reach his native

planned to disrupt the Republic Day functions being held here, fest

ICAI holds meet on IT assessment



PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI), Bhubaneswar Chapter in association with Tax Research Department, ICAI organised a seminar on "Insight to the Assessment of Income Tax" here on Sunday to mark

its golden jubilee year. Gujarat Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Ajai Das Mehrotra attended as

chief guest and spoke on various amendments, notifications of the Central Board of Direct Taxation (CBDT). OPGC Ltd Finance and Taxation Head Niranian Swain also spoke. Among others, Chapter chair man Damodar Mishra, Council member Niranjan Mishra, Professional Development Committee Chairman Mukesh Chaubey, Managing Committee member Uttam Kumar Navak were present.

Locals saving Chilika birds to be empowered: Suresh Mohapatra PNS BHUBANESWAR

he second National Chilika Bird Festival kick-started at

Mangalajodi , Chilika to pro-mote ecotourism and preserve birds. The two-day festival includes photo exhibitions, seminars and visit to the Nalabana Island. The event began with

welcome speech Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Odisha Tourism Vishal K Dev. Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Suresh Mohapatra said, "We are

extremely happy to have participants from all over the country. This year we have around 1 million migratory birds present in Chilika. We are recognising the efforts by the locals in preserving Chilika lake and want to empower them by helping them with livelihood in form of sustainable tourism."

Minister Tourism and

Culture Ashok Panda inaugu-

rated the photo exhibition. The other dignitaries were MP Prasanna Kumar Patasani

Khurdha MLA Rajendra Kumar Sahoo, Khurdha Collector Nirmal Chandra Mishra and Tourism Director RP Singh.

Chilika Development

Authority also released its book 'Fish and Shellfish Diversity Its Sustainable Management in Chilika Lake. Around 145 bird watchers from all over India joined the event. Among others, co-founder of Asian Birds Fair Andrew

Bombay Natural History Science B Sivananinthaperumal Kar and Additional Chief Executive, Chilika Develor Authority, Samrat Gowda

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after encounter in Balangir

12 criminal cases

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Notorious criminal Babul Mahananda was arrested following an encounter by the Titilagarh police in the district on Saturday. Babul, who sustained bullet injuries on his leg, was rushed to the VSS Medical College Hospital in Burla in a critical condition.

Acting on a tipoff regarding the movement of Babul, a police team rushed to the spot and tried to intercept him.

Babul Mahananda
Was wanted in

However, after spotting the cops, Babul opened fire with a country-made gun in a bid to

However, in the retaliatory firing Babul was injured. Police have seized a gun and some bullets from his possession. According to police, Babul was injured in the recent look was involved in the recent loot of ₹ 3 lakh from a businessman at Saintala. Over 12 criminal cases are pending against him in Titlagarh and different other police stations in the district.

"The police team man-aged to nab Babul after chasing him. During the encounter, he suffered bullet injuries on his right leg and feet" said Titlagarh SDPO Saroj

Criminal nabbed GAINS: Focus on sweet potato in 4 dists

was chaired by

Director of Horticulture

Bijay Ketan Upadhyaya

and to enhance nutrition in the communities of districts of

Angul, Keonjhar, Rayagada and Gajapathi districts. Project Manager of GAINS

Phase II Dr Sreekanth Attaluri

has said that the project will

introduce new varieties of

sweet potato, strengthen the seed system and improve the

Scheme launched

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

he Odisha Government has The Ouising Go. 22 GAINS (Generating Advances in Incomes and Nutrition through Sweet Potato) Phase II project in Odisha that will support resource poor house-holds in four districts to achieve better nutrition and income through sweet potato.

The project is supported under RKVY scheme and is implemented by the International Potato Centre the having its centre in Bhubaneswar.

The project was launched by Principal Secretary Agriculture Saurabh Garg in presence of Director of Finance of International Potato Center, Lima, Peru, Luis Felipe Mendes

market linkages in Odisha The project will cover 1,683 hectares in three years which will help thousands of farmers in the four districts.

The workshop discussed **GAINS Phase I was** presented in the form of video during the workshop. The meeting

the potential uses of sweet potato for food, marketing of processed products, animal feed, medicinal and nutritionvalues that can improve health.

The launching programme started in a unique way by watering a sweet potato plant by Dr Garg. The Government It was mentioned that the flour, puree, chips, noodles and starch can be prepared with the help of interested of Odisha and International Potato Center have joined processing sector entrepreneurs. hands to boost farmer's income

Success stories of GAINS Phase I was presented in the form of video during the work-shop. The meeting was chaired by Director of Horticulture Bijay Ketan Upadhyaya.

Dr Upadhyaya summed

up the entire programme to the

Road Safety Week in B'swar from February 4

Host of programmes on cards

PNS BALESWAR

The district administration has drawn a plan for the Road Safety Week to be observed from February 4. In a meeting with the regional transport officials and other stakeholders, the administra-tion maintained that besides awareness and enforcement measures for the cause of traf-fic rules and safety of riders, eviction would be carried out

during the period.

The road dividers which are cut by the local residents and shopkeepers for their con-venience would be restored to

safety by the PWD.

In the first day of the week,

while there would be checking mainly for the seat belt and hel-mets, on the second day the roadside encroachments would be cleared. The eviction would be carried out in and around be carried out in and around prominent patches, mainly from the market areas and intersection pockets of the town. On the day, appropriate road safety signs would be installed in the required patch-es such as schools and hospi-

On the third day the vehicles would be checked for tech-nical fitness, speed governor, besides the commercial vehi-

cles would be checked.

The following day, the dri vers and helpers engaged in transporting students to the schools, colleges and educational institutions would be imparted training and safety awareness. Besides on the day, there would be several competitions including essay, drawing,

cartoon and quiz among the

The district administra tion has decided to felicitate those persons who proved Good Samaritan by ferrying the accident victims to hospi tals and those who donated blood to save life. Besides checking and enforcement would be done for overloading

and rash driving etc
On the concluding day, there would be checking of all vehicles for documents, mainly the driving licences, insur-ance papers and fitness. Besides, there would be Rangoli

competitions.

The meeting while was held under the chairmanship of district Collector Ramesh Chandra Rout, SP B Jugal Kishore, the RTO officials and representatives, bus, truck, auto rickshaw unions and road safety committee members

Man arrested for raping minor in Angul

PNS ■ ANGUL

A 50-year-old man has been detained by police for allegedly raping a five-year-old girl in the Bantala area of Appul district Angul district.

According to reports, the accused, identified as Artatrana Behera, lured the victim with chocolate while she was playing with her friends. He then took the girl to an under-con struction house and allegedly raped her there.

Case in this regard was registered at the Bantala police station

The man was in an inebri-ated state when he committed the crime, reports added. After the matter came to the fore, villagers nabbed Behera and handed him over to the Bantala

A case in this regard was registered at the Bantala police station and investigation is underway. The accused and the victim were sent for medical examination.

Schoolgirl raped in Kandhamal; accused absconding

In another shameful incident, a Class-VII student was allegedly raped by a college going youth of her locality under the Belghar police sta-tion in Kandhamal district.

The matter came to the fore after the family members of the girl filed an FIR with police on Saturday.

The family members also alleged that the youth had threatened them of dire consequences if they lodge a police

Meanwhile, the accused has gone underground and a manhunt has been launched to nab him, police said after registering a case in connection with the incident.

According to the com-plaint, the girl was raped in December 2018 when she had come home from her residen-tial school during vacations.

Accused has gone underground and a manhunt has been launched to nab him, police said after registering a case in connection with

the incident Sources said the youth had also threatened the girl not to disclose the incident to anybody. Out of fear, the girl returned to her hostel without revealing the incident to her parents.

Later, school authorities sent the girl back after she fell sent the girl back after she fell sick. Subsequently, the family members lodged the police complaint after she informed the incident to them.

Woman, 4 kids killed for sorcery in Sundargarh

n a gruesome incident, bodies of a woman and her four kids were recovered from a deep well at Indupur under the Koira police station in Sundargarh district late on Saturday night. On Sunday, police arrested three brothers and detained three others. and detained three others, including a sorcerer, in this connection. It is alleged that the woman and her kids were killed on suspicion of practic-

ing black magic.

According to sources,
Tangru Munda of Indupur had
married Mangli Munda(30) a few years back. Tangru passed away one year ago. They have two daughters and a son, all below age of 12 years. After death of Tangru, his younger brother Sudam had been living with Mangli as her husband. Sudam and Mangli have a 10month- old daughter. Sudam is a truck driver by profession.

On Friday afternoon when he returned from work, Sudam did not find Mangri and her

four children in the house. But he noticed blood stains in his house. He went to Koira police station and lodged a complaint about missing of his family members. The Koira police reached the spot with a scien-tific team and searched for the missing five. After a day's search, they located the bodies in an abandoned 20 ft deep well near the house on Saturday. The bodies were recovered with the help of a fire brigade in the pres-ence of DIG Kabita Jalan and Rourkela SP Uma Shankar Das.

Post-mortem was conducted on the bodies on Sunday. During investigation, police could come to know that a local man named Budram was practising sorcery. A daughtger of Sudam's neigh-bouring couple Debra and Sumi Munda fell ill some rea-son. They had taken their daughter to Budram, but later she died.

After few days, another daughter of Debra and Sumi fell ill. This time Budram told them that Mangli and her children are witches and they are responsible for the death and ill health of their daughters. Thereafter, three brothers of Sumi Munda, identified as Kisri alias Raju, Salu and Dagam, planned to kill Mangli and her children. On Thursday night at around 9 pm, when Mangli's husband Sudam was not present at home, they forcibly entered into Manglis house by breaking open the door and hacked Mangli and her four children to death with an axe. They then threw the five bodies in the well.

Police soon detained six

persons, including Budram and admitted Debra's ailing daugther in the Koira hospital. Later on Sunday afternoon, police arrested Raju, Salu and Dagam, the three brothers of Sumi Munda. Police are now interrogating the three others. Police have also seized the axe used in the murder.

"We suspect some more persons are involved in this murder case. We will nab others soon," said the Rourkela SP.

Political

observers

consider the CM

visit very

crucial for the

BJD ahead of

general

INBRIEF

HARDCORE MAOIST SURRENDERS IN KANDHAMAL Phulbani: A hardcore Maoist cadre, Andhara Kanwar alias Ram, who was carrying a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head, surrendered before the Phulbani police in Kandhamal district on Sunday. He hails from Jorkishoru village under Phiringia block of the district. According to police, Ram was the active member of the CPI(Maoist) AKBN division. He is involved in six cases including two murders and an encounter with police. He would be provided monetary assistance and other facilities as per the Surrender and Rehabilitation Scheme of the State Government, a police official said.

YOUTH KILLS BROTHER, BURIES BODY

Nabarangpur: A youth allegedly killed his cousin brother and buried the body at a forest in Jharigaon of Nabarangpur district. The incident that took place on January 23 came to the fore after the body was exhumed by police on Saturday. A land dispute had been prevailing between Bhuban Jani, the accused, and Chandan Jani, the deceased of Dhepaguda village over land dispute. Police arrested four persons, including Bhuban and Jagannath, and started investigation into the

R DAY CELEBRATED ACROSS BRAHMAPUR

Brahmapur: The 70th Republic Day was cel enthusiasm at the Brahmapur Stadium and other places across the city on Saturday.

Revenue Divisional Commissioner (Souther Division) T AO unfurled the National Flag and took salute of NCC contingents from different schools and colleges of the district. Among others, MLA Dr Ramesh Chandra others, MLA Dr Hamesh Chandra Chyaupatnaik, Sub-Collector Diganta Routray, MeMC Commissioner Chakraborty Singh Rathore and BDA Chairman

Subash Moharana were present. Besides, political and social Sudan Mohamala Wele Piesen. Desarts, politices, politica and social orginsations like the BJP, SMIT, College of Pharmaceuticals (Mahuda). Manav Adhikar Suraksha Manch, Ganjam Zilla Suraksha Manch, Naveen, Biju Patnaik Senior Citizens, Mahanagar Soundhik Samaj also

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATED IN JSPUR

Jagatsinghpur: The 70th Re district Collector Yamini Sarangi unfurling the National Flag. Sarangi paid homage to departed Odisha has now achieved development in Jagatsinghpur has been



named a progressive district due to its industrial growth. On the day, five freedom fighters of the district were felicitated by the Collector. A cultural programme was presented by several troupes after the

GAJAPATI PIONEER REPORTER FELICITATED

Paralakhemundi: The Gajapati district administration on the Republic Day here recognised the exemplary work of local The Pioneer reporter Tarini Prasad Panda in the aftermath of Titli cyclone last year and felicitated him. District Collector Anupam Saha said a journalist plays an important role in providing information to the public. During the Titli cyclone in the district, the media played a major role in providing information to the public and the Government. Journalists Gorudadhwaia Choudhary, Amodh Kumar Bardhan, Rashmi Ranian



Two trained elephants to guard tigress Sundari

More than a couple of months after the tranquilisation of Royal Bengal Tigress Sundari, the Forest Department has decided that two trained elephants would gund the big cat. guard the big cat.
Elephants Mahendra and

Rajkumar are being brought from Similipal to Satkosia for the purpose, reports said. "No decision for Sundari's

release from enclosure has been taken yet. The two elephants are being brought to Satkosia from Similipal for general security as per the NTCA protocol," said PCCF (Wildlife), Sandip Tripathy.

There was a dispute earliover relocation of the eleopposed it. However, the issue was resolved by the Forest Department after holding talks

Elephants Mahendra and Rajkumar are being brought from Similipal to Satkosia for the purpose, reports said

with the villagers Notably, the tigress has been relocated from Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve to the Satkosia wildlife sanctuary in Angul district on June 28 last year as part of a pilot inter-State transfer project o increase the big cat population in Odisha. Sundari was tranquilised on November 6 last after it allegedly killed an elderly man on October 21 last year at Tainsi village under the Satkosia Forest Division.

KALIA aid distribution launched in Ganjam

CM also lays stones for ₹ 717-cr projects; inaugurates 231

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched distribu-tion of assistances to farmers of tion of assistances to farmers of Ganjam district under the KALIA scheme at a massive rally held at Rangelilunda on Sunday. Besides, he laid foun-dation-stone for 48 develop-ment projects worth Rs 716 crore and inaugurated 231 new projects at different places. More than 1 labh farmers from More than 1 lakh farmers from 22 blocks attended the farmers'

The Chief Minister said farmers would get Rs 5,000 for Kharif crop and Rs 5,000 for Rabi crop. "The KALIA scheme will certainly help farmers to improve their agricultural activities and livelihood and show a new path to the entire





nation," said Patnaik. Besides, any interest so that their repayment could be much smoother and hassle free, he said

Farmers, including small and marginal farmers, sharecroppers and farming labour-ers, will get benefit from the

elections Among others, three Ministers from the district, BJD district president and Gopalpur MLA Dr Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi and State Planning Board member Rama Chandra Panda and a host of senior Government officers, including Cooperation Secretary Kishan Kumar, RDC, district Collector, DIG and the

SP, were present. Political obser er the CM visit very crucial for the BJD ahead of general elec-tions. Fifty platoons of security personnel were deployed to

In Baleswar

Highest 1 lakh farmers get KALIA aid

BENEFICIARIES ALL PRAISE FOR CM PATNAIK PNS BALESWAR

Over one lakh farmers of Baleswar district have received Rs 5,000 each directly in their bank accounts after the launch of the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Augmentation

(KALIA) scheme.

The direct cash transfer under the KALIA scheme, a farmer centric flagship pro-gramme of the Naveen Patnaik Government, kicked off in Puri

on December 25. Sources said in the first

while released the amount in favour of around 12 lakh farmers, the highest number of beneficiaries was from Baleswar district. "Around Rs 662 crore was

disbursed among more than 12 lakh farmers across the State in the first phase, out of which about one lakh farmers are from Baleswar district. This is the first phase of disburse-ment and the second phase would follow after some days. The promises made by the State Government for the cause of peasants are fulfilled. I thank Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the noble initiative," said

phase, the State Government Baleswar MP RK Iena

Overwhelmed by the direct cash credit into his account, Chitanya Majhi , a marginal farmer of Narharipur pan-chayat under Remuna block, said, "Around 1.20 pm, Rs 5,000 was credited into my account. I got the information through mobile message. I can't believe but its true. I thank CM Naveen Patnaik for the initiative." Similarly, Labodhar Jena of Maharajpur Sambhunath Barik of Boitha and many others across the district, besides expressing happiness over the direct cash transfer, also reposed faith on the State Government.

Kanpur dam may be delayed further be taken into confidence

RAJENDRA K SAHU ■

The Kanpur irrigation project over the Baitarani river in Keonihar district which had been delayed for nearly one and a half years due to agitation of the affected people in demand of proper compensa-tion and rehabilitation might be delayed further if the demands of the land oustees are not met.

This has come to light on Thursday last when people including women vehemently opposed the entry of Additional Tehsildar Barbil Abhishek Panda to the project area for starting the work He was accompanied by

been deployed to level ground in Murusuan panchayat under Joda block to start the project. The agitating villagers complained that most of the affected families have not been



Former Joda block Chairman, Congress leader and also a native of Murusuan panchayat Purna Chandra Naik

resettlement of the displaced. said 15 to 17 families out of total 76 families of Dhobakuchda village have not

received their DP so far.

And for the rest families who have moved out to stay in Shankarpur RR colony and Naradpur and Angulia, the two cluster villages developed by the villagers by purchasing the land, there is no school for school building which started

Similarly, the people are facing a lot of difficulties for lack traditional infrastructure like pond and funeral ground for common use. However, some days back,

when Purna, himself a RPDS member along with other affected people, had raised these issues before Sub-Collector, Champua Parul Patwari, she told that all the community infrastructure development will be done after the people move out of the pro-

ject area.

After the villagers protested, the officials returned but it is demanded that the Government should make a proper plan for early comple-tion the of the dream project of the district.

Defence 'Sea Vigil' ends at Odisha coast

The India Navy along with the Coast Guard successfully conducted a coastal Defence exercise titled 'Sea Vigil' in close coordination with all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities, from January 22 to 23.

The exercise underwent along the entire 7,516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone in the country with over 30 ships and aircraft of the Navy and Coast Guard as well as 85 patrol boats manned by various security

During the exercise, all coastal police stations, control rooms, fishing harbours, landing centres and other operational control rooms. tional centres were activated and security was beefed up at all vital installations. Audit of



the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code was also carried out by the

ports.

The exercise, facilitated by

different Union Ministries. State Governments, Union Territories and other agencies, overed the entire coast of

BJP Binjharpur ZP | 20 DAV CSpur **Members join BJD**

B^{JP} Binjharpur Zilla Parishad Members Mamina Mallick and Sraban Kumar Jena along with their many supporters joined the ruling BJD under the leadership of MLA Pramila Mallick on Sunday.

BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik welcomed Mamina Mallick, Sraban Jena and their sup-porters at the Naveen Niwas "I am happy that they joined our party. Their joining would be helpful for further strengthening of the party in Jajpur district," said Patnaik.

MLA Mallick said that attracted by the welfare policies and strong leadership of the Chief Minister, many BJP leaders and their supporters of Binjharpur have joined the BJD. "In the coming days we would work together for the party," she added.



students qualify NTSE 1st round

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As many as 20 students of the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, highest for any individual school of the State, have qualified the first round of the National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) Search Examination (NTSE). whose results published on Friday. The first round examinations were conducted by the SCERT where total 131 students from the State have qualified for the final round, which would be held in May 2019 and would be conducted by the NCERT. The meritorious students would directly take admissions in the leading educational institutions of the country with handsome amount of scholarship. The school authorities congratulat-ed the meritorious students and in-charge teacher Dr Sarbadaman Singh for the remarkable success

Saggraha supports women entrepreneurs

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Microfinance Company Saggraha has played an important role in the woman empow-erment in Odisha by providing easy access to financial services and impact-ing over 2.5 lakh lives

The company which provides micro-credit services in over 41 districts of six States including Odisha has helped many local women entrepreneurs to improve their eco-nomic status and realise their dreams to improve their quality of life.

Pinku Sahu a resident of Mohana in Gajapati district, who husband has been a daily wage labourer, was facing

severe financial hardships Later she approached the Saggraha and discussed her problem and after few days, she was provided with a loan of Rs 26,000 to open her own grocery

Currently, she is earning an average daily profit of Rs 400 per day and has also expanded her store to accommodate the stationary products to cater to the needs of school going kids.

29 girls flee from Gajapati residential school

many as 29 girl students Afled from the hostel of a Government residential school at Antaraba under Mohana block in Gajapati district on Saturday night

Though the exact reason behind the incident is yet to be ascertained, it is being sus-pected that the students were unhappy with the school authorities over their prob-

lems.
"The students left a letter mentioning that the teachers of the school were not cooperating with them following which they were compelled to leave the hostel," said the District

After the incident, under the instructions of Gajapati Collector Anup Shah, the school authorities. DWO and local police have launched a search operation to trace the

missing girls.
School Headmaster
Manoj Rath said, "We had visited the houses of two students but they were not there. We have launched a search oper-

Rath added that the students had earlier expressed their resentment over some issues with their teacher which was resolved then and this time too they probably left the hostel for the same reason.

KALIA full of flaws, betrayal: BJP



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

he BJP on Sunday said the KALIA Yojna is not meant to protect interest of farmers rather it has been announced to use State funds for meeting BJD

election expenditure.

"The State Government could not make a list of small and marginal farmers, land-less labourers and share-

croppers even as five years have passed. A question is raised as to how the Government identified farmers and included them under the KALIA scheme. There are lakhs of share-

croppers in the State.

The act of identifying farmers at gram panchayat level is not legal. Hence the KALIA scheme is full of flaws

and meant to betray farmers. It will open flood gates of cor-ruptions," said BJP senior leader Bishwabhushan Harichandan. Stating that the BJP would prepare a poll manifesto with focus on State's development, he urged com-mon people to keep their demands on the website, http://bjpodishasankalppa-

MCL pay load operator awarded for bravery

n the occasion of the 70th On the occasion of the 70th Republic Day celebration at the Mahanadi Coalfields at the Mananadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) here on Saturday, MCL Director Technical (Operation) JP Singh accorded a pay load operator Mohan Mandal with Bravery Award for saving life of his fellow worker on December 26, 2018.

26, 2018.

On December 26, the mine workers at quarry-4 coal face shouted for help as one of the pay loaders accidentally had slid into the water sump. Hearing the crowd, Mandal rushed to the spot and he found that one pay loader was almost drowned into the freezing water.

ing water. Without giving it a second



thought, he immediately jumped into the water to rescue the operator (Manoj Biswal) who was stuck in the way out, Mandal then reached

R-DAY TRAGEDY

1 electrocuted, another injured in Umarkote

MONOHAR MOHANTY ■ UMARKOTE

One person died and another sustained burn injuries when a flag hoisting pole came in contact with a high tension 11 KV electric wire on Saturday

evening here. The incident took place at the DNK parade ground where the local administration conducted the sub-divisional level Republic Day mceremony. The local Tehsildar who was the president of Republic Day ceremony unfurled the national flag and took the guard of hounour.

However, one Kalu Harijan (37), a laborer, while lowering the flag with support of another suddenly came in contact with dangling 11 KV live wire. Both sustained critical injury and were shifted to the CHC Umarkote, where the doctors declared Harijan as brought dead. On being informed, the police reached the spot, recov ered the body and sent it for autopsy. Local denizens blamed the administration for the mishap and alleged there was a lapse on the part of the local administration for which due clearance was not taken from the Southco while installing the flag pole below a dangling 11 KV live wire in the parade ground.

"No interest was shown to labourer in the absence of any



parade ground prior to the function where thousands of people congregate every year. Further due formalities were not adhered to by the officials as per the Flag Code," said Muna Padhy a local denizen. It is a astonishing how a

engaged to lower the national flag which contravenes the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, said a local lawyer. Meanwhile, local MLA Subash Gond expressed condolences to the bereaved family and assured to do the needful.

Primary teachers to launch stir in February

The primary teachers and contractual junior teachers have threatened to gherao the BEO offices and Collectorates from February 1 and 2 respectively and begin agitation from February 7 if their demands were not ful-filled before the Assembly Session. At a State-level convention held here on Sunday, their union dis-

cussed various problems afflict-ing the primary education in the State and came up with their



demands like Rs 2,800 grade pay, calculation of six years of Siksha calculation of six years of Siksha Sahayak in service period, 25 per JTC Salary, 10 per cent increment annually implementation of the old pension scheme.

Educationist and teacher leader Prof Surendra Kumar Jena, OSSTA general secretary Prakash Chandra Mohanty, OPTA general sec-retary Bibhu Prasad Sahoo and

2L KISS students' parents join fest

The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) held a guardians' meet on its premis-

es on Sunday.

During the meet around two lakh parents and guardians of around 27,000 children who are currently studying at the institute joined. They came from various parts of the country besides from some other States like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Assam.

On the occasion, KIIT and KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta felicitated the office



bearers of all district KISS Adivasi Parents' Association. "We are working for the tribal development for 27 years and would continue to do so," said Dr Samanta while addressing a huge crowd at the KISS meet-

while Annapurna Theatre Ramachandra Pratihari died of sudden heart attack here on Sunday. He was 87.

Pratihari belonged to the servitor community of the Jaganath Temple and was popular as Hati Pratihari. Since his childhood, he was passionate for acting and began his career at the Janata Theatre and later the popular Annapurna

Later on, he joined the sil- The Rashtriya Swadhin ver screen and carried forward his carrier with much popularity among the viewers. Among the Odia movies in which he acted were Nua Bohu and Nilamadhab.

He also performed in opera. For his contribution to arts, he was conferred with the prestigious Jayadev Award besides being felicitated by Government and private

Famed Annapurna | Swadhin Morcha names actor Paratihari dies candidates for general election

Theatre | PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

■ Morcha on Sunday announced names of 30 MLA and seven MP candidates for the upcoming general elections in the Stat

Announcing names at a Press conference, Morcha president Purnachandra Mahant said his party would field candidates for all Assembly and Parliamentary seats.

The party will make unem-



ployment, various scams and farmer problems as main poll planks. Among others, Morcha national president Mohan Sundar Meher, general secretary Sanjay Kumar Sahoo,

Manini Devi, Dipak Kumar Sahoo and Natabar Behera were present. Mahant has requested interested candidates to contact WhatsAp number 9437713956.

1463-0

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No 16 Dt 19 .01.2019 of 2018-19

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites tenders from th

- 3. Date and time of availability of document
- in the portal Last date/ time for receipt of bids in the portal :- Dt 13.02.2019 up to 5.00 P.M
- Date & time of Opening of Tender Date a time of Opening of relicer
 Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid
 Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh, District:- Bargarh

25157/11/0035/1819

- No 195 / Dt. 19.01.2019
- valid licensed holder contractors of class 'B' or 'A' registered with any department of State Government or equivalen class of Central Govt.etc. to be eventually drawn up in G2 Contract form as per terms and condition noted below.

 1. Name of the work

 Execution of different RPW/S Schemes under Bargarh District -14 Nos
 - :- Varies from Rs 50.75 lakhs to Rs 87.80 Lakhs :- Dt 30.01.2019 to Dt 13.02.2019 up to 5.00 P.M

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersorissa.gov.in" The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/ **Executive Engineer** RWS&S Division, Bargarh

Dt 14.02.2019 at 11.00 A.M.

Junior teachers to take to streets

To submit memo to MLAs, MPs by Feb 2

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

he Odisha Junior Teachers' Association on Sunday said t would take to the streets soon ahead of the elections to press for its two demands, regurlarisation of junior teachers (contractual) with an increased salary and

regualrisation of all Siksha Sahayaks appointed in the 2012, at the earliest. A meeting held under chairmanship of associ-ation president Malay Kumar Jena decided that its members would submit memorandums to MLAs and MPs in their respective areas by February 2. If demands are not met soon, all the junior teachers (contractual) would boycott teach-ing and nonteaching assign-

press for fulfillment of their demands. Among others, sec-retary general Bibekananda Behera, working presidents Sumant Kumar Pal, Raiendra Kumar Nayak and Jyotiprakash Sahoo and vice-presidents Pradeep Moharana and Soubhagva Mishra, medial convenor Shashwat Ioshi were present. Advisor Jyotiranjan Das proposed a vote of thanks.

Voter's Day observed in Khordha

PNS ■ KHORDHA

The Khordha district observed the National Voter's Day here recently. On the occasion, a rangoli competition was organised to encourage

new voters to cast their votes. District Collector Nirmal Chandra Mishra inaugurated the programme and Sub-Collector Saroj Kumar Sahu coordinated the programme.



event.

The local mediamen also expressed their concern over the matter and said that the media plays an important role

It might be mentioned that the local media was not informed about the pro-gramme; and when contacted, in creating awareness among people but yet it is neglected here.

Cold wave to continue for 3 days: MeT

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday predicts that cold wave conditions will be continued over the three days in Delhi and NCR, north and northwest parts of the country, with the night temperature expected to drop to 4 degrees Celsius by Monday.

According to IMD, the national Capital may get rain/drizzle between January 30 and February 1.

The night temperatures in most parts of north-west India will likely fall by about 2 degrees Celsius, according to predictions. In Delhi, the minimum temperature is recorded 5.2 degrees Celsius four notches below the season's average. The maximum temperature in Delhi could rise by a degree or two by mid-week.

Meanwhile Drass in Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh

region was recorded of minus 28.7 degrees Celsius temperature on Sunday, Leh recorded minus 15.5 degrees Celsius and Kargil minus 20.7 as the night's lowest temperatures. Keylong in Himachal Pradesh witnessed minus 17 degree Celsius.

"After good rainfall

activities many parts of North India, dry weather has taken over during the last 24 hours as the present Western disturbance is only affecting the

hills. The cold wave could continue well into the week till 30th, when widespread rains are predicted across Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan," the IMD said.

"Thereafter, an active Western Disturbance will approach the Western Himalayas due to which rain-fall activities expected how



many parts of Punjab, two parts of Haryana and isolated pockets of Delhi and NCR," it said. The minimum temperature dropped to six degrees Celsius in the national capital on Saturday, three notches below the season's average. Skymet Weather has pre-

dicted that the entire North-western India will remain under the grip of a cold wave for at least three days. "The western disturbance, which caused rain in Delhi and

northerly or north-westerly. They are coming from colder regions in the hills, which have received widespread snowfall. This is why cold wave conditions will prevail over the northern plains including Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh,

The winds are now

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi in the next 3-4 days," the IMD said. The night chill, however, is not expected to last long, as the minimum temperature is expected to shoot up in the second half of next week. A fresh western disturbance is likely to cause wide-spread rain and snow over western Himalayan region and thundershowers over some

and central India between

help create much-needed

awareness about the crippling disease to ensure its logical end.

The Global Appeal has been initiated by Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill

Ambassador for leprosy and Chairman of the Nippon Foundation. He has been

awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018 in recognition of

his work towards the eradica-

tion of the disease worldwide including India where his

organisation in India, Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (SILF) has been

focusing on providing treat-

according to the IMD's weather bulletin.
IMD also said that El Nino

neutral conditions are current ly prevailing over equatorial Pacific Ocean. The patterns of convection and winds are mostly near average over the tropi-cal Pacific. The latest numerical forecast products available, indicate that EL Nino neutral conditions are likely to continue. Besides, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are observed over Indian Ocean indicate that the neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue during the coming months.

Skymet Weather Services has also predicted a similar weather pattern over the northwest plains. The weather department declares a cold wave if the temperature drops to 4 degrees Celsius or below and such a situation continues for at least two days.

BJP to advance Citizenship Amendment Bill in Budget session

DEEPAK K UPRETI I NEW DELHI

The BJP will 'press through' Citizenship Amendment Bill in the coming Budget Session which was blocked in the Rajya Sabha in the last winter session by the Congress and other Opposition parties, hoping that the Bill may give it 'good dividends' in West Bengal in 2019 Lok Sabha

The BJP which is facing an uphill task in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, expects Eastern India could offset its possible reverses in the Hindi heartland.

"Citizenship bill is our commitment to the people and we will have it passed.", said a senior BJP leader and referred to party's major campaign of upto 130 public rallies in next two months including two of

Corporate honchos to pledge support to leprosy eradication

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February two and February eight in West Bengal . A third public rally of the Prime Minister is also planned in the

The Citizenship Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in the Parliament's winter session of Parliament, but was stalled in the Raiva Sabha.

The Congress had staged a walk out in the Lok Sabha protesting non-inclusion of Muslims in the category of per-secuted minorities. The Bill includes the Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis who would be given Indian citizenship if they provide evidence of prosecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan and completed six years of residence in India.

Voting on it is expected in the Rajya Sabha during the budget session beginning

January 31. The Bill has apparently alienated a section of people from in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur who fear that passage of the Bill could lead to large scale migration from Bangladesh and affect the rights, demography and identity of indigenous populations

Defending the controversial citizenship bill. Assam's Finance Minister and Senior BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma said its implementation is a must for the state to ensure it does not face a Kashmir-like situation in the future. The Bill has unleashed

protests across much of the Northeast and prompted the Asom Gana Parishad to walk of the BJP-led government in

Train 18 named Vande Bharat Express by Rly

Indian Railways has named the indigenously manufactured semi-fast Train 18 as 'Vande Bharat Express', which will run between the national capital and Varanasi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to flag off this fully air-conditioned train soon, which will connect his Lok Sabha constituency with Delhi.

Announcing the decision Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said, "Train 18 will now be known as Vande Bharat Express. It's a train built completely in India by Indian engineers, in a span of 18 months. It'll ply from Delhi to Varanasi. It is an example that it's possible to make world-class trains under Make in India," Goval said on Sunday,



The 16-coach train, built in 18 months at a cost of Rs 97 crore by the Integral Coach Factory (IVF), Chennai, is regarded as a successor to the year-old Shatabdi Express. It's also the first locomotive-less

train in the country.

Addressing the media, the minister said, 'It was named Train 18 during its initial days and now it has been given a new name after taking suggestions from the general public".

The train will be fully air-

Kanpur and Allahabad and will have two executive chair cars, the minister said adding that it will have superior quality of air suspension for comfortable journey of the passengers, Goyal said.

"It is completely made in India and various names were uggested by the general pub-c but we have decided to name it Vande Bharat Express. A gift on the occasion of Republic Day to the people. Will request the Prime Minister to flag it off, the minister said.

The Railway Minister also said that he has requested the Railway Board to scale up its production to reduce its over-all cost and once the country will have surplus production, it will be exported as well.



ment and social and econom ic upliftment of the sector

across the country. Though leprosy is curable, it continue to be mired with stigma and discrimination, restricting the people from the sector to come forward to avail timely medical treatment and adequate rehabilitation. No wonder, despite various efforts, India remain home to nearly half of the total 2 lakh leprosy

people in the world. It is expected that with involvement of over 45 million member firms associated with the ICC in around 100 nations will hold series of sensitization and awareness workshops among their employees to end the disease, which if not treat-ed in time can leave the patient not only disabled.

In the past too, Global appeal has been announced in partnership with various partners including the International Bar Association which endorsed the pledge to

end stigma and discrimination against people affected by lep-

Incidentally, India which has several discriminatory laws against persons affected by sector, it was just in 2016 and then recently repealed a few of them after much hue and cry from the sector and activists.

"In 2016, for example, it repealed the draconian colo-nial-era Lepers Act, while earlier this month it repealed a law allowing leprosy as legitimate grounds for divorce. Both initiatives are to be commended. WHO regional director for South-East Asia Poonam Khetrapal Singh too noted recently in her statement.

"Community based economic rehabilitation, preven-tion of discrimination through awareness particularly among school kids and people in gen-eral is necessary to not only take care of those who have

been affected and ostracised but also of their children who suffer stigma even when they don't have the disease," said Vineeta Shanker, Executive Director SILF.

Previous partners have included human rights groups, religious and faith leaders, business chiefs, and university chancellors, informed Tehseen Zaidi, Communication Manager from the SILF.

As per the official figures available till March 2018, about 0.9 lakh leprosy cases were reported, as compared to 0.86 lakh cases in 2016-17 and 0.88 lakh cases in 2015-16.

Also, some States and Union territories are now reporting a higher prevalence rate — Odisha (1.38), Bihar (1.18) and Lakshadweep (2.25). Currently, India's overall leprosy prevalence rate is 0.70 per 10,000 population, up from 0.66 previously.

Cabinet may soon approve relief package for farmers

The Union Cabinet is expected to soon approve a relief package for farmers grappling with falling prices of their crops and to tackle distress in the farm sector, according to

The likely relief package is seen as an attempt to assuage the farming community's disontent ahead of the general

"...The agriculture min-istry's proposal on addressing income deficit syndrome of small and marginal farmers is on the agenda (at the Cabinet meeting)," a source said.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has deferred its meeting which was scheduled for Monday, as

per sources.

The agriculture ministry

has recommended several options to provide both short and long-term solutions to taken in the Cabinet meeting as One of the options pro-

posed is waiving interest on crop loans for farmers who pay on time, costing an additional Rs 15,000 crore to the exche-

address agrarian distress. However, a final call will be a huge cost is involved, they

There is also a proposal to completely waive premium for taking insurance policy for food crops. The Centre is also evaluating the scheme followed by the Telangana and Odisha governments wherein a fixed amount is transferred directly into the bank account of farm-

Radha Mohan Singh had recently indicated that the gov-ernment would announce an agriculture package before the 2019-20 budget. The NDA government will present an interim budget on February 1. Experts said the govern-

ment has less time to implement any new scheme. The measure has to be such that it can be implemented faster to reap the political gains during the elections.

It may be noted that the central government has taken farmers' issues seriously after the ruling BJP was defeated in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh in the recent state polls, where rural distress was a key factor.

Farmers are in distress owing to fall in prices of most crops in view of bumper crop.

Pak team arrives in India, to visit Chenab basin in J-K

APakistani delegation Aarrived in India on Sunday to visit the Chenab river basin in Jammu and Kashmir for inspection, as mandated under the Indus Water Treaty, sources said. Pakistan's Indus Commissioner

Mohammad Mehar Ali Shah arrived in Amritsar along with his two advisers

"This tour is an obligation imposed on both the countries by the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 between India and Pakistan. Under the treaty. both the commissioners are mandated to inspect sites and works on both the sides of Indus basin in a block of five years," a senior official said.

Since signing of the treaty, a total of 118 such tours on both the sides have been

The last tours of the com mission in Pakistan and India were held in July 2013 and September 2014, respectively No tour could be held in the current five years block, which ends in March 2020. This tour will be followed

by a visit of India's Indus Commissioner to Pakistan at a mutually convenient date, the official added.

This tour was originally scheduled in October 2018 but was postponed because of local bodies and panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the Indus Water Treaty, waters flowing in three Indus tributaries -- the Sutlei the Beas and the Ravi -- have been allotted to India, while the Chenab, the Jhelum and the



An illuminated Rashtranati Bhayan after the full dress rehearsal for Beating Retreat ceremony in New Delhi on Sunday

Fed up of paper leaks, youths demand 'Pradhan Mantri CHEAT Fund Yojna'

IANS III NEW DELHI

Youths from across the country gathered here on Sunday to urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch a Pradhan Mantri CHEAT Fund Yoina for job aspiring youths who cannot afford the high cost

of buying a leaked paper.

The meet, in which over 60 youth representatives from across the country participated, was organised at Delhi's Constitution Club by Yuva-Hallabol to highlight the frustration and disappointment among the educated unem-

ployed youth. Yuva-Hallabol is a nationwide movement against unemployment that includes aspirants to the SSC, UPSC, state agencies, railways, police and

Yuva-Hallabol, in its letter to Modi, mentioned: "Today, we write to you with a lot of pain and hope. We want to serve the nation too. We are educated and skilled. There are over 24 lakh vacancies in government sectors. Yet we are not

able to secure a job."

"One of the major reasons we are not getting a job is the wide-spread corruption and irregularity in recruitment exams. Just over the past year, more than two dozen exam papers have leaked," the letter

"Please announce and launch a Pradhan Mantri CHEAT Fund Yojna, PMCFY for the job aspiring youth who cannot afford the high costs of buying a leaked paper. It would be very helpful if you implement this welfare scheme with immediate effect," it said.
"We will apply for a loan to

buy leaked papers and secure the jobs. Once we get a job, we give you 100 per cent guarantee that we repay all the money loaned money loaned by the Government," Yuva-Hallabol said in the letter

Yuva-Hallabol leader Anupam told IANS: "...the educated unemployment rate has reached 16 per cent, the unemployed youth are ready to expose the failures and hollow claims of this Government."

Identify, develop 36 stations as 'eco-smart stations': NGT to Rlys

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rhe National Green Tribunal has directed the Railways to identify and develop at least 36 stations as "eco-smart stations" within two weeks. A bench headed by NGT

Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel asked the public transporter that 'Polluter Pavs' principle may be invoked by regulatory authorities, including the Railways, for compli-ance of Solid Waste and Plastic Waste Management Rules,

2016.
The tribunal also asked the railway administration to get water and energy audits conducted within three months, initially at the 36 identified major stations, to reduce the use of energy and water.

After the 36 stations are

identified, an action plan may be prepared within a month and furnished to the tribunal via e-mail, the NGT said.

"The 36 stations may be developed as model stations, can be replicated in phases and may be called 'eco-smart stations. Such stations may be identified within two weeks

The railway stations identified as major railway stations may have their own websites to receive arievances and

suggestions. particularly with regard to cleanliness and hygiene issues' and notified on the website. "For the said 36 stations

nodal officers may be identified and notified. Report of com-pliance may be filed after three months by e-mail," the bench The NGT said the Railways is free to recover the cost of restoration from the polluters

for the damage caused to the environment. "The action plans may have verifiable indicators and progress may be reviewed with reference to such indicators,

periodically.

"The railway stations identified as major railway stations may have their own websites to

receive grievances and sug-

gestions, particularly with regard to cleanliness and hygiene issues," the bench said. The Railways may coordi-

nate with the urban local bodies concerned for solid and plastic waste management and may also consider banning the use of plastic on the stations, it .. The NGT had earlier

directed the railways to submit an action plan for maintaining cleanliness on platforms and tracks and had asked the Comptroller and Auditor General to conduct a perfor-mance audit at regular inter-

The green panel had said there was an urgent need for the railways to put in place an effective implementation and monitoring mechanism with provisions of fixing account-ability of individuals in respect of solid waste disposal, littering of solid and plastic wastes,

defecation etc.

The NGT was hearing a petition filed by lawyers Saloni Singh and Arush Pathania seeking steps to check pollution on railway properties, particularly on tracks.

fail to vote: PM to youth PTI ■ NEW DELHI

head of the Lok Sabha Allelections due this summer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said casting vote is a sacred duty and those who do not use the democratic right should feel the "pain" of not exercising their franchise.

In his monthly 'Mann ki radio address, he also hailed the role of the Election Commission for its "meticulous organising abilities " in

holding polls.

He pointed out that those born in the 21st century will cast their vote for the first time in the Lok Sabha polls. "They face the opportuni-

ty to shoulder responsibilities pertaining to the country. They have embarked upon the journey of being partners in nation building. The time has come for a confluence of individual dreams and the nation's dream," he said.

said. He urged the youth to register themselves as voters, if they are eligible. "All of us must realise that being a voter, earning the right to vote is an important rite of passage in ments. Simultaneously, the sentiment that voting is our sacred duty, should grow within us naturally. For any reason, if one is not able to vote, it should pain one," he said.

You should feel sad if you

He said those who are unable to vote should feel sad dened to witness any wrong taking place in the country. had not cast my vote ... That day I did not go and vote ... And as a result, my country has borne the brunt," he said

explaining the feeling.

The prime minister said, people have to realise the importance of this responsibility. "This must be our leaning; this should be our disposition. This inclination should sanskaar (encultration)," he

He urged eminent personalities to come forward and iointly contribute in campaigning for spreading awareness on voter registration and

casting vote.
"I sincerely hope that large number of eligible young peo-ple will get themselves registered as voters, thus forging a

partnership in the quest to further strengthen our democracy," he said.

Modi pointed out that on

January 25, 1950, the Election

Commission came into being, a day before India became a republic. He said, the scale at which elections are held in India is a matter of great awe for the world. He also said it is natur-

al for every citizen to feel proud of the Election Commission and its meticulous organising abilities. He said the country leaves no stone unturned to ensure that every citizen of India who is a registered voter, rightfully avails of the opportunity to cast his vote.

Modi highlighted how polling personnel fan out to remotest corners to enable voters exercise their franchise.

These facts are bound to instil a sense of pride, of the commitment of the Election Commission, Caring for that lone voter, for ensuring that he or she enjoys full opportunity to exercise the right to vote This is the beauty of our democracy," he said.



Pranab da: Sushil Modi

Close on the neers of bequeathing Bharat Ratna on former President Pranab Mukherjee, the BJP on Sunday set about redeeming its politiset about redeeming its politi-cal proceeds telling the Bengali populace how the Congress, Trinamool Congress and ilks ignored "one of the greatest son's of Bengal in recent times.

Addressing a rally at Howrah, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi said the former President was another victim of its dynastic politics. As Mukherjee would not fit

into the dynastic schemes of Janpath's schemes he was not only ignored for the Prime Ministerial chair but also never considered for the Bharat Ratna — a gross Governmental error that was rectified by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who conferred India's topmost hon-our on the "highly qualified son of Bengal," Sushil Modi said.

"Bengal has been on the forefront of everything. No region in India had produced so many great men as Bengal did. Notwithstanding it was ignored perennially to the extent that it is counted among one of the most backward States today," the Bihar BJP leader said, adding the saffron outfit would put Bengal on the developmental tracks if it was

Apparently wary of





ings (read jumlas) like it hap-pened ahead of 2014 general elections a more circumspect Dy Chief Minister promised his audience, "Within a decade of coming to power we will show what development means to the people of this State. We will completely change Bengal within ten years of voting to power in this State."

On the chances of winning the elections in Trinamool Congress-ruled State the lesser Modi said Chief Minister pened to late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after the close of Indira Gamma
infamous Emergency.
"A fter clamping

Emergency Indira Gandhi though that she would sweep the parliamentary elections. But soon she could realize her folly and her empire came crashing down. A similar fate is awaiting Mamata Banerjee whose despotic and oppressive whose despote and oppressive rule would be uprooted by the BJP with the help of the people of Bengal — have faith on the pro-saffron wind blowing in this State," he said.

Comparing Banerjee's regime with the one ran by former Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Yaday, the Dy Chief Minister of that State said "like it happened during Laloo Yadav's Bihar when no booth was left uncap-tured and no election went

unrigged — elections are ren-dered into a farce in your State." In Bihar ruled by Nitish Kumar not a single death "nor even an injury occurs even dur-ing rural polls. But in TMC's Bengal we heard how one hundred people died during last year's panchayat elections and how most of the booths were captured," he said adding "the people would throw the TMC out if they get a chance to vote and this time round such chance was going to be created for them."

BJP, not Cong, honoured UP Govt to withdraw 18 cases related to Muzaffarnagar riots

Muzaffarnagar: The Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to withdraw 18 cases related to the Muzaffarnagar riots and asked the district authorities to approach the court, sources said on Sunday.

UP's special secretary of law JJ Singh has directed Muzaffarnagar district magistrate Raieev Sharma to withdraw the cases, they said.

On the directive from

Lucknow, the district authorities have started preparing to approach the court for per-mission to withdraw the cases. The cases were filed under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon) and 397 (attempt to cause death), the

The directive came after the

On the directive from Lucknow, the district authorities have started approach the court for permission to cases. The cases were filed under relevant sections Code, including 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly

weapon) and 397

(attempt to cause

death) State Government sought details of 125 cases filed in relation to the Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013. Additional district magis-

trate Amit Kumar told PTI that

sought the details to review the sibility of withdrawing the possibility of windrawing and 125 cases pending in courts.

Balyan and Bharatendra Singh MLAs Sangeet Som and Umesh Malik, have been named in Several leaders of the rulthese 125 cases. Minister in the

and Hindutva leader Sadhvi Prachi are also accused in cases related to the Muzaffarnagar However, the cases asked to

withdraw do not include the names of these BJP leaders.

Communal clashes in Muzaffarnagar and adjoining areas in August and September 2013 had claimed 60 lives and displaced over 40,000 people. The State Government had formed an SIT to probe the riot cases. The SIT has filed charge sheets in 175 cases.

Police had registered cases against 6,869 people and arrested 1,480 people in connection with the riots.

According to the SIT, 418 accused have been acquitted in 54 cases due to lack of evidence.

Quarrel over drainage pit leads to twin-murder

Mangaluru: A quarrel over digging a drainage pit adjacent to the compound of a house led to the murder of two persons in Udupi district, police said on Sunday

The incident took place

on Saturday.
The two had intervened to settle a dispute over the digging near their friend Lohiths house by his neighbour Harish Reddy who was a rowdy, police said.

When Lohith objected to

the digging, Reddy allegedly threatened him and continued the work, they said.

It was then the victims intervened — Yatish, a personnel assistant to a local Congress party leader Rakesh Malli, and Bharath, an autorickshaw driver, the police said.

This angered Reddy so much that his accomplices fatally attacked Yatish and Bharat, they said.

A case has been registered



Devotees visit replica of Lord Venkateswara temple built on the confluence of Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea during its inauguration, in Kanyakumari on Sunday

Cong's Lucknow HQ gets new look

Priyanka Vadra, Scindia's new offices will come up there

Lucknow: The Congress headquarters at Mall Avenue in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, where the partys high profile office-bearers Priyanka Vadra and Jyotiraditya Scindia will have their offices to run the Uttar Pradesh campaign is being painted in fresh white.

The sprawling double-storeyed building is being The sprawling is being Anil Kumar Sharma, assistant permanent secretary

dressed up for the new occupants as the mood turns upbeat among party loyalists. A new 'war room' is being

constructed and a conference hall for workers to meet leaders in private is also being built. There are 12 computer terminals. Surrounded by high-rises that have cropped up in the past few years, the state Congress headquarters for long has been a sad reflection of the party's decline in the state. There is now hope among the cadres that things could

(Organisation) who pedals over 14-km to reach the office daily points to the repairs that are taking place in the building. "Similar repairs" were underway in the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) set up by Priyanka Vadra.

There is some aggression creeping back as well. "In the between falsehood, lies and truth, Priyanka will certainly lead the Congress to vic-tory in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections," says Sharma.

For that to happen the physical repairs of the state party headquarters as well as that of the party will need to

The NSUI office on the campus lies neglected. Inaugurated in 1986, the office next to a bust of Indira Gandhi has a rusted lock at its gate, which rarely opens now, says a party man. Empty pack-ets of chips are littered around. People dump garbage in front

of it.
UPCC spokesman Virendra Madan downplays plans for renovation and makeover and says it has nothing to do with Priyanka Vadra's tary in charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Burden of new citizens will be borne by entire country: Sonowal Guwahati: Assam Chief

CITIZENSHIP BILL-

on Sunday said the Citizenship Bill was a national policy and once it becomes an act, the burden of new citizens would

be borne by the entire country.
Attempts are being made to confuse people but the State Government which has come to power with a popular mandate would do nothing to harm the interests of the local people, Sonowal said.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Nalbari Medical College and Hospital at Borigaon, Sonowal said the bill can never threaten the existence of the indigenous people of Assam which has a legacy of great personal-ities like Srimanta Sankardey, Azan Lachit Borphukan, Bagh Hazarika and other.

The Chief Minister also urged the All Assam Students Union (AASU) to extend full



cooperation in successful gal immigrants and made no significant efforts to update the NRC, Sonowal said. implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord for ensuring The NRC updation process received a major shot in the arm with the National constitutional, administrativ and legislative safeguard for the

indigenous people.

He asked the intelligentsia to present the true picture of the bill before the people of the state, while criticising the previous Congress Government for neglecting development in the region as well as the inter-ests of the local people.

The previous Congress Governments imposed IMDT Act in the State to protect ille-

India if Bill is passed: Akhil Gogoi Guwahati: Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti Leader Akhil Gogoi on Sunday said if prop-er respect is not show to the

people but the State Assamese people and the Government which Citizenship Amendment Bill has come to power is passed, then "we must have with a popular the courage to tell the Government that we may con-sider not staying with India". mandate would do nothing to harm the interests of the

We should quit

Addressing a protest rally against the proposed legisla-tion at Panitola in Assam's Tinsukia district, Gogoi said, "If the Government gives us the respect we deserve, we are with the nation but if the sen timents of the indigenous Assamese are ignored and the bill is passed, then each Assamese must have the courage to say that they will

The proposed legislation seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and many parties and organisations have claimed that it will have an adverse impact on the demography of the sensitive border State. They said the provisions of the bill will nullify the 1985 Assam Accord, which pro-vides for deportation of all illegal migrants, irrespective of religion, who had entered the

state after March 1971. Gogoi, who has been spearheading the agitation by 70 organisations against the bill, said, "We want to make it clear that if the need and situation arises, Assam must be able to say that they are prepared not to stay with India .. if the Government respects us we will stay with India or we



illegal immigrants, Sonowal added. Manipur to hold all-party meet

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren has convened an all-party meeting on Monday on the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016. Manipur is one of the northeastern states which has been seeing various agitations in protest against the passing of this Bill on January 8 by the Lok Sabha.

The Janata Dal (United) has already announced that it will not take part in the meeting. JD (U) state president Hankhanpao said the Chief Minister had refused to summon an emergency session of the state assembly to hold a threadbare discussion on the bill.

"We fail to understand that anything use ful will emerge from the all parties' meeting." On Sunday, the Manipur People's Party also nnounced that it will refrain from participat-

ing in the meeting on Monday.

A statement from the MPP said that it had

made its position on the issue clear to the public and there is nothing to be discussed now.
"The BJP led government should have

Democratic Alliance (NDA)

government under the leader

ship of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi coming to

After the final publication

power at the Centre, he said.

of the NRC, people of State would get a clear picture

about the genuine citizens and

summoned the emergency session. We shall not participate in the meeting since the chief minister is whimsically sweeping the people in any direction", it said.

A sit in protest were staged in many parts of the state on Sunday. An effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was burned at a market in Khetriga in Imphal East district. The North East India Development Party

launched a signature campaign from Sunday. Functionaries of the party said that the campaign which will cover the entire state will continue till the Bill is scrapped.

Chief Minister N. Biren said: "Now that the

union home minister has assured that the interest of the indigenous peoples of the NE region shall be protected people should call off the agi-

Power-packed wedding: Bigwigs make it to Raj Thackeray's son wedding

Bihar's 'Bahubali' **legislator joins Congress roadshow** Patna: Independent legislator Anant Singh belong to the

and criminal-turned-politician Anant Singh, popularly known as Bahubali, on Sunday joined the Congress roadshow in support of party president Rahul Gandhi's rally in February. Anant Singh, who is facing

several criminal cases, was seen along with Rajya Sabha MP and former Union Minister Akhilesh Singh and hundreds of other party members in the road show to mobilise people for Gandhi's rally on February 3 here.

The Congress is busy organising an anti-BJP rally -ʻlan Aakansha' - at Gandhi Maidan here. This is the first time in 28 years that the Congress is holding a massive rally in the state on its own.

Confirming Anant Singh's presence at the road show, Akhilesh Singh told the media: "He is a strong and popular leader, it will help the party garner support for the rally." Both Akhilesh Singh and

Bhumihar caste, which is widely seen as the vote bank of the Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) in Bihar for over two and a half

Anant Singh, independent legislator from Mokama Assembly constituency of Bihar, is known for his muscle and money power. He said that he would contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls from Munger parliamentary constituency as a Congress candidate.

Akhilesh Singh said it is not

vet decided who will contest from where as talks are ongo-ing with allies regarding a Grand Alliance. In 2015, Anant Singh resigned from the ruling Ianata Dal-United and contested and won the Assembly polls from behind bars. In the past, he has been arrested several times for serious crimes like kidnapping and murder. At present he is out on bail. **PTI** Newly initiated 'Naga Sadhus' wait to perform during Kumbh Mela in Allahabad on Sunday



Newly initiated 'Naga Sadhus' wait to perform rituals on the bank of river Ganga.

Family Members along with newly wed Amit Thackeray and Mitali Borude pose for a picture during their reception in Mumbai on Sunday

n a clear indication of the clout enjoyed by MNS chief Rai Thackeray in Maharashtra politics, several prominent per-sonalities from various walks of life, including leaders of various political parties, film and sports personalities and industrialists, attended the wedding designer Mitali Borude held at

a five-star hotel here on Sunday.

At the held in the famous family held after a gap of 28 ranny nett after a gap of 28 years, all the members of Thackeray family - including Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, his wife Rashmi, son Aditya, his estranged elder brother faidev Thackeray and sister-in-law Smita Thackeray made it to the power-packed

wedding. Raj and his wife Sharmila, were seen warmly welcoming guests at the wedding.

Maharashtra Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao and chief min-ister Devendra Fadnavis represented the state government at the wedding. Fadnavis' wife Amruta accompanied the chief minister at the wedding.
Senior Congress leader

Sushil Kumar Shinde attended the wedding with his family members. NCP chief Sharad Pawar, his daughter Supriya Sule, nephew and former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and his family members made it to the wedding.

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari graced the wedding and blessed the couple, while Maharashtra

wedding with her family.

Congress leader Ahmed Patel, who is close to both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. apparently made it to the wed-ding on behalf of two Gandhis.

Legendary cricketer and Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar and his wife Aniali attracted quite a bit of attention at the wedding. Renowned singer Asha Bhosale, with whom Raj Thackeray enjoys an excellent rapport, made it to the wedding and blessed the couple. Yesteryear actress Sulochana was also spotted at the wedding.

Industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata and actor Aamir Khan were other attractions at the wedding.

Bollywood actor and late chief minister Vilasrao



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray with wife Rashmi and son Aditya arrive to attend MNS Chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray's wedding ceremony in Mumbai on Sunday

Deshmukh's son Ritesh and his hood friends, were engaged on elder brother Amit Deshmukh attended the wedding. Shivaji Historian Baba

Purandare, who enjoys good relations with the MNS chief,

December 11,2018, which happens to be the wedding anniver-sary of Raj and Sharmila. Raj Thackeray's daughter Urvashi and to be daughter-in-law Mitali also made it to the wedding.
Amit and Mitali, both child-label, 'The Rack', a few years ago.

Reject negative forces: PM to TN voters | Modi slams Cong, Left parties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday exhorted the electorate of Tamil Nadu to reject the forces of negativity and not to be carried away by those who sow the seeds of sus-picion and doubts in the minds

of the people.

Addressing a rally of BJP workers from ten Lok Sabha workers from ten Lok Sabna constituencies in Southern Tamil Nadu at Madurai on Sunday, the Prime Minister paid rich tributes and homages to former Chief Minister late J Javalalithaa with whom he had enjoyed a good rapport. Those who expected some hints from the Prime Minister about the possible alliance partners of the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections were in for disappointment as he chose not to mention anything about the election. Modi chose to limit his speech to the achievements made by the NDA Government during the last four and half vears and abstained from attacking any of his rivals.

He said Tamil Nadu has

been benefited by the Swachchh Bharat scheme he had launched in 2014. "We had constructed nine crore toilets out of which 47 lakh were built in Tamil Nadu. Our mission is to have at least one medical col-lege in every three Lok Sabha constituencies," said Modi.

The Prime Minister had some good news for the people in southern Tamil Nadu.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being garlanded by Tamil Nadu BJP unit president Tamilisai Soundararajan and others at BJP rally in Madurai on Sunday

nected to Madurai with the high speed Train-18, designed and built at Perambur near Chennai. Many countries have shown keen interest in buying such trains from India. Tamil Minister added. Nadu stands to benefit from the mass production of Train 18 as thousands of jobs would be generated as India gies ahead with the project," said the

Prime Minister. He said a ₹25,100 crore project is on the anvil to connect the nation with the holy city of Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi, the land's end by rail and road.

The Government has sanctioned the proposal to build new rail bridge connecting Rameswaram with the hin-terland. This will bring back the old days when we had rail connectivity between Chennai and Dhanushkodi," the Prime

The only political point he mentioned was about the Maha Ghatbandhan (though he did not name it or the main players) which was on the anvil. "People who were looting the county have come together to remove the security guard so that the crimes committed by them would not come to light. But so long as the security guard is there, they won't suc-ceed in their mission. All those

who were part of the looting and corrupt practices would be

brought before the court of jus-

tice to stand trial," said Modi. There were nearly 50,000 people who had gathered to lis-ten to the Prime Minister despite the scorching sunlight

"We are disappointed cause the Prime Minister did not give any hint about electoral alliances," said one of the party leaders.

Farlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Thoppur in the dis-trict. The new AIIMS featuring a 750 bed super speciality hospital, a medical college with 100 MBBS seats and a nursing college with 60 seats will cater

southern districts of Tami Nadu, said the Prime Minister in his brief speech after the laying of the foundation stone.

Modi also inaugurated or Sunday the super speciality blocks built at the medical colleges at Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and Madurai under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) .

He also inaugurated 12 post office based passport seva kendras across the region as part of the Union Government's plans to bring governance to the doorsteps of the people in the region.

The Prime Minister began

his speech by paying homages to former Chief Minister late J Jayalalithaa who was in the forefront demanding the setting up of an AIIMS like insti-tution in the State.

The AIIMS at Madurai is rt of our vision of Ek Bharat Sreshta Bharat vision. The institution is expected to serve the entire population of Tamil Nadu by making accessible to them world class health care at affordable rates. We have launched Avushman Bharat scheme targeting 10 crore families in whih each family would be provided ₹5 lakh per year to meet the expenses they incur during hospitalisation of the family members. I have beent old that 89,000 people have been benefited because of this programme and ₹200 crore has been reimbursed under this scheme till date," said the Prime Minister

Abuse me but don't mislead farmers, youth of the country

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN M KOCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tore into the Opposition, especially the Congress and the Communists, whom he described as bereft of any ideas or programmes for the progress of the country. "They have only one agen-

da and that is to abuse Narendra Modi from the moment they wake up in the morning till they go to bed in the night. Let them do so. Let them abuse me, but they should not spread falsehoods on farmnot spread falsehoods on farmers, youth and the poor people of the country," said Modi while addressing the Bharatiya Yuva Marcha rally held at Thrissur in

Kerala on Sunday. He lambasted the Congress for lowering the prestige of Indian Constitution and democracy. "Recently we saw a Congress leader addressing a press meet held at London to question the Electronic Voting Machines and the Election Commission of India. The questioned the ethos of Indian democracy. Is this how they respect the democracy?" asked the Prime Minister.

Modi pointed out that the Congress and the Communists blame all institutions in the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Mounded Storage Vessel at LPG Bottling Plant in Kochi on Sunday

regards for the Country's Constitution. They accuse the Armed Forces, Election Commission, judiciary, CBI, Enforcement Directorate, CVC and all other institutions. For them all these institutions are wrong and they are the only right people," Modi said. The Prime Minister came

down heavily on the down heavily on Communists for their stance on Coharimala Temple. "The Communist Government is showing disrespect to Sabarimala Temple. They are undermining and destroying the culture and civilisation of Kerala which had stood the test of time for thousands of years The Congress is also not behind them in this endeavour," the PM added.

our, the PM added.
Pointing out that three
Ministers of Communist
Government had to quit on
charges of corruption in three
years, Modi said Communists
and the Congress were subvert-

ing the country's strategic programmes. The Congress leaders who had to settle personal scores between themselves used India's space programme for their personal interests.

"A brilliant scientist like Nambi Narayanan who played a crucial role in India's space programme was made a scape-goat by the Congress and communist leaders. We, the NDA Government, helped him to resuscitate his reputation by honouring him with Padma award," said Modi.

The Prime Minister listed the achievements made by the NDA Government during the last four and half years. "You last four and half years. "You elected me as the chowkidaar of the country because of my promise that I'll never allow anyone to loot the country. Let them keep on abusing me, but I'll never fail you," said Modi. He also charged that the Congress leaders were still in the hangover of the internal emergency.

Priyanka inducted in Cong because Rahul flopped: UP Minister

was made party's general sec-retary because Congress president Rahul Gandhi "flopped" in politics, UP Power Minister Srikant Sharma said on Sunday.

Cabinet Minister asserted that induction of the party president's sister would not be able to revive the Congress' electoral fortunes.

"Had Rahul not flopped, where was the need for bring-ing Priyanka?" Sharma asked in reply to a reporter's question on Priyanka Gandhi's possible impact in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections. Privanka Gandhi is not a new face in the Congress, she has been canvassing for the party in Amethi

Mathura: Priyanka Gandhi and Rae Bareli since 1998, the minister pointed out.
"Her induction in the party

would not make any impact in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections," he said

Sharma said the elimination of Congress from SP-BSP alliance is a testimony to the fact that the party is at the low-est step in the state politics.

'The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working for Narendra Modi is working for for poor, labourers, peasants etc., it would be difficult to pen-etrate his fort," said the minis-ter. Sharma also sought to downplay the importance of grand alliance among the anti-BJP parties, terming it as a "covering of corrupt" cus of corrupt".



Devotees and members of Hindu Jagran Manch (HJM) participate in a march 'Walk for Ayyappa' in relation to violence faced by devotees at Sabarimala's Ayyappa temple in Kolkata on Sunday

Thane man with link to 'ISIS-inspired' group held by Maha ATS

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested a man in connection with an alleged ISIS-inspired group that wanted to carry out mass attacks at big events using poisonous chemicals, police said on Sunday.

The arrest was made on Saturday from Mumbra in neighbouring Thane district and a laptop, tablet computer, hard disk, pen drives, router, mobile phones and diaries were seized from his residence, an ATS official said.

The ATS had earlier arrested eight people, and detained a minor, from Aurangabad and Thane after several teams carried out searches through



January 21-22, an official said. They were charged under Indian Penal Code section 120B (criminal conspiracy) and relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Bombay Police Act.

This group, during inter-rogation, had named the accused who was arrested on Saturday, he added. PTI

Gorakhpur's **Cong unit wants** Priyanka to fight LS poll from here

The Gorakhpur's Congress unit on Sunday raised a demand for fielding Priyanka Gandhi from here, depicting her as a modern "Jhansi ki Rani".

The district unit of the party raised the demand in two posters that came up in the stronghold of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who represented Gorakhpur between 1998 and 2017 in the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th Lok Sabha.

In the first poster, the Congress party workers demanded that Priyanka Gandhi be made the Congress candidate from Gorakhpur for **PTI** the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.



People near the accident site where a pick up van was hit by a train, at Tilapara of Chirang, on Sunday

Men have key role in fight for gender equality: SC judge

Gandhinagar: Men have a key role to play in the fight for gen-der equality, Supreme Court Judge DY Chandrachud on Sunday said as he called for the need to de-construct the stereotype of gender roles.

Justice Chandrachud, who bench that allowed women of all ages to enter the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, said violence and discrimination faced by females were compounded by people's "insensitivity to

omen's rights and issues". He was addressing graduating students at the convocation ceremony of the Gujarat National Law University here in the presence of his colleague from the Supreme Court, Justice AK Sikri. stereotypes of gender roles, an exercise that "must be practised every passing days".

"Women have to deal with shocking gender wage gaps, forms of violence and harassments, forced adherence to feminine, impossible standards of beauty, compounded by what I think might be the worst of all-- insensitivity to women's rights and issues," Chandrachud said.

"The fight for gender equality cannot be fought by women alone. Men have a key role to play in demanding and supporting this societal shift by being a part of conversation and of the movement," he

Chandrachud called for need to de-construct the



The country is faced with sturbing inequa disparities in access to opporand exhorted the law students to use their privilege to "try and change injustices of society". The same values which grant privilege to some rob others of their humanity. There is,

hence, an urgent need to address this. remain a beneficiary and do

nothing, you are complicit in furthering a grave injustice," he told the audience. The judge said instances of a child being denied basic education because of his parents' financial status, a person being denied housing because of religion, a woman not getting

inability of our society to grant a citizen an equal and humane existence". "The Constitution envisions an egalitarian society, but it is you the citizens, and particularly students of younger generation who can make this Constitutional vision a reality for the morrow, Chandrachud said.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Sikri called for the need to "uphold the law and Constitution and save democracy" at a time when its values were "at stake" the world over.

He said judges have to perform "a vital role" at a time when the world is "undergoing access to public spaces because of her menstrual status, or a kind, and when there is "back-Dalit subjected to indignity present "glaring examples of the

J&K BJP in favour of reservation for people living along Int'l Border

Jammu: The BJP's Jammu & Kashmir unit on Sunday advocated reservation for the people living along the International Border (IB) and accused the PDP of creating hurdles during the coalition Government's rule in fulfilling various promises made by the saffron party to the public. Thanking Governor Satya Pal Malik for

providing quota to the Pahari community, BJP's State chief spokesperson Sunil Sethi the people living in pitiable conditions along the IB by providing reservation to them in line and on par with the residents of the Line of Actual Control. said the administration would do justice to

This will ensure upliftment of these ignored masses," he said

Sethi said his party had promised the residents of areas adjoining the IB that they will be given justice by way of reservation in education and jobs as is available to the resident of Line of Actual Control.

"The BJP is committed to fulfilling all promises made to the people. It was the PDP in the alliance Government which ing people.

tion," he said in statement here. "In recent times.

IB is seeing more firing and infiltration, and the residents of

these areas are required to be given benefits for living in such dangerous and risky areas," the BJP leader said. He said the nation cannot ignore the

immense contributions of border residents who are part of first defence along with security forces and the country is indebted to the high spirit and nationalism exhibit-

Meanwhile, the National Panthers Party activists led by chairman and former min-ister Harsh Dev Singh Sunday staged a protest against the administration for "failing" to accord Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and reservation in government jobs to the Kolis community along with Pahari speaking people.

Statue of Unity: Crocodiles to be relocated for tourist safety

Ahmedabad: Crocodiles from two ponds near the Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Narmada district are being relocated for the safety of tourists visiting the Sardar Patel memorial, officials said on Sunday while dismissing reports that the move is linked to

seaplane service.
As many 20 cages have been set up along the banks of the two ponds, officially known as Dyke 3 and 4, to trap the crocodiles, an

official informed.

These dykes are artificial water bodies created to stabilise the water released from the Sardar Sarovar Dam before it reaches the entry point of the main Narmada canal, the official explained.

Aradhana Sahu, Conservator

of Forests, (Vadodara Wildlife Circle) said that 12 crocodiles have

been caught so far, though she

added there was no specific target for the number of these reptiles that need to be captured.
"The area around the Statue of

Unity near Kevadiya village is attracting huge number of tourists. Since there are crocodiles in these ponds, there exists a threat to the tourists. We have begun the process of relocating the reptiles

elsewhere," Sahu said.
"We have not set any specific target of the number of crocodiles to be caught and relocated. Till now, we have shifted 12 crocodiles.

They were caught from Dyke 3 and Dyke 4, which are close to

the Tent City. As per a rough esti-mate, there will be around 300 crocodiles in that area," she said. A field officer overseeing the operation said 20 cages, with meat and fish as bait, have been installed near the two ponds.

comes out to eat the food kept in the cage, they get caught inside. We have kept all the captured crocodiles in our rescue centre They will be released in the main reservoir of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in the near future," said Idrish Topiya, Assistant Conservator of Forests.

However, both Sahu and Topiya denied reports that the crocodiles were being removed from the dvkes to make way for a proposed seaplane service to cater to SoU tourists.

"I want to make it clear that we have not made any plan yet to shift all the crocodiles of that area. The seaplane service is not in the picture vet. We have not received any intimation about it. We are doing this just for the safety of tourists," Sahu emphasised. *PTI*



GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & GUJARAT WATER SL SEWERAGE BOARD SECTOR-10/A, GANE SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR

BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ONLINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I.
SLUICE VALVES WITH ISI MARK FOR

THE YEAR 2019

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering: for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I. Sluice valves (50 to 1200mm Dia.) with ISI Mark from Approved Vendors of GWSSB Only. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & down load the Tender documents at free of cost from website.

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The last date of submission of online tender is 7-2-2019. No/INF/VPN/2019/G/2727



GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & GUJARAT WATER SU SEWERAGE BOARD. SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR

BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I. AIR **VALVES FOR THE YEAR 2019**

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I. Air Valves (15 to 200mm Dia.) from Approved Vendors of GWSSB only. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & down load the Tender documents at free of cost from website.

https://www.nprocure.com The last date of submission of online tender is 7-2-2019.

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PAPER WITH PASSION -

Whose Ratna really?

The award should celebrate rare talent and we cannot let it be used as a tool for settling political wrongs



hen we do not find a Bharat Ratna for four years, admitting to a colossal vacuum of national genius and worth, and then suddenly find three jew-- two of whom are no more with us, and one of long-time provenance — then it means that we have been blindfolded and woken up to sudden enlightenment. Or as this year's roll call of national honours shows, set our goals deliberately, namely the general elections. Nothing else can explain why the NDA government has strayed from just rewarding ideological affiliates to celebrating a rainbow coalition of

non-partisan and big names from public life. Except that the neutral choices seemed far more politically motivated than they would otherwise. And the messaging was far from subtle. Little wonder then that Gita Mehta, sister of Odisha Chief Minister and BJD leader Naveen Patnaik, refused the Padma Shri bestowed on her, saying the intent behind it would be misconstrued in an election year and she would much rather have people believe that she got it for her worth. It is no secret that the BJP is trying to woo Patnaik, who is hell-bent on maintaining a political equidistance. It also explains why life-long Congressman and ex-President Pranab Mukherjee wondered aloud what he had done so great to merit the nation's highest award. Of course, Mukherjee's choice is in tandem with the BJP's appropriation of Congress icons, from Mahatma Gandhi — who dominated the Republic Day flotilla — to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The BJP clearly wanted to show that the Congress didn't even bother to reward the dyed-in-the-wool partyman for his contribution to the sustenance of its governments only because he didn't kowtow to its first family. It is no rocket science to understand how both he though he may not talk about it, and many across the spectrum were surprised about him being passed over for prime ministership in 1984 and 2004, mainly because of opposition from the Gandhis. With Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi also Bharat Ratnas, the BJP seems to be attempting to soothe hurt pride of a dedicated public servant, who at one time was heading the maximum number of the now abolished GoMs (group of ministers), and equate him as an equivalent of the dynasty. But if the BJP believes that backing Pranabda would get it sympathy from Bengal, appealing to the gentry's respect of him, it is highly mistaken. Just as it is mistaken that Mukherjee himself, while maintaining cordial relations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will feel grateful enough to critique the Congress. Even while gracing the RSS event, he had ended up emphasising plurality and inclusiveness and not disappointed the Congress one bit. Naming Assamese author, singer composer Bhupen Hazarika for Bharat Ratna — and playing his song during the R-Day parade — was again a desperate attempt to assuage the Assamese sense of identity. Given that the Citizenship Bill has stoked a wave of ethnic protests across the Northeast with even Mizos staying away from R-Day, the BJP hopes to build bridges by positing one who commands reverence across the region. With the Asom Gana Parishad walking out as an alliance partner, the BJP has a boiling cauldron it can ill-afford to stir in pre-election season. In fact, the Bharat Ratna to Nanaji Deshmukh, while intended to appease the RSS, still doesn't seem biased considering his socialist credentials. Even the Opposition would find little fault in his contribution to rural development or his sustainable solutions on water management and agriculture. The only homage to anti-Congressism comes from his role in the anti-Emergency movement.

In the end, everybody, citizens included, should question the increasing politicisation of the nation's highest civilian award and insist upon a national poll on the greatest Indian of the year. Granted some have been political tributes to founding fathers and their struggles, others have rightly honoured men of rare talent and stature. But just because a template is skewed by non-transparency doesn't mean it cannot or should not be set right. Bharat Ratna should celebrate rare talent and cannot be allowed to be used as a tool for settling political wrongs. Just as a Padma Bhushan to Nambi Narayanan cannot be looked at as an apology for wrongly labelling one of India's best cryogenic specialists a spy.

Something fishy

The problem of fish laced with chemicals ought to get the authorities worried before it becomes a public health issue



ests by food inspectors have found large amounts of ammonia and formalin in fish that is being sold in several markets across Delhi. This comes a few weeks after Bihar banned the sale of fish across the State due to formalin and the issue of the chemical became a massive issue in Goa. Ammonia is used by fish transporters in the ice to slow down melting and formalin is used to keep the catch looking fresh. But both chemicals are carcinogens and otherwise harmful to human health. With a few proper refrigerated trucks as well as the lack of a proper cold chain

in India, fish are often transported on ice in trucks, which can take a few days to travel from the shore to inland cities. Transporters and fish wholesalers must have figured out that ammonia and formalin are good for margins without realising the dangers of the chemicals they use.

Unfortunately, it is not just the fish and seafood industry that suffers from the problem of added chemicals in food. The use of steroids and antibiotics in the poultry and dairy industries is a major problem that we have not addressed. And fresh food, unlike packaged food, does not come with warning labels about chemicals. Many of these harmful substances cannot be washed off, particularly in meat and fish, because they have been absorbed into the muscle. These, when built up in humans, cannot just cause cancers but also impotence, heart disease and other problems. With fish being considered the best source of protein and oils, Indians ought to be eating more of it but this scandal could prove devastating to the fishing industry just like the avian flu epidemic that destroyed the demand for poultry. Most consumers buy fresh food based on trust and if it collapses, that is the end of it. If people are to regain faith in eating fish, more food safety officers should be deployed. And while our bureaucrats have acted tough on companies like Nestle, they should also inspect and examine fresh food items such as meat and fish more regularly. Even though the fishing communities are large vote-banks for politicians in coastal States, there needs to be some political will behind this as well because if demand for fish collapses in the aftermath of this scandal, thousands of fishermen will be jobless. And that is not a risk any politician should take.

opanion

The tripod of rights

The most poetic promise made in the Constitution relates to liberty, equality and fraternity. But the three words contain a harmless contradiction — that liberty and equality cannot go together



PRAFULL GORADIA

s India celebrated its Republic Day one's mind goes to the Constitution and the wonderful omises it made. The most poet and fraternity, a vow taken from the central slogan of the French Revolution that began in 1789. The three words incidentally contain a harmless contradiction; namely, that liberty and equality cannot go together. If a society wants to have equality, it has to willy-nilly curb liberty. If say, the income of all its citizens is desired to be equal or equable, inevitably, the Government must place control on higher incomes. And, perhaps, also add subsidy to the lowest incomes. An extreme of this social desire was tried by the communist states led by the Soviet Union.

The contradiction between liberty and equality has best been illustrated by the Hindu faith in karma. How can any society place control over good or better karma? And if a person's karma is excellent, his *bhagya* or luck is also likely to be commensurate. How can the society or its Government curb it in order to ensure equality among the citizens? If a person with poor karma performance is expected to have poor luck, he could be subsidised or even fed and clothed for free. But what about the other facets of good luck rewards? Then there is also the risk of the Government running out of money if too many of its citizens are unlucky, poor and

Article 15(1) states: "The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them." This Article is commend-able in insisting that there would be no discrimination on any ground. In other words, it means absolute equal treatment by the state Yet, Article 30 promises minorities the right to establish and administer educational to establish and administer educational institutions. "(i) All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice." This stands in contradiction of Article 15. It gives this right and freedom to the minorities, which are not allowed to be members of the majority community, namely the Hindus. Minorities comprise mainly Muslims. Christian schools are in such demand that they normally face no problem, nor do the linguistic minorities encounter any difficulties. Article 30 (1A) gives the minorities the privilege of being assured the allocation of land that is affordable by the proposed school or its society.

A more fundamental question arises out of this inequality. That was raised by Acharya Justice Dr Durga Das Basu, who rightly contended that a minority, which deserves such special privilege or protection, is one which became one (a minority) by circumstances beyond its influence or control like a war between two or more countries. In the case of Muslims of the sub-continent, it is they who demanded a separate homeland, a Darul Islam or a New Medina called Pakistan. And it had

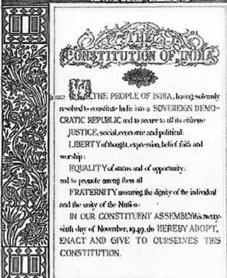


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to be granted by the departing British rulers and conceded to by the Congress because the Muslim electorate in the 1945/46 general elections overwhelmingly voted for Pakistan. To quote from Hamid Khan's CONTRADICTION authoritative book, Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan: "The results OF EQUALITY HAS **BEST BEEN** showed a decisive victory for the **ILLUSTRATED BY** idea of Pakistan. The League won all Muslim seats in the THE HINDU FAITH Central Assembly and 446 out of a total 495 Muslim seats in IN KARMA. HOW provincial Assemblies. In Bengal, the Muslim League won 113 out of a total 119 Muslim seats and CAN ANY SOCIETY PLACE CONTROL was able to form a Government OVER GOOD OR with Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy as Chief Minister. In BETTER KARMA? the Punjab, the Muslim League captured 79 out of 86 Muslim seats. In Sindh, a Muslim League AND IF A PERSON'S KARMA Ministry was formed. Only in the North-West Frontier IS EXCELLENT, HIS Province did the League fall short BHAGYA IS ALSO of a majority by winning only 17 out of a total of 36 Muslim seats. LIKELY TO BE These elections proved conclusively that the Muslim League alone represented the Muslims COMMENSURATE. HOW CAN THE

Partition was the single-point manifesto of the Muslim League, which obtained nearly unanimous support in the elec-tions. The League's proposal, repeated by MA Jinnah and seven of his senior colleagues, was that there should be an exchange of population. Thereby, ideally, all Muslims should gather in Pakistan and all non-Muslims would emigrate to Hindustan. Justice Gopal Das Khosla, ICS, was commis to survey the Punjab and report





on the immediate post-Partition situation. The report was print-ed in an Oxford University Press published book entitled Stern Reckoning: A Survey of the Events Leading Up to and Following the Partition of India. Therein, the Justice wrote that an exchange of population was an integral part of Partition. After all, the vivisection of the country was necessary because as Jinnah said that Hindus and Muslims could not co-exist in the same country. If they were able to co-exist, where would be

the need for the division?

Article 27 states, "Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion. No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes, the pro-ceeds of which are specifically appropriated in payment of expenses for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious denomina-tion." The writer petitioned the Supreme Court in 2007, requesting that the Haj subsidy be withdrawn as the Constitution declares that India is a secular country. If, howeyer, the Government was not pre-pared to do so, he should be exempted from the payment of Income Tax. The subsidy was paid from the consolidated fund of India as the Income Tax was credited to the same fund. Four years later, Justice Markandey Katju delivered a long judgement. Its gist was that the Haj subsidy was like an expenditure made by the Government as incidental to

maintaining law and order at the Kumbh Mela or on making

arrangements for a visit to Mansarovar. To reduce or abolish the Haj subsidy would damage the edifice of secularism that Jawaharlal Nehru had so

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painstakingly built.

The following year, namely
2008, Justice Aftab Alam decided, in a petition filed by one Syed Intesar Mehdi, that the Haj subsidy should be progressively reduced and discontinued in the course of 10 years. The subsidy was not in conformity with the tenets of Islam, the judgement said. Incidentally, the late Syed Shahabuddin, IFS and a former MP, had told this writer twice that this subsidy should be gradually withdrawn. So much for the implementation of our secular Constitution.

In conclusion this writer would like to quote Acharya Basu from his book, *Introduction* bast from his book, introduction to the Constitution of India, 2002, that makes a telling point: "The leaders of divided India incorporated in their draft Constitution, certain safeguards for minorities, notwithstand-ing the Partition, because they refused to concede on the principle that the Muslims in India constituted a separate nation. That India constituted one ty must be maintained, was proclaimed in the very Preamble of the draft Constitution of divided India. The Muslims who did not go to Pakistan, did so with their eyes open to this Preamble and the safeguards for minorities included in the Constitution." (The writer is a well-known

UNDBITE

It's very unfortunate. Biju Patnaik and Kanshi Ram before Pranab Mukheriee

JD(S) secretary general



With regret I must decline the Padma Shri as there is a general election looming. The timing



India must do whatever it can to encourage that the Taliban shun extremism and become mainstream Former National

SOCIETY OR ITS

EQUALITY AMONG

GOVERNMENT

CURB IT IN

ORDER TO

CITIZENS?

ENSURE

Security Advisor



Competition is good for science but bad for scientists While it is intrinsic, the system tends to exacerbate it

Nobel Laureate ---venkanaman Ramakrishnan



LETTERS THE EDITOR

Priyanka is a sure bet for the Congress

Shockwaves

Sir — This refers to the editorial. "Priyanka's Gandhigiri" (January 25). The appointment of Priyanka Gandhi as the general secretary of the Congress provides an addi-tional blow to the BJP, which already seems to be rather jittery. That so many BJP leaders, including the Prime Minister, have commented on her entry proves this.

Tharcius S Fernando

Ripple effect

Sir — This refers to the editorial. "Priyanka's Gandhigiri" (January So has the Congress eventually realised that it takes more than what Rahul Gandhi boasts to revive itself in a State that is widely believed to hold the key to Raisina Hill? Either way, her appointment is an admission that party stands virtually decimated in Uttar Pradesh. It is so politically distraught that it has been pressured into playing its last 'Gandhi card' to ward off being

reduced to a marginal player.
Indeed, Priyanka could be the one with charm - at least ade-

his refers to the editorial, "Priyanka's Gandhigiri" (January 25). Priyanka Gandhi's full-fledged entry into active politics has sent a ripple of excitement across the country. It has lent more colour to the already colour ful kaleidoscope of Indian politics. It could also force a rethink on the part of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samaiwadi Party to accommodate the Congress into their alliance to avoid a triangular contest. Priyanka certainly has the 'X' factor. She is sure to make it in the rough and tumble of politics as she is said to have the political instincts of her grandmother, Indira Gandhi. She is sure to make a difference to the Congress' fortunes.

Her mass appeal is such that it will be counter-productive for the BJP to mount a scathing personal attack on her and drag her husband into the game of politics. Fighting Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath in eastern Uttar Pradesh will be a difficult task. It is like bearding the lion in his den. Yet. Privanka is widely seen as a leade



capable of pulling it off. No wonder, she is seen as the 'brahmastra' unleashed by the Congress to queer the pitch for Modi. However, recapturing the pre-eminence takes place at all, given the rise and relevance of regional and social justice parties over the decades.

G David Milton

Stiffer challenge

quate enough to convince party stalwarts who believe that Rahul Gandhi is no match-winner. Whether Rahul's "front foot strat- This refers to the editorial, "Priyanka's Gandhigiri" (January 25). Finally, the Congress has used its 'trump card'. So far, Priyanka Gandhi's egy" and Priyanka's entry actually revive the party's prospects is a big imponderable for the 2019 poll. The BJP has certainly been presence was restricted to the Gandhi family's pocket boroughs of Rae Bareli and Amethi. But now since she has been given the impacted; its fallback on the "dynasty" criticism proves that.

KS Jayatheertha

charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh, she is expected to play a bigger role in the 2019 general election.

But the Congress must not forget that the dynamics of Uttar Pradesh politics are completely different. The fight is largely between the Bahujan Samaj Party-Samajwadi Party duo and the BJP. The Congress still remains a fringe player over there. At best, Priyanka Gandhi

can attract crowds in her rallies but converting them into votes would be the greatest challenge for her political career.

Bal Govind

Political repercussion

This refers to the editorial, "Priyanka's Gandhigiri" (January 25). The re-entry of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra into active politics is a card well played by the Congress. This leader will now be judged on the basis of her performance and not just for her family's legacy.

Of course, she also carries the baggage of her husband, Robert Vadra, who is facing corruption charges. Priyanka should know that the goodwill enjoyed by the party in Uttar Pradesh and her resemblance to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi may not be enough to translate votes. Uttar Pradesh will decide not only the Congress' prospects but also Priyanka's career to an extent.

Mayank Khatri Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Vegans, carnivores and technology

Our eating habits won't change so process must. Machines alone can't save us but by growing meat in labs can shift the odds in our favour



GWYNNE DYER

ight now, growing cells as meat instead of animals is a very expensive process," said Yaakov Nahmias, founder and chief scientist of Israel-based startup Future Meat Technologies. But it will get cheaper and it probably will be needed. Global population is heading for 10 billion by 2050 (the current world population is 7.7 billion). Average global incomes will triple in the same period, enabling more people to eat meat-rich diets.

"We need a significant overhaul, changing the global food sys-tem on a scale not seen before," said Professor Tim Lang of the University of London, one of the 37 scientific co-authors from 16 different countries who wrote a report by the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet and Health that will soon be launched in Jakarta. But we've heard it all before. It takes seven kilos of grain to grow one kilo of beef. Seventy per cent of the world's fresh water is used to irrigate crops. We have appropriated three-quarter of the world's fertile land for food production and we'll need the rest by 2050. The world's stock of seafood will have collapsed by 2050. It's all true but we're sick of being nagged.

And still they are bang on. The EAT-Lancet Commission even has a diet that will save the planet. Cut your beef consumption by 90 per cent (ie one steak a month). Eat more beans and pulses (three times more) and more nuts and seeds (four times more). Going vegetarian or vegan will help even more. That's all true, too, but I don't think it's going to happen. Or at least, it's not going to happen by everybody turning vegan, vegetarian, or just 'flexitarian.' No doubt in due course there will be high taxes on meat and fish and official propaganda campaigns to persuade people to change their eating habits and some people will change. Some people already have: The Vegan Society in Britain claims that the number of vegans in the country has quadrupled in the last four years. But not enough people will switch to a plant-based diet soon enough, or maybe ever. We need to bring the rest of the population along and few things are more persistent than cultural dietary preferences like eating meat.

India is home to almost one-third for the world's vegetarians but local variations are immense and deeply entrenched: Seventy five per cent of the people are vegetarians in the northwestern state of Rajasthan but fewer than two per cent are in the southern States of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. The most enthusiastic meateaters are in the richer countries. And as other countries join their club (like China), they start eating more meat too. So clearly, there would be a huge market for real meat that didn't come from cat-tle, pigs, sheep and chickens but tastes right, feels right in the mouth and doesn't trash the environment.

We're not talking about the famous \$325,000 hamburger patty made from beef cells immersed in a growth medium that was triumphantly cooked on television six years ago. We're talking about a proper steak with muscle, fat cells and the right shape, taste and texture — but not one produced by the familiar process that uses huge amounts of fertile land, releases large amounts of greenhouse gases and involves slaughtering live animals. That is Yaakov Nahmias' goal and he's pretty close now. Future Meat Technologies produces its 'cell-based meat' in bioreactors, growing it on lattices that gives it shape and texture but we're not talking about giant vats in a lab. He nlans to give small units to existing farmers, who might still be rearing some beef cattle, too, for the luxury end of the market.

"With these two plays — a more efficient bioreactor and a distributed manufacturing model — we can essentially drop the cost down to about \$5 a kilogram [\$2.27 a pound]," said Nahmias. Meat giant Tyson Foods recently put \$2.2 million of seed money into his company and a dozen other start-ups are chasing the same goal: Memphis Meat, JUST, Finless Foods, Meatable — a total of 30 labs around the world. How big a threat is this 'cell-based meat' to the traditional cattle industry? Big enough that the US Cattlemen's Association has petitioned the government to restrict the words 'meat' and 'beef' to products "derived directly from animals raised and slaughtered." A tricky definition, since it would mean that wild deer are not made of meat but the ranchers are clearly running scared.

Coming up behind cell-based meat there's the even newer concept of 'Solar Foods'. A Finnish company is using electricity from solar panels to electrolyse water and produce hydrogen. The hydrogen is fed to bacteria and the product is an edible food that is half carbohydrates, half fats and protein. It is just as good as soya as an animal food and it uses no land at all. No greenhouse gas emissions either and the first factory producing it opens in two years' time. Technology alone can't save us but it can certainly shift the odds in our favour.

(The writer is an independent journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

OPERATION LOTUS IS STILL ON. BJP OFFERED ONE OF OUR MLAS A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY. THIS IS HOW THEY ARE STILL WORKING ON POACHING. **—KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER**





WE AREN'T INDULGING IN ANY OPERATION LOTUS. THEIR MLAS ARE TRYING TO GO AWAY FROM THEM DUE TO THEIR INTERNAL FIGHT.

—FORMER KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

China's war against Taiwan

It's imperative for the Middle Kingdom to recognise that any provocative statement will make the Taiwanese people more resilient against it. Only peace talks can resolve matters



SUMIT KUMAR

elivering a speech to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1979 'Message of Compatriots in Taiwan' on January 2, Chinese President Xi Jinping said, "A Taiwan independent from mainland China is not an option and no person or party can stop the trend towards unification." Xi also reportedly said that China would not renounce the idea of using force to a unif. Taiwan with China He further cate re-unify Taiwan with China. He further said, "Independence would only bring profound disaster for Taiwan" and assured the island a bright future under a "one-country, two-system framework."

framework.

In an equally strong reply to President Xi's speech, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen argued that her Government does not accept the "1992 Consensus," and emphasised that a vast majority of Taiwanese stand resolutely opposed to "one country, two systems." She further said that the development of cross-strait relations must be development of cross-strait relations must be based on "the four musts": China must face the reality of the existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and not deny the democratic system that the people of Taiwan have established together; China must respect the commitment of the 23 million people of Taiwan to freedom and democracy and not foster divisions and offer inducements to interfere with the choices made by the people of Taiwan; China must handle cross-strait differences peacefully, on the basis of equality, instead of using suppression and intimidation to get Taiwanese to submit; and it must be the Government or Governmentauthorised agencies that should engage in the negotiations. Any political consultation that is not authorised or monitored by the people cannot be called "democratic consultation." This is Taiwan's position, a democratic one.

Of course, the tension between Taiwan and Of course, the tension between Taiwan and China is not new. In fact, the genesis of the conflict between them goes back to 1949, when losing the mainland China to the Mao-led Communist Party of China, Chiang Kai-Shek retreated to Taiwan, establishing Taipei as the capital of the Republic of China Government. Subsequently, China and Taiwan claimed to represent all of China resent all of China.

The ouster of Taiwan from the membership of the United Nation General Assembly and its Security Council as well as the US' decision to recognise China as a country, ending its diplomatic ties with the Republic of China in 1979 boosted China's position against Taiwan. At the same time, the Chinese leadership focussed on using the 1992 Consensus between representatives of the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang (KMT) party of Taiwan as the strongest tool to claim Taiwan as a part of China.

However, since President Tsai came to power in 2016, she made one thing very clear that her Government does not recognise the 1992 Consensus. At the same time, Tsai's New Southbound policy to strengthen Taiwan's ties with Southeast Asian countries and build a strong relationship with South Asian countries, including India, and other developments caused heartburn in the Chinese leadership. As if these developments were not enough for China to initiate punitive actions against





IN FACT, THE GENESIS OF THE CONFLICT GOES Taiwan, US President Donald J BACK TO 1949 WHEN LOSING MAINLAND Trump's special focus on elevating ties with Taiwan accentuated the rift CHINA TO THE MAO-LED between China-Taiwan relations. This is evident from the fact that after being elected as President, Trump received COMMUNIST PARTY at telephone call from Tsai Ing-wen and also initially questioned the 'One China Policy' Trump signed into law the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) for the 2018-19, which CHIANG KAI-SHEK RETREATED TO TAIWAN ESTABLISHING TAIPEI AS THE mentions strengthening defence part-nership between the US and Taiwan as continuing US legal commitments. The NDAA also stated that the US CAPITAL OF THE PUBLIC OF CHINA

THE TENSION

BETWEEN TAIWAN

AND CHINA IS NOT A NEW PHENOMENON.

SUBSEQUENTLY, CHINA AND TAIWAN

CLAIMED TO REPRESENT ALL OF CHINA should invite Taiwan to participate in military exercises and consider re-establishing port-of-call exchanges between the navies of the two sides. Trump signing the Taiwan Travel Act cleared the way for the visit of high-ranking officials to Taiwan. A new de facto ŬS Embassy was inaugurated in Taipei, among other things. In December 2018, the US President signed into law the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act, which reiterates American commitment "to counter efforts to change *status quo* and support peaceful resolution acceptable to both sides of the Taiwan Strait."

In turn, while China has been extensively using its economic power to force several countries — Nigeria, Panama and others — to de-recognise Taiwan as an independent country, it also opened a new air route over the narrow Taiwan Strait separating China and Taiwan and has been carrying out military details in the vicinity. China put pressure on the International Civil Aviation Organisation to not initiate Taiwan as a guest of the Icao Assembly in September 2016. Beijing wrote letters, asking dozens of international air-

lines to change the way they refer to Taiwan on their websites and threat-ened to disrupt their operations in China if they did not comply.

Amid China's offensive strategy against Taiwan, the defeat of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in the local elections of Taiwan encouraged Beijing because the Chinese leadership saw the DPP's electoral loss as the rejection of the Tsai Government's efforts to make Taiwan an independent country. At the same time, the victory of the KMT in the elections was a welcome development. given its pro-China stand. In fact, Chinese state-run media depicted the election reversals as a vindication of Xi's measures to isolate Taiwan and undercut its international standing.

But the fact remains that the

defeat of the DPP in the local elections must not be seen as an indication of the change in the thinking of the peo-ple of Taiwan as far as the country's independence and sovereignty are concerned. The reality is that in a poll, 75 of the Taiwanese respondents saw China and Taiwan as two different states. Viewing mainland China as a perverted form of Chinese culture, Taiwanese also consider their culture and tradition as pure Chinese and feel proud of their democratic institutions freedom of Press and other liberal val-ues. They do not want to give up these hard-earned markers.

To argue that the DPP's loss in the elections resulted from the Tsai Government's assertive policy towards China would be misplaced. In fact, a number of domestic issues, including her Government's labour and pension policy, Tsai's poor leadership, lack of strong strategy, her Government's

performance on marriage and economic policy among others were responsible for the DPP's loss in the

elections. On the other hand, the KMT planned an effective election strategy to defeat the DPP.

While saying that the use of military power cannot be ruled out to bring Taiwan under the control of China the Chinare Regident com China, the Chinese President com-pletely overlooked the fact that today, Faiwan enjoys strong ties, although unofficial, with a number of countries, including all the other major powers of the world. It is also a fact that countries across the globe have recognised Taiwan as a champion of democratic institutions. At the same time, it is also institutions. At the same time, it is also a core interest of the US to see Taiwan flourish as a promising democratic and independent country. Given the fact that the people of Taiwan are aware of China's dubious stand on one country, two systems' in Hong Kong and Tibet, Xi could not win over Taiwanese with these tactics.

Thus, it is imperative for the Chinese leadership to recognise the direction of the wind as far as the China-Taiwan issue is concerned. Any provocative statement will only make the people of Taiwan more resilient against China. At the same time, it is also the responsibility of the global community to see that Taiwan must remain a strong democratic country. It is only through peace talks that the two sides can end conflict, leading to strengthening peace, security and development in the direction of the wind as far as the

Recurity and development in the Taiwan strait and the region.

(The writer is Visiting Fellow, National Chengchi University, Taipei, and Research Fellow, Maulana Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata)

Challenges of inclusive housing

The housing sector demands high-level creativity. Conventional bureaucratic approach and existing laws can merely scratch the problem



MOIN QAZI

very day, countless families struggle to keep a decent roof over their heads. There are millions of lowincome families, who live in overcrowded, unsafe spatchcock dwellings, crammed between dusty paths and open sewers with virtually no sanitation, environmental risk factors and lack of even the barest infrastructure. These are usually socially homogenous encampments where unskilled poor live among themselves, disconnected from others, making it harder for them to access mainstream economy

The dwellers experience exclusion, discrimination and lack of hope to access adequate and affordable hous-ing. They are under constant threat of being evicted without notice. A single eviction could destabilise multiple blocks, not to account for the block to which the family is begrudgingly relocated. Most of their possessions — water containers and tents among

There is little more critical to a familv's quality of life than a healthy and safe living space. However, this section of India's poor lives in inhuman conditions and is often under the threat of displacement, harassment and arrest Over the last decade, India has substan tially expanded its net of welfare policies, aimed at lifting millions from poverty. It seems that the time has come for making 'right to shelter' a reality. Priority for housing ought to be higher than education and health.

Challenges for India are daunting and homelessness has become a powerful monster. An estimated 65 million eople, or 13.6 million households, are oused in urban slums, according to the 2011 Census. It also showed that an additional 1.8 million people are home-less. Recent estimates by the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs indicate a housing shortage of nearly three crore units in rural areas and 1.2 crore units in urban areas. The grim aspect of the housing scenario is that the number of homeless is huge despite the fact that its composition of urban population is much lower compared to other coun-

others — are periodically steamrolled tries. According to the World Bank, urban population, as a proportion of the total population in 2015, stood at 86 per cent in Brazil, 56 per cent in China, 54 per cent in Indonesia, 79 per cent in Mexico, 82 per cent in South Korea and 31 per cent in India.

By the accepted definition of slum ninimum 60 households), more than 2,500 Indian cities have slums; overall, there are 33,500 slums and the total population stands at 65.5 million. About 90 per cent of the residents have electric power and 56 per cent have access to water. These figures pose a huge challenge for planners. Affordable housing has assumed great importance because it generates direct and indirect employment in the medium-term and sustained consumption in the longterm. A 2014 study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research indicated that every additional rupee of capital invested in the housing secadds ₹1.54 to the GDP and every ₹1 lakh invested in residential housing creates 2.69 new jobs in the economy

The lack of official land titles is a major impediment to the acquisition of housing finance. People do not have documentary proof of being owners of the land on which they live. Many low-

income villagers have owned their land for generations. Landlessness and the lack of secure property rights are among those inequities that perpetuate poverty, hold back economic devel-opment and generate social tensions. Demographic shifts, combined with poor or non-existent land ownership policies, have spawned huge slums

across the country For most of India's poor and the vulnerable, secure property rights, including land tenure, are a rare accessible luxury. Land tenure determines who can use land, under what conditions and for how long. Tenure arrangements may be based both on official laws and policies, and on informal customs. There was a time when landless ness affected a smaller chunk of the population. However, the number of landless people has been rising. The ones without land joined the ranks of the worst ones in extreme poverty and the task of poverty alleviation became even more difficult. Considering the links between landlessness and poverty or the need to score better success es against poverty, it is important to put a hard brake on the process of becoming landless. Land is a very price-sensitive commodity and its current shortage in most city-centric areas is an impediment towards creating afford-able housing in urban areas where it is most needed. Some suggestions from experts can serve as useful markers for policy-makers while designing Government programmes for housing.

 Governments should improve the legal and regulatory environment relat ed to housing and increase the supply of affordable, legal shelter with tenure security and access to basic amenities.

 The Government must undertake physical upgradation of informal settlements. Informal urban settlements can be provided with infrastruc-ture by widening roads, creating playgrounds, laying sewage pipes and installing water taps and toilets. These services create a high-level of tenure security without a formal change of legal status and encourage local improvements which can transform these slums into liveable habitats.

 Making in situ improvements to these settlements would allow slum residents to remain connected to their own critical social and economic networks

 The Government should consider converting under-utilised urban land for affordable housing and eco-nomic development with realistic stan-

dards for development. It can recognissemi-formal titles of land as workable collateral for home improvement loans.

 The Government should also endow slum dwellers with land rights for residential use that are inheritable, mortgageable and non-transferable Endowing them with mortgageable titles can open the gates for improving health, education and employment

In response to the non-availabil ity of tangible collateral from low income households, as required by the formal financial sector, a new stream of lending has emerged, called 'housing micro-finance' Institutionalised micro-finance sys tems have come up with innovative solutions. These draw on the best practices in micro-finance but remain adapted to the classical hous ing finance paradigm. This has been highly successful wherever Governments are offering long-term tenancies and shared-ownership housing in a supportive context. But the sector is still in need of a more

sustainable business model to grow.
(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)





IT'S TIME TO LISTEN TO THE QUEEN

Those trying to derail Brexit are the ones who are, as Her Majesty puts it, "losing sight of the bigger picture. After all, it is they who are willing to rip up centuries of democratic understanding and procedure to keep us locked within the EU. So terrified of Britain flourishing, free from Brussels' dead hand, that they will happily destroy public trust in Parliament in order to succeed. (The Sun editorial)

Govt empowers PSU banks to seek LOCs against defaulters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to prevent big economic offenders like Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi from fleeing the country, the Government has empowered PSU banks to request lookout circulars (LOCs) against wilful defaulters and fraudsters, officials said on

Sunday. The Home Ministry has also authorised the Serious Fraud Investigation

Office (SFIO), a statutory corporate fraud investigation agency, to request LOCs if it feels the suspect may escape

The ministry issued two circulars recently, authorising chairman-cum-managing directors or chief executive officers of public sector banks and the SFIO to request desig-nated authorities to issue LOCs against any wilful defaulter or fraudster if they think the per-

son may flee the country.

The CMDs and CEOs of
PSU banks can now ask the Home Ministry, Ministry of External Affairs, Customs and Income Tax Departments, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, CBI, regional passport officers and police to issue an LOC to alert immigration check posts to stop anyone leaving India, a home ministry



official said.

The SFIO and PSU banks can initiate the process if they suspect that the defaulter may leave the country to escape the law, the official said.

Earlier, investigating agencies would request LOCs in cognisable offences under the IPC or other laws in case the accused evaded arrest or did not appear before court despite issuance of non-bailable warrants and other coercive mea sures and there was a likelihood of the accused leaving the country to escape arrest.

An LOC is valid for a year unless its duration is specified.

The government's fresh move came after three high-profile escapes involving liquor baron Vijay Mallya and diamantaires Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi rocked the country, inviting embarrass. country, inviting embarrass-

ment for the Government Mallya left India on March 2016 after defaulting on loan amounting to ₹9,000 crore he had taken for his now-

defunct Kingfisher Airlines. Jewellery designer Modi and his uncle Choksi, managing director of Gitanjali Gems Ltd, fled the country in January 2018. They are accused of cheating the state-run Puniah National Bank

to the tune of ₹13,000 crore.

The Government had last year brought the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, empowering the authorities to attach and confiscate the proceeds of crime and properties of economic offenders, like bank fraudsters or loan default-ers who fled the country.

The law is aimed at quick-ly recovering losses to the exchequer or PSBs in cases of

Finance Minister Piyush Goyal to meet heads of PSU banks today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Piyush Goyal will meet the CEOs of public sector banks Monday to take a stock of the banking sec-tor, and discuss ways to improve their financial health,

The meeting assumes significance as it comes just three days ahead of the Budget 2019-20, the last from this government before the general elec-tions expected to be held in April-Mav

The full-day meeting is likely to be attended by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, who is going to announce his first monetary policy review on February

Goyal, who was given additional charge of the finance ministry last Wednesday as Arun Jaitley is away to the US for a treatment, is his expected to discuss a host of issues including credit offtake and

bad loan position of lenders.
Among the key issues, sources said, the meeting will review progress of various schemes of the government being implemented through the government. It will also review the credit flow to MSMEs, agri-culture and retail sectors.

Besides, sources said, the neeting will also review financial performance of the banks for the nine months ended December 2018.

Non-performing assets (NPAs) would also come up for deliberation, they added.

Public sector banks (PSBs)



have seen decline in bad loans by over Rs 23,000 crore from a peak of Rs 9.62 lakh crore in March 2018 due to various ini tiatives taken by the government
At the same time, PSBs

have also made a record in recovery of Rs 60,726 crore in the first half of the current financial year, which is more than double the amount recovered in the corresponding peri od last year.

According to the latest

finance ministry data, non-NPA accounts overdue by 31 to 90 days (Special Mention Accounts 1 & 2) of PSBs have declined by 61 per cent over five successive quarters - from Rs 2.25 lakh crore as of June 2017 to Rs 0.87 lakh crore in September 2018.

In his first stint as finance minister for 100 days last year, Goyal was instrumental in setting up a committee headed by non-executive chairman of Punjab National Bank Sunil Mehta to examine whether creation of an asset reconstruction company or asset management company to help in faster resolution of stressed

Budget plans ₹4000-cr infusion in general insurers



The upcoming Budget may have provision for Rs 4,000-crore capital infusion for public sector general insurance companies to shore up their capital.
The Budget 2019-20 is like-

ly to be presented on February

According to sources, the Department of Financial Services sought Rs 4,000 crore in the Budget for fund infusion

Company, Oriental Insurance

sources added.

This capital is required to strengthen their financial

The profitability of many general insurance companies, including that of state-owned ones has been under pressure owing to rising underwriting losses and higher claims.

It is to be noted that the rernment, in Budget 2018-

19, had proposed to merge National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance in three insurance companies

— National Insurance Company. Finance Minister Arun

Jaitley in the Budget speech had announced that the three com-panies would be merged into a Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company.

Depending on the capital that Budget provides, individ-ual allocation would be made, single insurance entity. The process of merger is likely to be completed during the current

As on March 31, 2017, the three companies together had more than 200 insurance products with a total premium of Rs 41,461 crore and a market share of around 35 per cent.

Their combined net worth is Rs 9,243 crore, with total employee strength of around 44,000 spread over 6,000

offices.
In 2017, state-owned New India Assurance Company and General Insurance Corporation of India were listed on bours-

that the combined entity formed by merging the three insurers will be the largest non-life insurance company in India, valued at Rs 1.2-1.5 lakh crore.

SC dismisses plea against IREO



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major boost to the real estate sector, the Supreme Court today dismissed a petition filed by the Ex-CEO, Ramesh Sanka against the flagship company of IREO in India, namely IREO Pvt. Ltd.

Ramesh Sanka had filed the petition in the nature of public interest litigation alleg-ing financial irregularities in the affairs of IREO Pvt. Ltd and large scale diversion of funds. Several homebuyers had also approached the apex court for raising their griev-

The Supreme Court had issued notice to the govern-mental agencies to look into

filed status reports in relation to the inquiry conducted by them in relation to allegations made before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court after perusing the status reports had come to the con-clusion that this was not a fit

clusion that this was not a fit case for grant of any relief and has dismissed the petition giving a clean chit to IREO.

The Supreme Court while dismissing the petition observed that personal grievances cannot be allowed to be raised before the apex court and the same are not in the and the same are not in the nature of public interest liti-gation. The Court while dismissing the petition safe-guarded the rights of the cus-tomers by clarifying that they the allegations made by Mr.
Sanka, claiming to be a whistleblower. The agencies appropriate forum.

India seeks revenue-sharing pact with China under RCEP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is pushing for a revenue-sharing agreement with China under the proposed mega trade deal RCEP to ensure that domestic film producers get their rightful dues from revenue generat-ed by showing Bollywood movies in China, an official

said.
Currently, Bollywood movies make good money in China but due to absence of any revenue-sharing agreement, domestic film pro-ducers often do not get the due share from the huge profits generated in the neighbouring country from the movies, the official added. The

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega free-trade agreement being negotiated by 16 countries, comprising 10-member ASEAN group (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam), India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. "India wants this agree-

ment as part of the services sector negotiations with China as Indian movies are more popular there as compared to other member countries of RCEP bloc," the Though revenue-sharing

agreement is a private contract, a formal agreement under RCEP would help Indian film producers get a better deal in China.

"It is part of negotia-tions. By this agreement, we would be creating a frame-work. They (China) are using our content and making huge money. So, they should pay the royalty for usage of the content," the official said.

Foreign films in China cannot be released without the permission of the government film agencies.

Aamir Khan-starrer

Dangal was a super-hit in China and raked in over Rs 1,100 crore. His other movies including PK, and Secret Superstar were also hit in Chinese market.

The RCEP aims to cover goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property

rights.
The 25th round of negotiations are scheduled in mid-February in Indonesia.

The main issues that need resolution include num-ber of goods on which import duties should be completely eliminated and norms to relax services trade among the 16-member countries.

Under the services, India wants greater market access

wants greater market access for its professionals in the proposed agreement.

Trade experts have warned that India should negotiate the agreement carefully, as it has trade deficit with as many as 10 deficit with as many as 10 RCEP members, including China, South Korea and Australia, among others.

India wants to have a balanced RECP trade agree-ment as it would cover 40 per cent of the global GDP and over 42 per cent of the world's population. India already has a free-

trade pact with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Japan and South Korea. It is also negotiating a similar agreement with Australia and New Zealand but has no such plans for China.

Efforts on to double exports from \$321 bn: Suresh Prabhu

PTI ■ PANAJI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Sunday said new poli cies of the government will ensure the doubling of exports, currently pegged at USD 321 billion, in a few years. He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a

new office and laboratory complex of the Export Inspection Agency at Margao in south Goa.

"It is our endeavour to

increase India's exports from the current \$321 billion to almost double in a few years. One of the principal potential areas for export is fisheries, especially at a time when for the first time, the country has come out with an agricultural policy," Prabhu said.

He said the policy focuses on five key elements, namely agriculture, horticulture, plantation, fisheries and meat.
"All these are going to be exported. From the current

USD 30 billion, we want to take it to USD 100 billion. Fisheries can create several lakh jobs in the country," he added.

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Anti-dumping duty imposed on Chinese chemical import

Timposed an anti-dumping duty on a chemical from China used in photography and manufacturing of dyes, for five years to protect domestic pro-ducers of the chemical inter-

mediate from cheap shipments.
The anti-dumping duty on
Meta Phenylenediamine
(MPDA) imported from China
will be in the range USD
573.92-USD 1,015.44 a tonne, according to a notification of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

It is for the second time in a row that anti-dumping duty has been imposed on the import of the chemical from China. The duty was to expire in March 2019 in March 2019.

The levy has been imposed after the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, made a recommendation for the same. DGTR was earlier known as the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD).

On the recommendation of DGAD, a definitive anti-dumping duty was imposed on the domestic producers with regard to foreign producers and exporters.

Textiles Minister for tapping

potential of technical textiles

chemical in March 2014.

Later, Aarti Industries filed application before DGAD for review and continuation of the duty on the chemical. Following 'Sunset Review'

of an anti-dumping investiga-tion on the imports of MPDA, the DGTR recommended for imposition of the levy for

another five years.
MPDA is a chemical intermediate used for manufacturing dyes, engineering polymer and in photography and medical applications.
Under normal (room) con-

ditions, it is a colourless or white colour solid, which tends to turn red, purple (dark colour) in air, on storage.

Countries carry out the anti-dumping probe to determine whether the domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap

imports.

As a counter measure, they impose duties under the mul

tilateral regime of the World Trade Organization.

The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for

Born2Run Delhi half | PSUs to marathon concludes

 $W_{\text{mis}}^{\text{ith a}}$ sion to inspire people to focus on fitness and healthy lifestyle, Born2Run hosted it's

first ever Born2Run Half Marathon today at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, New started at 6 am tillabout 9 am with the race categories of 5 km, 10 km, and 21.1 km.A total of 5000runners partici-pated inthe Born2Run Half

marathon. Sheila Dikshit, former Chief Minister of New Delhi graced the occasion with her presence at the marathon. Also present were Maan Kaur Singh (Age:102) and Gurdev Singh (Age:80), the mother-son duo. Mann Kaur has hit the head-lines by becoming world's fastest centenarian at American Masters Games in Vancouver in 2017

The vision of Born2Run is to establish a sustainable, community focused pan-India running event, encouraging athletes and amateur runner to lead healthy lifestyles and further improve their personal fitness through running. The key highlights of the event were its excellent route profile with ample hydration points, medical aid, ample parking facility, enough mobile toilets, planned transport facility and breakfast for the partici-pating individuals.

implement EWS from Feb

Central public sector enter-prises (CPSEs) will implement the 10 per cent reserva-tion quota for economically weaker sections (EWSs) in respect of all direct recruitment vacancies from February 1.

There were 339 CPSEs with a total investment of over Rs 13.73 lakh crore as on March 31, 2018. They employed 10.88 lakh people, excluding casual and contractual workers, in

2017-18 compared to 11.55 lakh in the previous fiscal.

An order regarding the implementation of the EWS reservation has been issued by the Department of Public Sector Faterwise (DEC) Sector Enterprises (DPE).
The DPE also asked the

CPSEs to file a fortnightly report beginning from February 15 on vacancies filled by them under SC, ST, OBC, EWS and unreserved cate-

Cabinet likely to approve agri-package 10% quota for farmers today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The cabinet on Monday is likely to approve a package for farmers to boost their income and address distress in the farm sector, sources said, adding that the move will come

ahead of the general elections.
"The cabinet meeting is scheduled tomorrow (Monday) and the agriculture ministry's proposal on addressing income deficit syndrome of small and marginal farmers is on the agen-da," a highly placed source said The agriculture ministry

has recommended several options to provide both short and long term solutions to address agrarian distress. However, a final call will be taken in the cabinet meeting as a huge cost is involved, the sources said. One of the options pro-

osed is waiving interest on

crop loans for farmers who pay

on time, costing an additional Rs 15,000 crore to the exchequer, the sources stated.

There is also a proposal to completely waive premium for taking insurance policy for food crops. The centre is also evaluating the scheme followed by the Telangana and Odisha governments wherein a fixed amount is transferred directly into the bank account of farm-

recently indicated that the gov-ernment would announce an agriculture package before the 2019-20 Budget, to be presented on February 1. Experts said the govern-ment has less time to implement

any new scheme. The measure dardisation, the country can has to be such that it can be implemented faster to reap the political gains during the election. It may be noted that the central government has taken farmers' issues seriously after the ruling BJP was defeated in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan

and Chhattisgarh in the recent state polls, where rural distress was a key factor.

Speaking after inaugurat-ing a three-day 'reverse buyers sellers meet' and Global Textile Expo here, she told the foreign ers, the sources added. Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh had buyers from over 20 countries that India recently ensured that HSN codes were notified for over 207 textile items. In the area of cotton, India has a surging potential partic-ularly in the field of medical textiles; and because of stan-

> become the most competitive economies in the technical textiles, she said. The minister also appealed to Tamil Nadu to unleash the untapped potential so that the state can be at the forefront.

> She further said that the technical textiles market is likely to touch USD 3 billion in another two-and-a-half years.



that has been enunciated and presented to the textile indus try, she said, most of the ben-

efits have been accrued and established by Tamil Nadu. Irani also highlighted var-ious schemes where Tamil Nadu gained the most, which include yarn bank scheme, powertex, powerloom cluster, group insurance scheme under social security and also GST.

Stating that the visiting foreign buyers may be won-dering why she was talking

dies and taxation in this meet, which was to initiate buyers and sellers, the min-ister said, "We are hoping to lessen the burden on our competitive in terms of price. We become best price

Tamil Nadu handlooms minister, O S Manian, appealed to youngsters to come forward to weaving and join the textile industry and showcase their talent and innovations to uplift the livelihood of weavers and the sector as a whole.

He also appealed to the Union textiles minister to take steps to establish a powerloom textiles market either in Somanur in Coimbatore districts and the steps to establish a powerloom textiles market either in Somanur in Coimbatore districts and the step that the step trict or Palladam in Tirupur

Administration Minister S P Velumani, Deputy Speaker of Tamil Nadu Assembly Pollachi V Jayaraman and chairpersons of Texprocil, Pdexcil also spoke on the occasion.



BHUBANESWAR MUNDAY JA														_
						TOPPER	RS							
Scheme Fata Digital India Fund-Reg(G)			Fund-Reg(G) JM Large Cap Fund(G)	64.56	-3.66	Fund-Reg(G) Mirae Asset Emerging	49.07	-7 99	ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G) L&T Equity Fund-Reg(G)			L&T Emerging Businesses Fund-Reg(G)	23.64	Į -18
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	58.91	13.24	0 1 1 7	40.85	-3.94	Bluechip-Reg(G)	45.01	-1.55	HDFC Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	41.28	-11.99	Sundaram Select Micro	28.59) -1 ²
BI Technology Opp und-Reg(G)	62.44	10.75	Aditya Birla SL CEF-Global Agri-Reg(G)	23.22	-4.07	SBI Consumption Opp Fund-Reg(G)	112.99	-8.02	ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G) DSP Equity Opportunities	11.4 204.24	-12.04 -12.11	Cap-Series IV-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Midcap	271.02	2 -1
anklin India Feeder - Franklin	28.49	9.82	Aditya Birla SL India GenNext	78.12	-4.16	Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G)	111.1	-8.11	Fund-Reg(G)	204.24	-12.11	Fund(G)	27 1.02	_
S. Opportunities Fund(G) litya Birla SL Global Real Estat	e 18 92	8 42	Fund(G) Baroda Banking & Fin Serv	21.03	-4 28	ICICI Pru R.I.G.H.T Fund(G) SBI Healthcare Opp	40.63 120.9	-8.12 -8.18	Principal Nifty 100 Equal Weight Fund(G)	67.23	-12.22	Tata Resources & Energy Fund-Reg(G)	13.18	3 -
nd(G)			Fund(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			ICICI Pru Exports & Services	53.73	-12.23	SBI Magnum MidCap	69.51	1 -
CI Pru US Bluechip Equity nd(G)	26.09	8.21	ICICI Pru LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)(G)	349.5	-4.31	DHFL Pramerica LT Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.43	-8.2	Fund(G) ICICI Pru Growth Fund-3(DP)	9.95	-12.27	Fund-Reg(G) Invesco India Infrastructure	15.72	2
anklin India Technology	155.58	7.8	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap	11.8	-4.33	Invesco India Contra Fund(G)	44.86	-8.24	Templeton India Equity Income	44.03		Fund(G)		
nd(G) IFL Pramerica Global Equity	17.26	7.41	Fund-2-Reg(G) Kotak Standard Multicap	32.69	-4.6	Sundaram Value Fund-II-Reg(G)	15.14	-8.27	Fund(G) Edelweiss Long Term Equity	43.76	-12.46	IDBI Small Cap Fund(G) Franklin India Smaller Cos	9.06 51.25	
pp Fund(G)			Fund(G)			Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	203.45		Fund (Tax Savings)-Reg(G)			Fund(G)		
eliance US Equity Opp and(G)	14.12	7.29	ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G) ICICI Pru Value Fund-5(G)	273.61 14.77		SBI BlueChip Fund-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Equity Fund(G)	36.22 682.21	-8.29 -8.29	Reliance Consumption Fund(G) Kotak World Gold Fund(G)	61.38 7.95	-12.49 -12.5	UTI LT Adv Fund-V(G) DSP Natural Res & New	9.1 30.23	
• •	20.26	6.08	UTI Mastershare-Reg(G)	114.54		Aditya Birla SL Global	12.41		DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)		-12.62	Energy Fund-Reg(G)	00.20	•
nd-A(G) litya Birla SL Digital India	50.94	5.95	Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund(G)	32.18	-5.13	Commodities Fund(G) Sundaram Global Advt(G)	16.21	-8.36	Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity Off-shr Fund-Reg(G)	10.32	-12.8	ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G UTI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	*	
nd(G)	30.94	3.93	Reliance Japan Equity Fund(G)	12.44	-5.35	SBI Magnum Multicap	45.27		Reliance Value Fund(G)	68.55	-12.81	SBI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)		
is Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	10.68	4.91	UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)	62.35	-5.38	Fund-Reg(G)	E62 07	0 11	· /	1043.01		IDFC Sterling Value	47.67	7
Export of						Franklin India Equity Fund(G) ICICI Pru Value Fund-3(D)	563.07 10.07		ICICI Pru Nifty Next 50 Index Fund(G)	23.77	-13.05	Fund-Reg(G) BNP Paribas Mid Cap Fund(G)	29.96	3
Organic CI	hei	mi	cals 🗔	1		Franklin India Bluechip	439.42	-8.48	Motilal Oswal Long Term	15.96	-13.16	Kotak Small Cap Fund(G)	67.03	
(in₹ Crores)			cais 79.0856	_		Fund(G) SBI Large & Midcap	209	-8.52	Equity Fund-Reg(G) Franklin India Opportunities	69.04	-13.24	Aditya Birla SL Dividend	151.17	7
(III Croles)		-		82842,59		Fund-Reg(G)			Fund(G)			ASS Delhi	20	10
a March Lake William Vis	π λ	4	75294.55	1787		Franklin India Equity Advantage Fund(G)	75.91	-8.55	SBI Tax advantage Fund-II(G) Motilal Oswal Midcap 30	32.9 23.14	-13.28 -13.39	286 Maharashtra	8899	
9.25		72860.47	75294.55	——————————————————————————————————————		Motilal Oswal Focused 25	20.09	-8.67	Fund-Reg(G)	20.1 4	10.08	481 Gujarat	8850	
79.25	80					Fund-Reg(G)	00.00	0.00	Principal Multi Cap Growth	134.53	-13.41	57 Haryana 155502		-
5617	181	1				Reliance Multi Cap Fund(G) HDFC Equity Fund(G)	92.33 622.31	-8.68 -8.71	Fund(G) Principal Personal Tax saver	184.55	-13.55	99 UP 149180 35 1528 MP 35479	H	1
The state of the s	1					Sundaram LT Tax Adv		-8.75	Fund			Telangana 24630	لك	-
41051.	Ň					Fund-Sr I-Reg(G) DSP Top 100 Equity	189.37	-8.75	IDBI Nifty Junior Index Fund(G) Franklin Build India Fund(G)	20.25 38.39		29 CNG AP 19572	Vehi	1
~ M M N					0	Fund-Reg(G)			Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	94.14	-13.76	Tripura 11763		
	3	i i	\$15 E			Tata Ethical Fund(G) DHFL Pramerica Tax Plan(G)	151.63 29.09	-8.77 -8.78	SBI Tax Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	21.96	-13.8	\$ Rajasthan 8108	s on 01.0	Ŋ
2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2013	2-13 2	013-14	2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-1	8 2018	-19	JM Multicap Fund(G)			Kotak Emerging Equity	35.95	-13.82	4 Chandigarh 7500	TAL: 32,	5
Source: Ministry of Commerce & Indi			RAPHICS	[Apr-N		HDFC Growth Opp Fund-Reg(G)	107.11	-8.98	Scheme(G) HDFC TaxSaver(G)	489.71	-13.86	7 W Bengal 3642		
is Bluechip Fund(G)	26.68		UTI India LifeStyle Fund-Reg(G)	24.48	-5.4	Reliance Close Ended Equity	17.05	-9.05	Principal Global Opportunities	26.95		4 Odisha 1910 1 Punjab 1128	1	1
			Mirae Asset India Equity	47.32	-5.55	Fund-II-A(G)	E4 70	0.44	Fund(G)	20.20	14.00	2 Daman and Diu 1000	Name of Co	1
,	151.52 13.81		Fund-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund(G)	730.95	-5.58	Aditya Birla SL Focused Equity Fund(G)	54.73	-9.11	JM Value Fund(G) Principal Tax Savings Fund	29.38 196.51		§ Karnataka 907	-9.7	
nd-Sr II-Reg(G)			Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)		-5.58	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr	13.79	-9.14	ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G)	10.71		3 Dadra & Nagar 853		
. , , ,	15.74 13.97	2.26	HDFC Top 100 Fund(G) Invesco India Feeder - Invesco	460.24 12.31		II-Reg(G) ICICI Pru Value Discovery	136.99	-9.19	Principal Emerging Bluechip Fund(G)	97.65	-14.39	4 Kerala 825	e Ministry of Petro	00
ind-Sr III-Reg(G)			Global Equity Income Fund(G)			Fund(G)			ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)	90.63	-14.61	Uttarakhand 75	- THE R. P. LEWIS CO., LANSING, MICH.	p
ICI Pru Global Stable Equity ind(G)	14.74	1.87	Axis Focused 25 Fund(G) Invesco India Growth Opp	25.35 31.81	-5.69 5.79	DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G) IDBI India Top 100 Equity	11.23 22.53	-9.22 -9.3	L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G) Baroda ELSS 96(G)	50.68 41.96		Yield Fund(G) SBI LT Advantage	12.44	1
• •	23.63	1.69	Fund(G)	31.01	-5.76	Fund(G)	22.55	-9.3	Tata Mid Cap Growth Fund(G)	127.11		· ·	12.44	,
und-Reg(G)	- 10 10	1.07	Principal Focused Multicap	60.29	-5.86	SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr	14.94	-9.41	HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities	51.24	-14.87	Canara Rob Infrastructure	41.77	7
BI Banking & Financial Services ind-Reg(G)	5 10.12	1.67	Fund(G) Kotak Tax Saver Scheme(G)	40.91	-5.95	I-Reg(G) ICICI Pru Value Fund-15(G)	10.06	-9.45	Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL Equity	376.08	-15.05	Fund-Reg(G) UTI LT Adv Fund-IV(G)	9.85	,
•	14.14	1.14	Baroda Large Cap Fund(G)		-5.98	Invesco India Midcap Fund(G)	46.26	-9.45	Advantage Fund(G)	00.40	45.40	Edelweiss Mid Cap	24.78	3
ınd-2(G) ıta Index Fund-Sensex	88.44	0.75	Reliance Large Cap Fund(G) ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)		-5.98 -6.02	Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G)	50.24	-9.51	ICICI Pru Value Fund-4(G) BNP Paribas Multi Cap		-15.13 -15.27	Fund-Reg(G) Reliance Small Cap Fund(G)	38.02	2
an(G)			Invesco India Tax Plan(G)	47.72		Aditya Birla SL Banking &	26.18	-9.63	Fund(G)			L&T Business Cycle	14.02	2
` '	318.18 11.93	0.71 0.61	ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	28.19	-6.47	Financial Services Fund-Reg(G UTI LT Equity Fund -) 81.62	-9.91	IDFC Tax Advt(ELSS) Fund-Reg(G)	51.75	-15.32	Fund-Reg(G) Tata Infrastructure Fund(G)	50.34	4
und-Reg(G)		0.0.	JM Tax Gain Fund(G)	15.69	-6.49	(Tax Saving) Reg(G)	01.02	0.01	IDFC Focused Equity	34.94	-15.41	Tata Infrastructure Tax Saving	22.29	
eliance Index Fund - Sensex an(G)	17.71	0.2	Reliance Capital Builder Fund-II-B(G)	12.22	-6.52	Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G) Sundaram Fin Serv Opp	187.99 37.79		Fund-Reg(G) SBI LT Advantage	11 Q	-15.48	Fund(G) DSP India T.I.G.E.R	82.26	â
` '	61.02	0.07	Franklin India Taxshield(G)	534.52	-6.62	Fund(G)	31.13	-3.31	Fund-IV-Reg(G)	11.0	-13.40	Fund-Reg(G)	02.20	,
ind-Reg(G)	22.05	0.00	Invesco India Financial	51.47	-6.62	Tata India Tax Savings	16.71	-10.28	Invesco India Multicap Fund(G)			Kotak Infra & Eco Reform	18.32	2
1 ()	33.95 23.21	-0.09 -0.3	Services Fund(G) Reliance Banking Fund(G)	259.26	-6.65	Fund-Reg(G) Invesco India Feeder - Invesco	10.45	-10.33	Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity Fund-Reg(G)	12.67	-15.59	Fund(G) SBI Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	48.46	3
ind-Reg(G)			IDBI Equity Advantage	25.21	-6.66	Pan European Equity			Baroda Mid-cap Fund(G)			J. ,	,	
, ,	11.25 134.16	-0.59 -0.59	Fund-Reg(G) ICICI Pru Banking & Fin Serv	59.57	-6.69	Fund-Reg(G) SBI Magnum Global	164.42	-10.49	Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-IV-Reg(G)	13.08	-15.75	Reliance Vision Fund(G) Sundaram Infra Advantage	485.54 29.78	
otak India EQ Contra Fund(G)			Fund(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			SBI LT Advantage	12.41	-16	Fund(G)		
BI Magnum Equity ESG and-Reg(G)	98.39	-1.15	Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G) L&T India Large Cap	30.1 25.05	-6.72 -6.86	Franklin India Focused Equity Fund(G)	37.76	-10.62	Fund-III-Reg(G) Templeton India Value Fund(G)	238.97	-16.01	SBI Magnum Comma Fund-Reg(G)	32.86	3
	22.21	-1.29	Fund-Reg(G)	20.00	-0.00	HDFC Capital Builder Value	279.29	-10.64	Templeton India Value Fund(G) Reliance Focused Equity		-16.01	Reliance Tax Saver (ELSS)	52.01	1
	97.66	-1.47	UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)		-6.89	Fund(G)	24.00	10.00	Fund(G)	10.05	10.40	Fund(G)	00.40	,
an(G) II Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	70.03	-1.52	ICICI Pru Value Fund-8(D) Edelweiss Emerging Markets	9.96 12.19	-6.99 -6.99	Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund-Reg(G)	∠4.33	-10.69	Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-III-Reg(G)	13.05	-16.13	Aditya Birla SL Infrastructure Fund(G)	29.13	,
ta Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)	64.92	-1.58	Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)			DHFL Pramerica Euro Equity	12.9	-10.73	L&T Large and Midcap	44.06	-16.14	UTI Transportation & Logistics	93.79)
anara Rob Equity Diver Fund- ´ eg(G)	125.19	-1.63	IDFC Large Cap Fund-Reg(G) JM Core 11 Fund(G)	30.73 8.34	-7 -7.01	Fund(G) Canara Rob Emerg Equities	87.19	-10.85	Fund-Reg(G) L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	33.53	-16.16	Fund-Reg(G) SBI PSU Fund-Reg(G)	9.36	į
nara Rob Consumer Trends	37.09	-1.64	Mirae Asset Tax Saver	16.31		Fund-Reg(G)			L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	127.54	-16.22	Aditya Birla SL Small Cap Fund	d(G)32.6	6
ind-Reg(G) BI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	92.31	-1.94	Fund-Reg(G) SBI Focused Equity	128.72	-7 N7	DSP Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G) Sundaram Rural and	44 39 33	-10.86 -10.91	Kotak Global Emerging Mkt Fund(G)	14.85	-16.34	ICICI Pru Smallcap Fund(G) DSP Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	22.55 51.69	
eliance Index Fund - Nifty	18	-1.94	Fund-Reg(G)	0.12		Consumption Fund(G)	JJ.JJ	ו פ.טו	ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity	15.85	-16.4	Reliance Power & Infra Fund(G	90.23	
an(G)	102.0	2.2	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap	156.79	-7.16	DSP Equity Fund-Reg(G)			Fund(G)	10 47	_17.04	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Se	eries	
• , ,	103.8 105.52		Fund(G) IDBI Diversified Equity Fund(G)	20.15	-7.4	ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	JUJ.66	-10.99	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-I(G) HDFC Focused 30 Fund(G)			-28.01 X-Reg(G)		
anklin India Index Fund-NSE			ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	10.46	-7.41	IDFC Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)			Sundaram Select Micro			Aditya Birla SL Emerging Leade	ers 12.1	15
ty(G) 3I Nifty Index Fund(G)	19.84	-2.77	Reliance Quant Fund(G) DSP World Energy		-7.41 -7.42	BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund(G)	35.29	-11.15	Cap-Series III-Reg(G) DHFL Pramerica Midcap Opp	17.16	-17.3	Fund-7-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Pure Value	49.11	1
SP World Agriculture	15.91		Fund-Reg(G)			DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			Fund(G)		
ind-Reg(G)	16 50	_2 04	Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity	17.6	-7.46	SBI Magnum TaxGain	135.95	-11.23	UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)			IDFC Infrastructure-Reg(G)	13.82 are 13.3	
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TI MNC Fund-Reg(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			L&T Long Term Advantage			Fund-II-Reg(G)			Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax	8.23	
, ,		-2.95 -3.24	Kotak Bluechip Fund(G) Tata India Consumer	216.09 16.6		Fund-I(G) UTI Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	59.64	-11.54	Invesco India PSU Equity Fund(G)	16.25	-18.09	Adv Fund-Sr V-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Emerging Leade	ers 13.8	31
ervices Fund-Reg(G)			Fund-Reg(G)			UTI Banking and Financial		-11.57	Edelweiss Gr China Equity	24.01	-18.12	Fund-4-Reg(G)		
ta India Pharma & Healthcare	8.77	-3.39	UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity	84.36 210.78		Services Fund-Reg(G) DHFL Pramerica Diversified	12 36	-11 50	Off-Shore Fund-Reg(G) SBI Contra Fund-Reg(G)	102 57	-18 14	Sundaram Small Cap Fund(G) Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Ad		
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und-Reg(G) lirae Asset Great Consumer und-Reg(G)	33.16		BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	•	-7.78 -7.87	IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G) Franklin Asian Equity Fund(G)		-11.64 -11.77	IDBI Midcap Fund(G) Sundaram Select Micro			HDFC Infrastructure Fund(G) Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax	15.37 8.41	



20 dead as bombs target **Sunday Mass in Philippines**



In this photo provided by WESMINCOM Armed Forces of the Philippines, a soldier views the site inside a Roman Catholic cathedral in Jolo the capital of Sulu province in the southern Philippines after two bombs exploded on Sunday

AP ■ JOLO (PHILIPPINES)

Two bombs minutes apart tore through a Roman Catholic cathedral on a southern Philippine island where Muslim terrorists are active, killing at least 20 people and wounding 111 others during a Sunday Mass, officials said.
Witnesses said the first

blast inside the Jolo cathedral in the provincial capital sent churchgoers, some of them vounded, to stampede out of the main door.

Army troops and police posted outside were rushing in when the second bomb went off about one minute later near the main entrance, causing more deaths and injuries.

The military was checking a report that the second explosive device may have been attached to a parked

The initial explosion scattered the wooden pews inside the main hall and blasted window glass panels, and the sec-ond bomb hurled human remains and debris across a town square fronting the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, witnesses said.

Cellphone signal was cut off in the first hours after the attack. The witnesses who spoke to *The Associated Press* refused to give their names or were busy at the scene of the

blasts.
Police said at least 20 people died and 111 were wounded, correcting an earlier toll due to double counting. The fatalities included 15 civilians and five troops.

Among the wounded were 17 troops, two police, two coast guard and 90 civilians. Troops in armoured carriers sealed off the main road leadThe fatalities included 15 civilians and five troops. Among the wounded were 17 troops, two police, two coast guard and 90 civilians

that region. The (Armed Forces of the Philippines) will rise to the challenge and crush these godless criminals."

Jolo island has long been troubled by the presence of Abu Sayyaf terrorists, who are blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a ter-rorist organization because of years of bombings, kidnap-pings and beheadings. A Catholic bishop, Benjamin de Jesus, was gunned down by suspected militants outside the cathedral in 1997.

No one has immediately claimed responsibility for the latest attack.

It came nearly a week after minority Muslims in the pre-dominantly Roman Catholic nation endorsed a new autonomous region in the southern Philippines in hopes of endin nearly five decades of a separatist rebellion that has

left 1,50,000 people dead.
Although most of the
Muslim areas approved the
autonomy deal, voters in Sulu province, where Jolo is located, rejected it. The province is home to a rival rebel faction that's opposed to the deal as well as smaller terrorist cells that not part of any peace

Western Governments have welcomed the autonomy pact. They worry that small numbers of Islamic State-linked militants from the Middle East and Southeast Asia could forge an alliance with Filipino insur gents and turn the south into a breeding ground for extrem-

"This bomb attack was done in a place of peace and worship, and it comes at a time when we are preparing for another stage of the peace process in Mindanao," said Gov. Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in

Canada's PM fires his ambassador to China

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau fired Canada's ambassador to China after the envoy said it would be "great" if the US dropped its extradition request for a Chinese tech executive arrested in Canada

Trudeau said on Saturday
that he had asked for and
accepted John McCallum's resignation on Friday night.
McCallum made the

remark to the Toronto Star on Friday. That came a day after he issued a statement saying he misspoke about the case earlier in the week and regretted saying Meng Wanzhou has a strong case against extradition.

The arrest of the daughter of the founder of Huawei Technologies Ltd. At Vancouver's airport Dec. 1 severely damaged relations between China and Canada.

The US wants her extra-dited to face charges that she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's busi-ness dealings in Iran "Last night I asked for and accepted John McCallum's resignation as Canada's Ambassador to China," Trudeau said in a state-

Trudeau said Jim Nickel, the deputy head of mission at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, would represent his government in China. He thanked McCallum, a former minister in Trudeau's Cabinet. for his 20 years of public ser-

China detained two Canadians shortly after Meng's arrest in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to release her. A Chinese court also sentenced a Canadian to death in a sudden retrial of a drug case, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier.

McCallum told Chinese



media in the Toronto area earlier in the week that the extra-dition of Meng to the United States "would not be a happy

He suggested the case was politically motivated and said the US could make a trade deal with China in which it would no longer seek her extradition, and two Canadian detained in China could then be released.

But on Thursday McCallum walked back the remarks and said he "mis-

missed calls to fire McCallum. but he clearly had enough after the envoy spoke off script again. Trudeau and Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland have stressed that Canada's government can't interfere politically in the case.

The leader of the opposition Conservative Party, Andrew Scheer, said McCallum should have been fired days ago because his remarks raised concerns about the politiciza-

Scheer said McCallum caused damage to Canada's reputation by delivering different media on different days.

McCallum's remarks sur-prised many and fueled spec-ulation that Canada might be trying to send a signal to China to reduce tensions. A year ago, McCallum also made controversial comments

about how Canada had more in common with China than the United States under Trump.

McCallum has strong per-sonal ties to China, and he pointed out to Chinese-language media this week that his wife is of Chinese ethnicity and his three sons have Chinese

Guy Saint-Jacques, a for mer Canadian ambassador to China, said he felt bad for McCallum but said it was the

right thing to do.
"What is worse is this is happening in the middle of the crisis when we need all-hands

on deck," Saint-Jacques said.

He said the Chinese will
now know that McCallum was not speaking for the Canadian government. Roland Paris, a former for-

eign policy adviser to Trudeau, said "Mr. McCallum's remarks were continuing to cause confusion about Canada's position On a matter of this impor-

On a matter of this impor-tance, the Canadian govern-ment has to speak with a sin-gle, clear voice." Robert Bothwell, a professor at the University of Toronto, said it is not an ambassador's job to speak out of turn.
"Of course, McCallum can

obviously take refuge in argu-ing that what he said was largely true, but he can't escape the fact that it wasn't his job to say it. It does underline the hazards of sending a politician to do a diplomat's job," Bothwell said.

AT LEAST 15 DEAD IN MUDSLIDE IN PERU

rocks crashed into a hotel during a wedding celebration in southeasterr Peru, killing at least 15 people, authorities said on Sunday. "The avalanche broke through the walls of the hotel, entering into it with force," the mayor of the city of Abancay, where the hotel is located told RPP radio.

BAGHDAD TO SUMMON TURKEY ENVOY

Baghdad: Iraq on Sunday said it would summon the Turkish ambassador over the death of a Kurdish protester after Turkish troops opened fire on demonstrators in the country's northwest. On Saturday night Kurdish protesters stormed a Turkish Army position in the Shiladzeh region of northwestern Iraq to protest the deaths of four civilians they said were killed last week in Turkish bombardment

RECORD BREAKING FLOODS HIT N AUSTRALIA

were cut off, farmers stranded and cows washed offshore as heavy rain pelted northeast Australia on Sunday, with one major river breaking 118-year-old floodwater

FOUR POLICE DEAD IN BOMB BLASTS IN IRAQ

Samarra: Four Iraqi policemen were killed on Sunday in two back-to-back bomb blasts at one of their positions north of the capital, near a former jihadist bastion, local officials and officers said.

NEW CONSTITUTION A NON STARTER: RAJAPAKSA

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Opposition leader Mahinda Rajapaksa has said Prime Minister Ranil lacks political capability and does not have adequate support in Parliament to pass the new Constitution, which he claimed that if introduced will divide the country fresh poll in the island nation.

Conservatives say Trump caved, but confident he'll get wall

No retreat, no surrender is how President Donald Trump frames his decision to temporarily reopen the gov-ernment while still pursuing a

border wall deal. Some of his conservative backers have a different take: "pathetic" and "wimp."

Other Trump supporters seem willing to give Trump the benefit of the doubt, yet they insist that any ultimate gov-ernment funding deal the president signs must include mone

Trump defended himself Saturday from the conservative backlash to his decision to end the 35-day-old partial government shutdown the longest in US history without money for his promised border wall.

He said if he didn't get a fair deal from Congress, the gov-ernment would shut down again on February 15 or he would use his executive authority to address what he has termed "the humanitarian and security crisis" on the southern US border. After he announced his decision, a New York newspaper headline dubbed him Ministry issued a statement "CAVE MAN."

Ministry issued a statement saving Maduro's government

Venezuela allows US diplomats to stay, defusing showdown

ing to the church while vehicles

transported the dead and wounded to the town hospital.

Some casualties were evacuat-

ed by air to nearby Zamboanga

city.

"I have directed our troops to heighten their alert level, secure all places of worships

and public places at once, and initiate pro-active security mea-

sures to thwart hostile plans,"

said Defense Secretary Delfin

is brought to justice and put behind bars. The law will give

them no mercy," the office of President Rodrigo Duterte said

the state boldly challenged the Government's capability to

It said that "the enemies of

in Manila.

Lorenzana in a statement. "We will pursue to the ends of the earth the ruthless perpetrators behind this dastardly crime until every killer is brought to irrefer to the control of th

renezuela defused a potential showdown with the United States, suspending a demand that US Diplomats leave the country as Washington called on the world to "pick a side" in the South American nation's fastmoving crisis. Socialist President Nicolas

Maduro broke relations with the United States on Wednesday after the Trump administration and many other nations in the region recog-nized opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's interim president, a move that Maduro

Called a coup attempt.

Maduro gave US diplomats three days to leave the country, but the Trump admin-istration said it wouldn't obey, arguing that Maduro is no longer Venezuela's legitimate president. That set the stage for a showdown at the hilltop US Embassy compound Saturday night, when the deadline was to

But as the sun set on country. nezuela's capital, the Foreign Duri Venezue saying Maduro's government

to provide a 30-day window for negotiating with US officials about setting up a "US interests office" in Venezuela and a similar Venezuelan office in the United States.

The US and Cuba had a similar arrangement for decades before the Obama administration restored diplo-matic relations with the communist-run island.

The State Department did not confirm the Venezuelan Government's account, reiterating only that its priority remains the safety of its personnel and that it has no plans to close the embassy. "That is true diplomacy,"

Maduro said after reading out the statement on national television. Earlier in the day, critics and supporters of Maduro's government faced off at the UN Security Council, reflecting the world's deep divisions over Venezuela, which is mired in political confrontation as well as an economic collapse that has caused millions to flee the

was requested by the US, Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo urged all nations to end Venezuela's "nightmare" and support Guaido.

"Now is the time for every other national to pick a side, Pompeo said. "No more delays no more games. Either you stand with the forces of free-dom, or you're in league with Maduro and his mayhem."

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia charged that the Trump administration is trying "to engineer a coup" against Maduro. He said Venezuela doesn't threaten international peace and secu-rity, and he accused "extremist opponents" of Maduro's gov-ernment of choosing "maxi-mum confrontation," including the artificial creation of a parallel government.

Nebenzia urged Pompeo to whether the US Will use military force.

Pompeo later told reporters who asked for a response, "I am not going to speculate or hypothesise on what the US

Pompeo was accompanied to New York by Elliott Abrams, who was named a day earlier as the US Special representative of th

Netanyahu warns Hezbollah chief of Israel's **'lethal'** power

srael's Prime Minister warned the head of Lebanon's Hezbollah of his army's "lethal" power on Sunday, in reaction to Hassan Nasrallah cautioning the Jewish state against further strikes in Syria. "The lethal striking force of

the IDF (Israeli army) stands facing Hezbollah," Israel's premier Benjamin Netanyahu said at the start of a cabinet meet-ing. In an interview with Beirut based al-Mavadeen television on Saturday, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah had warned Netanyahu that Syria and Hezbollah could "at any moment" decide to "deal with

.. Israeli aggression."
"Don't make an error of judgement and don't lead the region towards war or a major clash," Nasrallah said, stating that Hezbollah possessed "high-precision missiles" capa-ble of hitting anywhere in

Israel's army has since 2013 claimed hundreds of attacks on what it says are Iranian military

UK Govt may scrap MPs' holiday to pass Brexit laws

London: British MPs could sit longer hours and their February holiday may be scrapped as the government races to pass its Brexit legislation before Britain leaves the EU on March 29, Downing Street said Sunday. Street said Sunday.
Prime Minister Theresa

May's government is looking at
House of making the House of Commons sit on more Fridays which it does not normally do — and extend debating time well into the evening on some days. It is also "reviewing" the week-long February recess, a Downing Street spokes-woman said. There are still eight laws the government wants to pass to prepare the statute books for Brexit, covering areas of trade, fisheries and agriculture, immigration, the environment and health-care. These includes any bill needed to implement a divorce deal with the EU, which MPs have yet to agree to. 'We remain committed to

ensuring all necessary legislation is in place for exit day on March 29, 2019, and it is importhe spokeswoman said. AFP struck with the bloc last year. ceded that without a deal.

'Listen to Europe,' Dublin tells UK MPs ahead of Brexit votes

AFP ■ LONDON

British MPs seeking to pres-Sure Prime Minister Theresa May this week to renegotiate her Brexit deal should heed EU warnings that it will not succeed, Ireland's foreign minister warned on Sunday

Simon Coveney said attempts by Brexit supporters to remove or set a time-limit on a controversial "backstop" clause on the Irish border would never be accepted by

"Listen to what people are saying in Europe," he told *BBC* television, saying May's Brexit deal was "a balanced package" that isn't going to change".

"The European Parliament will not ratify a withdrawal

agreement that doesn't have a backstop in it, it's as simple as that," he added He was speaking ahead of another showdown between May and the House of Commons over Britain's with-

drawal from the EU, which is scheduled for March 29. MPs this month reje

One Tuesday night, in a series of votes on parliamentary amendments, they will set out what they want her to do next.

Some MPs want to delay Brexit or adopt a whole new strategy, but others are demanding changes to May's deal that they suggest could allow them to support it. These focus on the back-

stop, an arrangement intended to keep open the border between the UK and Ireland by temporarily tying London to the EU's trade rules.

May has already spent months trying to amend the backstop with no success, but has promised to return to Brussels if that is what her MPs want. Health Secretary Matt Hancock denied Coveney's comments meant she could not succeed, telling the same BBC programme that he was taking a "negotiating position". He said Dublin did not

want Britain to leave the EU without a deal, which is the default position if MPs cannot reach agreement.

tant to stress we are confident of meeting that commitment," MPs this month rejected The European Commission this week con-

Alert as hundreds feared dead in **Brazil dam disaster**

AFP ■ BRUMADINHO (BRAZIL)

An alarm warning of an imminent mining dam rupture went up early on Sunday in Brumadinho, the same Brazilian community where a dam collapsed killing 34 with hundreds more feared dead, firefighters and the min-

ing company said.
An alarm warning of dan-An alarm warning of dan-gerously high water levels at a dam that is part of the Corrego do Feijao mining complex in southeastern Brazil went off at 5:30 am (0730 GMT), a statement by the mining company Vale said. A dam at the same mining site burst Friday, spewing millions of tons of treacherous sludge and engulfing buildings, vehicles and roads.

Firefighters said they immediately began evacuat-ing communities near the dam. "Attention, general area evacuation!" blared a warning through loudspeakers in

Brumadinho, population "Find the highest point in the city," the warning said.
Vale's CEO Fabio
Schvartsman and Minas Gerais

rise.
"From now, the odds are minimal (to find more people alive) and it is most likely we will recover only bodies," Zema told reporters late Friday.

Governor Romeu Zema earli-er warned that the death toll

from the Friday rupture could

In Rio, Schvartsman spoke of a "human tragedy."

Russia marks end of Leningrad siege with military parade **AFP** ■ SAINT PETERSBURG

anks and air defence mis-sile systems rolled through the heart of Saint Petersburg on Sunday as the city formerly known as Leningrad marked the 75th anniversary of the end of a World War II siege that claimed more than 8,00,000

The parade in Russia's second city was the first time warera and modern heavy weapon-ry, including the famed T-34 battle tank and multiple-launch rocket systems, have trundled past the Hermitage Museum to mark the end of the siege of Leningrad, sparking controversy with some survivors crit-

icising "militarism".

President Vladimir Putin, a native of Saint Petersburg, skipped the show of force in the snow-covered Palace Square, although his itinerary includ-

US-TALIBAN TALKS ≡

More than 17 years after the US invasion of Afghanistan, Washington and the Taliban appear closer than ever to some sort of agreement that could bring the insurgents to the table for peace talks. However with the withdrawal of US troops seen as part of the deal, fears are rising about what an American exit could mean for Afghanistan, with security forces taking staggering losses, the government facing election upheaval, and civilians paying a dispro-portionate price after nearly two decades of bloodshed.

Here is a rundown of the status of the talks and what can be expected in the future. The US and Taliban representatives have held several rounds of negotiations in recent months, part of a diplomatic push to get the insurgents to agree to peace talks. The latest session ended in Qatar on Saturday after six straight days of negotiations -- the longest consecutive sit-down between the two sides to date. Saudi Arabia, the United

Arab Emirates and Pakistan -- the only countries to recognise the Taliban regime of the late 1990s -- have also all participated in the talks, but the Afghan government has com-plained of being cut out of The militants are negotiat-

ing from a position of strength: they have the upper hand on the battlefield, and US President Donald Trump's reported eagerness to start withdrawing troops from Afghanistan is weighing heavy on the discussions

Ostensibly to find a way to bring the Taliban to the table

for peace negotiations with the government in Kabul to end the Afghan conflict. Doing so could require

hopes rise of a deal, what com

some movement on long-standing demands from both sides. For the Taliban, that includes a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces in Afghanistan, while the US is seeking promises that Afghanistan will not be used again as a base for militants to launch attacks on foreign coun-

Other issues include a potential ceasefire, a prisoners exchange, and ways to bring the Taliban into the political mainstream without undermining the legitimacy of the elected government in Kabul. The Taliban is widely believed to want a return to power in Afghanistan and to reimpose sharia law, although there is some uncertainty over whether

they might loosen their hardline stance after a US exit.

Nothing yet. But it is believed the US and Taliban have come closer to an agreement than ever before. For now, the two sides have agreed to keep talking. US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who is heading the initiative for Washington, appeared upbeat, saying late Saturday that the talks were "more productive than they have been in the past. We made significant progress on vital issues".

But he added: "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, and 'everything' must include an intra-Afghan dialogue and comprehensive ceasefire."

The Taliban also cited progress, though spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said reports of an 18-month withdrawal plan and a ceasefire are

is returning to Kabul for consultations, and is likely hold a

arange of meetings with the Afghan government. The Taliban have said they are planning to "share details of the meetings and receive guid-ance" from their leaders before moving forward, and vowed to resume "similar future meetings".

More talks are expected

soon, but neither side has given any clarity on when, or when a deal might be announced.

Even if one is reached in the near future, it will only be the beginning of a peace process. A withdrawal would need to be managed carefully to prevent the collapse of Afghan security forces, and any negotiations between the Taliban and the Kabul govern ment could take months, if not





'Clothes should be gender-neutral'

Actress SONAM KAPOOR says that clothes should be gender neutral. During the launch of designer Kunal Rawal's flagship store recently, Sonam, who was present along with father-actor Anil Kapoor, talked about the importance of gender neutrality in fashion.

She said: "I truly believe in gender fluidity. I think clothes should be gender neutral. For me, it is very exciting to wear clothes people perceive as menswear and when I see men wear clothes, which people perceive as womenswear, I think it is very cool. It is edgy and not in your face and for me, it is more rebellious than louder.

The actress's forthcoming film Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga is slated to release on February 1.



'Doing comedy made me earn respectable position in the industry but being an actor, it is very important to play versatile roles. I don't want myself to get slotted under one category. It could be challenging to convince people now that I can do more than comedy.' Shreyas Talpade

Actress NIMRAT KAUR, who is returning as Tasneem Qureshi in the final season of Hollywood



series Homeland. savs she had a blast plaving a negative character for the first time in her career She said, "It was amazing. I had a wonderful time

working with the team. The writers were brilliant. I really had an incredible time playing a negative role for the first time. It was very exciting and a lot of fun for me. Nimrat was a part of the fourth season of the American spy thriller.

Anne confirms Princess Diaries

Actress ANNE HATHAWAY, who worked in the two *The Princess* Diaries films, has confirmed that she wants to do a third installment of the romantic comedy film franchise and so did her co-star Julie Andrews.

As for how far the new project is in development, the Academy Awardwinning actress said a script is ready for it. "There is a script for the third movie," she said during an appearance on Watch What Happens Live with her Serenity co-star Matthew McConaughey. "I want to do it, Julie wants to do it and even Debra Martin-Chase (producer) wants to

do it," she

said.



On the third day of the Jaipur Literature Festival, authors initiated a dialogue about how global best-selling writers are increasingly looking to get published in India

ndia's vibrant publishing market is attracting major international bestselling authors, who say that there is a great potential for their books to find a good readership in India.
Once a book becomes suc-

cessful in the country where it is first published, international rights for the books are acquired by leading publishing houses in other countries. India, being the second largest publishing market in the world, is one hot spot where perhaps every successful author wants to be pub-

Former British politician and bestselling novelist Jeffrey Archer, for instance, finds more readers in India than anywhere else in the world. In pure statis-tical terms, his books also sell more in India than anywhere

What message does it send to award-winning or bestselling authors from other countries? That the market is ripe for har-

"I think there is a lot of potential here; I know some great writers from India, they write from their heart. I also think it is a great place to publish and I can only see more and more authors coming here," Australian author Markus Zusak of *The Book Thief* fame said on the sidelines of the festival.

Scottish novelist, playwright and short story writer Irvine Welsh echoed similar sentiments, stating that people in India are reading "a lot of books." He said that festivals like the

OWN LIVES, OXFORD **DICTIONARY ANNOUNCED** Nari Shakti AS THE HINDI WORD OF THE YEAR 2018. IT HAS ATTRACTED A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION AND REFLECTS ETHOS, MOOD AND **PREOCCUPATIONS** OF THE PAST YEAR

REPRESENTING

WOMEN TAKING

CHARGE OF THEIR



JLF also provide a platform for authors like him to find new readers. "I think there is a great

potential, he said.
Pulitzer Prize winning author Andrew Sean Greer, who is on a marathon book tour of India, attending lit fests in Chennai and Kolkata before coming to Jaipur, said that he is excited about the new readers his book "Less" is finding in

India.
"In the United States, we don't have a culture of reading many books from outside. We do not import much whereas I find it to be very different here, Greer said.

He said winning an award like the Pulitzer does contribute to international recognition, but maintained that it is ultimately up to the readers, and the reading culture at large.

When I come to festivals like this in India, the one thing that surprises me most is people here read and come. I am saying this because people have asked me questions about my

they have read my book. "Otherwise, they say that I have not read your book, or have read only half. There is genuine interest among readers and I think right now it's the place where every writer wants to be," Greer added.

Greer also said that while

India is a "fascinating market" for international authors, Indian authors should also be published in other countries.

A slew of international authors, including the recipients of major literary awards and those who are a sensation in themselves like Archer, have gathered here to participate in the JLF.

In addition, Oxford Dictionary announced that *Nari* Shakti as its Hindi Word of the Year for 2018 at the festival.

"The Hindi Word of the Year is a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of atten-tion and reflects the ethos, mood or preoccupations of the past year," a spokesperson from the Oxford Dictionary said. Derived from Sanskrit, Nari

means 'woman' and Shakti means 'power'. "Today the term is used to symbolise women taking charge of their own lives, the statement added.

The Hindi Word of the Year was chosen by the Oxford Dictionaries team in India with the help of an advisory panel of language experts including Ashok Kumar Sharma, Kritika Agrawal and Namita Gokhale among others.

The highest honour

As some colossal contributions get recognised with the Padma awards, SHANKAR MAHADEVAN and MANOJ BAJPAYEE talk about

setting new goals

EHSAAN AND LOY EQUIVALENTS belief that you had," Manoj said.



Shankar Singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan feels "humbled and honoured" on being chosen for the Padma Shri. He also considers his musical partners Ehsaan Noorani and Loy Mendonsa as equal recipients of the country's fourth-high est civilian honour.

"It's an honour to be recognised by the government of India. It is the fourth-highest civilian honour in the country. I don't know if I am worthy of this but I definitely feel

"A lot of my music has been created with my two partners — Ehsaan and Loy so, I would consider them as equal recipients of the award," added the National award

winner.
The trio have given many hits for films like Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, Kal Ho Naa Ho, Dil Chahta Hai and

Getting Padma Shri means that "I have to work harder. There's more melodious music coming

"We are doing very good films. We are doing *Chhapaak* with (film-maker) Meghna Gulzar, *Saaho*, The Zoya Factor and Panga," said the singer, who is currently being lauded for his work in Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.

"I am glad that people are recognising that work and people are also liking the movie. I really hope it does well. Kangana (Ranaut) is fabulous in the film. It's a very important movie for the next generation to know about such an mportant character," he said about

Teaching music to underprivileged children also keeps him busy. "Life is good," he concluded.

FEELING ECSTATIC: MANOJ BAJPAYEE



Actor Manoj Bajpayee is feeling "ecstatic" as his work has been recognised by the "highest office." He says getting a Padma Shri is an honour for "your journey and conviction."

"It's a huge honour for any professional because it's not an honour for just one particular film or per-formance. It's an honour for your journey, for your conviction and

"Also, for the government it's a way of recognising contribution that one has made to cinema. So yes, I am feeling very happy about it. My family, friends and fans have been sending messages to me. I am feeling ecstatic that my work has been recognised by the highest office, he added office," he added.

Since his debut in Bollywood

in mid-1990s, the National Awardwinner has acted in mainstream as well as indie films. Last year, the Bandit Oueen actor featured in seven films like Aiyaary, Baaghi 2, Missing, Satyameva Jayate, Gali Guleivan, Love Sonia and Bhonsle.

"I have always been very careful with my career. I don't need to be extra careful (after this recognition). I am known for the work that I do. So, the similar pattern will go on... choosing the films which matter to me...which are coming from my own conviction and belief," said Manoj. "People who have been watch-

ing my performances, my films, have been a big support. If they are proud of my filmography and work, I am proud of what I have done," he added. He will be next seen in *Sonchiriya*, which will hit the screens on March 1. The film is set in the 1970s, and focusses on a small town ruled by dacoits.

POSTHUMOUS AWARDEES BHUPEN HAZARIKA AND KADER KHAN



Recognising the colossal contribution of Northeast's multi-faceted cultural icon Bhupen Hazarika, he was picked posthumously to be conferred the Bharat Ratna, while late Bollywood actor Kader Khan has been named for the Padma Shri honour by the government.

"The songs and music of Bhupen Hazarika are admired by people across generations. From them radiates the message of jus-tice, harmony and brotherhood. He popularised India's musical tradi-tions globally. Happy, that the tions globally. Happy that the Bharat Ratna has been conferred on Bhupen da," tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
With a magnificent oeuvre as

a poet, music composer, singer, actor, journalist, author and film-maker, Hazarika continues to be

regarded as a cultural philosopher. The other posthumous award in this year's list is for Kader Khan, who died in December last year after prolonged illness in Canada He has been recognised for his immense contribution to the world of films as a writer and actor par excellence. He was 81. —IANS

INDIA'S OSCAR JOURNEY

With more than 45 submissions over the years, only six films have been successful in securing the Academy Award nominations















ndia shares quite a tumultuous relationship with the Academy Awards The country has submitted over 45 films for nomination in the past, only a fraction of which have been successful in securing so. With 2018 film, Period. End of Sentence being nominated in the Best Documentary Short Subject category this year, here's a look at the other Indian films that have had the privilege of an Oscar nomination.

MOTHER INDIA (1957)

Mehboob Khan's *Mother India* starring Nargis and Sunil Dutt is a poignant film that narrates the hardships endured by a destitute village woman named Radha and how she meanders through them and the rigmarole of dreary life, with the utmost adherence to morals.

film presents a moving picture of the

rough times that an average Indian woman goes through, and very moving-ly gives the message of significance of compassion, values and integrity. The film lost by one vote.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH FACES (1978)

Nominated for an Academy Award for Documentary short subject, Vidhu Vinod Documentary short subject, Chopra's An Encounter With Faces is a heartwarming attempt in capturing the plight, perspectives and dimensions of delinquent children of Mumbai. Emotionally rousing, the film looks at their position — socially and culturally in the Indian societal fabric.

SALAAM BOMBAY (1988)

Arguably one of the finest films produced by India, Mira Nair's Salaam Bombay!is a class apart in master storytelling.

Movingly strung together by master director and raconteur Nair, the film present a bleak picture of the gaps prevalent in erstwhile Indian society.

LAGAAN (2001)

Intriguing, absorbing and genuine, Ashutosh Gowarikar's magnum opus Lagaan is often looked at as a benchmark of excellence in Indian films. Set in preindependent India, the film looks at the injustice of British colonialism meted on Indians through arbitrary taxes and how these Indians stake their rightful claim to their motherland through a game of cricket. Powered with inspired perfor-mances from Aamir Khan, Gracy Singh, Rachel Shelley and Paul Blackthorne, Lagaan invokes a sense of belonging, patriotism and love in the hearts of the

LITTLE TERRORIST (2005)

Nominated for the 2005 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film, Ashvin Kumar's *Little Terrorist* is a film about a Muslim boy from Pakistan who mistakenly crosses the border to India and finds an unexpected friend and ally in a Hindu Brahmin Boy, Bhola. A story of acceptance, the film seeks to present a picture of the various prejudices we have as a society and how there exist a few good people that overlook these societal differences and espouse for a society of unity, love, happiness and inclusion.

WATER (2007)

An Indo-Canadian film, Deepa Mehta's Water is the last installment of her 'Elements' trilogy that focusses on the stark misogyny, patriarchy and socio-cul-tural deprivation faced by widows in

India. Blunt, rustic and brutally honest, the films tells the story of a poverty-strick-en widow as she fights convention and society to escape from the dogmas of India's patriarchal, anti-feminist set-up.

PERIOD. END OF SENTENCE (2018) Nominated in the Documentary Short

Subject, Rayka Zehtabchi's Period. End of Sentence looks at the story of real life Pad-Man Arunachalam Muruganathan's journey of fighting against the social stigma that surrounds menstruation and the plight of Indian women. Succinctly put and powerfully told, the film is a projection of the current behavioural tendencies of the Indian social psyche, and challenges to change it.

(The Oscars will be telecasted on Star Movies and Star Movies Select HD at 6.30 pm on February 25.)



RESTRICT SCREEN TIME

With addiction and cyberbullying at the top of the list, there are multiple pros and cons of growing up amid a plethora of devices and the internet, says MEENAL ARORA

Parenting in the digital age has a whole new meaning as the psychological development of children is highly impacted by digital media. Today, digital exposure has a huge part to play in the physical and mental growth and development of children. Growing up in this era has ben-efits like making information to entertainment available on our fingertips. However, this is only one side of the coin. With addiction and cyberbullying at the top of the list, there are multiple negative aspects of growing up amidst a plethora of devices and the internet.

The question that most

parents have is whether they should be worried?

Effect of excess exposure to digital media

Numerous parents who watch their children become accus-tomed to spending hours on their computers or tablets are concerned about their well-being and with good reason. This worry is not baseless as too much use of digital devices has been proven to negatively impact the physical as well as mental health of children. In fact, the National Health Service (NHS) of UK recently reported that 11 to 19-year-olds with mental disorders are more likely to be regular social media users. Further, it is common knowledge that too much digital exposure cuts down the time spent on healthy outdoor play. This leads to problems such as laziness, obesity and even depression. Moreover, too much digital media eventually. much digital media eventually has an impact of the eyes. The negative impact, therefore, is significant. However, the situation does not need to become

this dire or worrisome. The Center Communication and Development Studies recently found that 25 per cent of all Indian children have access to smartphones and 18 per cent use smartphones solely as edu-cational tools. With the inter-



net providing a wealth of knowledge to young ones, dig-ital media can be used as a smart tool to bolster knowledge and increase exposure to a massive amount of useful information. Furthermore, exposure to media can polish the reading, writing and critical thinking skills of children. It can teach them how to form opinions and then express these opinions confidently among

Technology in the classroom: Enhancing education in the

digital age
As the advantages of exposing children to digital media become apparent, schools have started equipping themselves with digital devices that

enhance the process of teaching. Leading schools in India are now offering technology-aided learning, which includes interactive white-boards, robotic learning systems, online learning platforms, e-books and much more. The younger generation is much more compensation is much more compensation is much more compensation. generation is much more com-fortable reading and learning digital text than printed text, which is why schools are employing digital media, accepting it as a friend and not

Moreover, as the job land scape is pervaded by technology, jobs across all industries are becoming tech-centric to a certain degree. In such a scenario, it is essential for students to be aware of leading technolo-gies such as data analytics,

WITH INTERNET PROVIDING A WEALTH OF FACTS TO YOUNG ONES. DIGITAL MEDIA CAN BE USED AS A SMART TOOL TO **BOLSTER** KNOWLEDGE AND **INCREASE EXPOSURE TO A**

MASSIVE AMOUNT

OF USEFUL

INFORMATION

artificial intelligence and cyber-security. Since these skills are much better grasped through practical and not just theoret-ical teaching methods, it is of utmost importance to intro-duce digital technology from children from an early age.

Interaction not isolation, learn-

ing not addiction ing not addiction
Technology is all around us and
our children are going to be
influenced by it, one way or
another. The key is for parents
and educators to encourage
healthy internet and digital
media practices. Parents must media practices. Parents must regulate screen time for children and place some degree of parental controls on the content that children have access to. Furthermore, children should be

made completely aware about the repercussions of excessive digi-tal media usage. They must also create a safe space wherein children can freely talk about their experience with digital media.

By having conversations and building confidence in children, arents can make sure that dig parents can make sure that digital media is used as a means of interaction and not isolation. That the wealth of knowledge on the internet only leads to learning and not addiction. With healthy regulation in place, parenting in the digital age can be much more efficient and much less daunting. With and much less daunting. With family movie nights, multiplayer online gaming and many other ways to bond as a family, it can in fact make parenting much more fun.

Raising a child independently even if one has support from the family is a challenge that requires a lot of mental toughness and positive attitude towards life. Few of the biggest roadblocks are financial strangulation, loneliness, unwanted questions from the loneliness, unwanted questions from the so-called society and emotional stress. The situation is just like a coin which has two disparate faces — one, the par-ent feels quite confident while raising their child on their own, making choices and living a life on his/her own terms. Whereas the other side brings excruci-

iety and uncertainty.

There are different reasons why a person becomes a single-parent. They may choose this lifestyle. The challenges faced by him/her vary according to their circumstances. Here are few good practices which can be helpful if you are a

ating pain of loneliness, dejection, anx-

BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT

This is one topic which appears in almost every relationship with or without a spouse. It's better to have your own source of income irrespective of your family background, alimony or anything else. Being financially independent gives you and your child the freedom to live life your way. Nowadays, there are lots of options as a career to choose like being a blogger, teacher, freelance from home and what not.

DEALING WITH EMOTIONAL

All human beings need support whether it's someone to watch the kids while you run out to do errands or simply someone to talk to when you feel

Stronger than ever

Being a single parent comes with a few roadblocks like financial strangulation, loneliness, unwanted questions from the so-called society and emotional stress, says VIVEK SHARMA



overwhelmed. The absence of such person abruptly or unwillingly creates a lot of trouble. You can ask friends and family members for help or could join a sin-gle-parent support group, or, if finances allow, hire a trusted sitter to help out with the kids or someone to assist with

STRESS MANAGEMENT
Come out of your comfort zone. We have a tendency of not meeting people, crying in loneliness and pretending to be happy in front of others. Just be your self, no need to punish yourself for something which was beyond your con-trol. Look at things the way they are. Do not procrastinate or blow-up things out of proportion as it doesn't lead anyone anywhere. Life is like a big hard disk which captures every single event that happens in our lives. The only way to move on in life is to create more pleasant events rather than focusing on forgetting pre-recorded ones.

MANAGING QUESTIONS ASKED TO THE CHILD

Sometimes, we can't choose people around us, but we can certainly choose whom to associate with and to avoid. People who can't break you will try to influence your child negatively by asking uncomfortable questions. The best way to handle this is to tell the truth to your child. Questions will come up about the changes in your family, or about the absence of one parent. Answer your child's questions in an open, honest and age-appropriate way. Make sure that your child gets the help and support he/she needs to deal with difficult emotions



MANTRA FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

We can't have value-based economics or principled politics without working in accordance with ancient spiritual wisdom, Says rajyogi brahmakumar nikunj ji



e all wish to live in a peaceful and harmonious society. However, one in which every individ-ual or group is self-centred — is not a soci-ety in the true sense of the word, for it lacks endurety in the true sense of the word, for it lacks endur-ing unity of minds or commonality of abiding inter-ests of its people. Thus, it falls short of an important cohesive force or uniting factor that should give to it solidarity and integrity. Even if the groups constitut-ing it, have some common set of customs and social norms, these groups or individuals often break these when their self-interests clash with those of others. Such a society is, at best, a loosely-knit network of com-munities, classes, institutions or nations, each one of munities, classes, institutions or nations, each one of which thrives by manipulating the others for its own growth. And, a logical consequence of this is that, when growth. And, a togical consequence of this is that, when a situation arises for a group to choose between what is of benefit to all and what is of greater well-being to that group, it opts for the latter, thus unleashing the forces of disruption, conflict and split.

In such a weak-kneed society, pressures exerted by each ego-centric cultural, religious, ethnic, caste or political group would be startly exerte social political.

political group would naturally create social, political and economic tensions. These would further affect law and order as well as stability. It would be a set-back to united efforts to attain set goals. Thus, these would work as obstacles and cause stagnation, disturbance, deadlock and at times, even destruction. The individuals and groups, in such a society, may, in common parlance, be known as civilised and they may, in their daily life, show manners and etiquette but, obsessed by their narrow interests, they can go to any length and adopt any means to achieve their coveted goals even though these are detrimental to other sections of society or humankind as a whole.

For example, a self-centred individual, who has

high influence in power circles, may get a piece of prime land or a flat allotted to him by manipulating or using political pressure even though more than a hundred persons, equally entitled, may have been waiting ahead of him in the queue, for years. Similarly, a self centred companying may demand extra advanced. self-centred community may demand certain advan-tages or benefits from some political party or a pow-erful politician, promising, in turn, voting en bloc for that party or politician and paying no heed to the fact that these demands are unreasonable and may cause communal disharmony. Thus, the fact that a person or a community is civilised, according to common usage of the word, is no guarantee for stability and progress if the people are not prepared to make even a little sacrifice for the common good of all, in which their own well-being also is assured. So, the mantra for peace, progress and prosperity of all is to tune our mind to the wisdom, summed up in the famous Sanskrit slogan: "Sarvay bhavantu suhkina, sarvay santu niramaya..." which means "Let all be happy and prosperous and let all be healthy". Unless and until this forms the basis of our politics, economics and business or industrial management, conflict conflict or frontation. ness or industrial management, conflict, confrontation, tension and turmoil will always remain. But the question is how can we cultivate this attitude? For this, the second mantra is "Vasudhaiv kutumbakam" which means that the whole world is our family.

Without working in accordance with this ancient spiritual wisdom, neither can we have principled pol-itics nor can we have value-based economics and neither can we have peace or make progress which would give us real happiness. In short, without following these two precepts or mantras we cannot have a value-based

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

FISH OIL MAY NOT IMPROVE ASTHMA

touted as the natural substance that could alleviate many of your chronic ailments, may not prove to be helpful to obese adolescents and young adults with uncontrolled asthma, new research suggests.

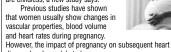


The study, published in the American Journal of spiratory and Critical Care Medicine, showed that four ms of fish oil a day for six months did not improve asthma control, as measured by a standard asthma control questionnaire, breathing tests, urgent care visits and severe asthma exacerbations

"We don't know why asthma control in obese patients is more difficult, but there is growing evidence that obesity causes systemic inflammation," said lead author Jason E. Lang. Associate Professor at the Duke University in the US. "Because the omega-3 fatty acids in fish oil have anti-inflammatory properties, we wanted to test whether fish oil would have therapeutic benefits for these patients," Lang

PREGNANCY CAN RAISE RISK OF HEART DISEASE

Women who have given hirth have a disease and strokes than those who are childless, a new study says,



disease has been debated. In the new study, a team from the Huazhong University of Science and Technology in China, reviewed 10 studies. It involved nearly three million women worldwide, with more

than 150,000 diagnosed with heart disease or strokes during the following six to 52 years The findings, published in the European Society of Cardiology journal, showed that giving birth has a 14 per cent higher risk of heart disease and strokes.

In addition, there was a significant association between the number of pregnancies and the risk of cardiovascular disease

BRAIN CHEMICAL BEHIND FATTY FOOD CRAVING

Do you feel the urge to binge on golden hot chips, cheesy pizza, crispy chicken, heartwarming hamburgers, all when on a diet? Researchers have identified new brain circuits that may act as a brake on binge eating and junk food craving.

In the study, led by a team from the University of Texas at Galveston on rats who had spent a month eating a low-fat diet, the team successfully inhibited the fatty food seeking behaviours. "Craving for foods high in fat, this includes many junk foods - is an important part of obesity and binge eating," said Jonathan Hommel, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas in the US. "When trying to lose weight people often strive to avoid fatty foods, which ironically increases motivation and craving for these foods and can lead to overeating. Even worse, the longer someone abstains from fatty foods, the greater the cravings," Hommel added. Several studies have demonstrated that denying certain foods causes increased craving and motivation for that food. However, the brain mechanisms that lead to this type of overeating are not known

MEMORY LOSS IN ALZHEIMER'S CAN BE RESTORED | OPTIMISM MAY LOWER DIABETES RISK

Researchers have developed a novel approach that may one day make it possible to reverse memory loss, caus by Alzheimer's disease.

The team, led by University at Buffalo scientists, found that by focusing on gene changes caused by influences other than DNA sequences, called epigenetics, it was possible to reverse memory decline in an animal model of Alzheimer's. "We have not only identified the epigenetic factors that contribute to the memory loss, but we also found ways to emporarily reverse them in an animal model of Alzheimer's," said Zhen Yan, Professor at University at Buffalo in the US

The research was conducted on mouse models carrying gene mutations for familial Alzheimer's, where more than one member of a family has the disease and on postmortem brain tissues from Alzheimer's patients. It is caused from both genetic and environmental risk factors, such as ageing.

While it is known that a positive personality can help one succeed life, a new study suggests that traits such as optimism may actually help reduce the risk of eveloping Type-2 diabetes.
The study examined



whether personality traits, including optimism, negativity and hostility, were associated with the risk of developing Type-2 diabetes in postmenopausal women Depression and cynicism were found to be associated with an increased risk of diabetes. In addition, high levels of hostility were associated with high fasting glucose vels, insulin resistance, and prevalent dial For the study, published in the journal Menopause researchers followed 139 924 postmenopausal women amongst which 19,240 cases of Type-2 diabetes were identified. Compared with women who were least optimistic, women who were the most optimistic had a 12 per cent lower risk of incident diabetes, results





CHASE STARS AS WI HUMILIATE ENG

Roston registers career best figures of 60/8 to help Windies end England's winning streak of five Test matches

AFP BRIDGETOWN

Roston Chase proved the unlikely bowling hero as the off-spinner destroyed England with career-best figures of eight for 60 as the West Indies crushed the visitors by 381 runs to win the first Test at Kensington Oval on Saturday. Set the improbable target of 628

to win, the tourists slid to ignominious defeat in bright sunshine on the fourth day, losing their last six wick-ets for 31 runs either side of the tea interval to be dismissed for 246, ending a winning streak of five matches.

It was the largest margin of vic-tory by the West Indies on home soil and third largest anywhere in their 91 years as a Test-playing nation.
Chase made the most of a fourth

day pitch showing more signs of wear but also benefited from poor shot selection by an England side that looked shell-shocked from the events of the previous two days when they were routed for just 77 in their first

was left to stand-in wicketkeeper Shai Hope to complete the dismissal which sealed the result, stumping Sam Curran down the leg-side off Chase 40 minutes into the final session. Given England's dominance of Sri

Lanka and their spinners in sub-con-



months earlier, the manner of their capitulation would have been particularly surprising.

Not that it mattered in the least

to Chase who reaped considerable reward to eclipse his previous best Test innings figures of five for 121 against India in Jamaica in just his second Test

in 2016.

If West Indies expectations in the victory push on the fourth morning were that pace would replicate the devastation of the first innings, the lanky 26-year-old changed the nar-rative when he ended opening bats-man Rory Burns' quest for a maiden Test century off the final delivery before lunch. Burns top-scored for England with 84.
Enjoying the conditions and

_	Dell Stokes and Mocen In, the on-
NOT DECIDE	spinning all-rounder suffering the
Street, St.	indignity of a "pair" in the afternoon
	to end the tourists' hopes of taking the
	match into a fifth day.
	Fast bowler Shannon Gabriel,
	who would have had the wicket of
P	Root but was called for a no-ball when
1	the batsman gloved a sharp lifter to
A 100 TO	Holder in the slips, made amends by
0	dismissing Jonny Bairstow to a leg-
	side catch by Hope.
110	Another pacer, Alzarri Joseph,
The same	had taken the first wicket of the day
The same of	when he broke an opening partner-
-	ship of 85 by having Keaton Jennings
	caught by Holder at third slip for 14.
1 1 100	In contrast to Holder's outstand-
	ing performances in front of his home

Season

2018-19

1990-91

1950

Season

1970-71

1976-77

1961-62

1989-90

2016-17

2018-19

FAISEL FEATURES

er in the slips, made amends by ssing Jonny Bairstow to a leg-atch by Hope. nother pacer, Alzarri Joseph, alken the first wicket of the day he broke an opening partner-f 85 by having Keaton Jennings t by Holder at third slip for 14. a contrast to Holder's outstand-frogmances in front of his home ing performances in front of his home crowd, which earned him the man of

England's indecisiveness, he added the

wickets of England skipper Joe Root, Ben Stokes and Moeen Ali, the off-

the match award, this has been a miserable experience for Root.

Reprieved by Gabriel's front foot indiscretion, he failed to take full advantage of the let-off, eventually wafting outside the off-stump at

Chase to give Darren Bravo a straight-forward catch at slip to depart for 22. "We are a far better side than we have played in this match and we need to remember that going into the next match," said disappointed Root. "We could have gone down a different route in team selection but the important factor is that we can do a lot bet-

ter than this."

With Gabriel troubled by a foot injury and Chase settling into a wicket-taking groove, it was inevitable he would be persisted with in the final

session and did not disappoint.

Jos Buttler fell to a diving catch
by John Campell at short mid-on, Shimron Hetmyer somehow held on to a sharp chance at short-leg to remove Ben Foakes and Kraigg Brathwaite judged a catch well on the midwicket boundary to get rid of Adil Rashid before Hope administered the final flourish behind the stumps.

ICC suspend Sarfaraz for 4 matches

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday expressed disappointment at the ICC's decision to suspend its captain Sarfaraz Ahmed for four matches for his racist comments on a South African player during an ODI match in Durban.

The PCB said that it thought

the matter to have been resolved amicably after Sarfaraz apologised to Proteas all-rounder Andile Phehlukwayo. Sarfaraz was on Sunday sus-

pended for four matches by the International Cricket Council for his racist comments against Andile Phehlukwayo during the second one-dayer on January 22.

After the ICC announced its

After the ICC announced its decision, the PCB issued a statement expressing surprise at the ban imposed of Sarfaraz.

"The PCB notes the ICC decision on Sarfaraz Ahmed with its utmost disappointment. PCB had anticipated that the matter had been resolved amicably between the two Pagers and the two Pagers." the two players and the two Boards following Sarafraz Ahmed's public apologies, which were accepted by the player, the Board and South Africa cricket team," the statement said.

"The PCB will be pursuing this matter at the ICC forums with the objective to bring reforms to the Code, promoting amicable resolutions to issues as opposed to penalties. Having said that, the PCB reiterates its zero-tolerance approach towards racist comments

and behavior," it said.
The PCB also announced that Sarfaraz would be returning home immediately from South Africa. Sarfraz was heard on stump

microphone of making racist remarks directed at Andile Phehlukwayo.

"Abev kaalav, teri ammi aai kahan baitheen hain? Kya parhwa ke aya hai aaj tu?(Hey black (man), where is your mother sitting? What prayer did you get her to say for you today)?" Sarfaraz was heard as saying.
Shoaib Malik will captain the

team for the remaining ÔDIs and Used his friendship with Amla T20 internationals while Tahir to diffuse the situation

Imam, Usman propel Pak to win

Mohammad Rizwan has been

included in the T20I side.

A PCB source said that the A PCB source said that the Board was unaware that Sarfaraz would be suspended for four matches when it named him on Saturday to lead the team in the T20 series in South Africa, begin-

ning on February 6.

"We were not aware what penalty the ICC would impose on him and and when. There was some doubt if Sarfaraz would face a ban after he had apologised publicly and in person to the South Africa players including Andile Phehlukwayo," a PCB official said on Sunday.

Sarfaraz, who leads Pakistan in all three formats, became the first Pakistani player to be penalized by the ICC under its anti-racism

ICC had considered an eightmatch ban but took into account his prompt apology and the report of the match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

According to media reports, Pakistan's chief selector Inzamamul-Haq and South African players Hashim Amla and Imran Tahir had played major roles in diffus-ing the situation.

Inzamam, who is in South Africa watching the one-day series with the World Cup in mind, used his friendship with Amla and

Saurashtra close to final | Rahul fails but India

Benefitting from an umpiring howler, Cheteshwar Pujara put Saurashtra on brink of a victory with an unbeaten hundred but walked out of the ground amidst 'cheater' hose in the Danii Trophy camifical exists. boos in the Ranji Trophy semifinal against Karnataka, here on Sunday. Pujara hit his 49th first class hundred and

shared an unconquered 201-run fourth-wick-et stand with Sheldon Jackson (90) to help his side end the fourth day at 224 for three, just 55 runs away from the victory.

Hosts Karnataka added just two runs to their overnight total of 237 for eight before

being bundled out, setting a 279-run target for

the visitors.
Pacer R Vinay Kumar provided the hosts the best possible start by getting rid of opener Snell Patel (0) and Vishvaraj Jadeja (0) with-

out letting them bother the scorer.
Abhimanyu Mithun scalped Harvik Desai (9) to leave Saurashtra gasping at 23 for three. It could have been worse for the visitors since Pujara pushed one from Vinay Kumar to edge it to wicketkeeper Shrinivas Sharath but

umpire turned down the appeal.

Vinay Kumar could not believe his luck

and was left fuming and frustrated, considering that Pujara's is a prized scalp.
The TV replays clearly showed that Pujara had edged it but it was not Karnataka's day as

the match slipped out of their hands after that.
The home bowlers left to toil whole day as they only saw Pujara and Jackson build the



fourth innings.

The two batsmen did not offer any chance to Karnataka bowlers after that, gradually taking it away from the hosts.

Pujara has faced 216 balls for his 108-run ock which has 14 fours. Jackson is 10 runs away from his 16th first class hundred as his 90 came off 205 balls with 13 shots to the fence.

As the stumps were drawn and players started leaving the ground, angry home fans booed Pujara by shouting 'cheater' 'cheater'. Saurashtra now need to knock off just 55

runs on the final day with seven wickets in hands to set up the Ranji Trophy summit clash with defending champions Vidarbha.

A clinch series PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

WI BIGGEST WINS BY RUNS IN TESTS

Opp

Ind

Pak

Ind

Eng

Pak

Bridgetown

Bridgetow

Venue

Jamaica

Jamaica

Dubai

Bridgetown

Bridgetown

Bridgetown

England

Australia

England

Bowler

Jack Noreiga

Colin Croft

Lance Gibbs

Curtly Ambrose

Roston Chase

Devendra Bishoo

343 runs

326 runs

Figures

9-95

8-29

8-38

8-45

8-49

KL Rahul scored only 13 on his return from suspension but India A sealed the series against England Lions with a comfortable 60-run win taking an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

In a low-scoring encounter, India A could manage only 172 in 47.1 overs but then did well enough to bowl out Lions for 112 in only 30.5 overs. On a slow deck, it was left-arm spinners Krunal Pandya (4/21 in 5.5 overs) and

overs), who inflicted bulk of the damage.

If Axar dealt the opening blows, man of the match Krunal polished the lower-half after

chipping in with useful Credit should also be given to Deepak Chahar as his 39 off 65 balls took India from 110 for 7 to 172 after skipper Ajinkya Rahane



(0) and Rahul were dismissed cheaply at the top of the order.

All eyes were on Rahul, who had a nightmarish two weeks after BCCTs provisional suspension for his comments in TV chat show *Koffee with Karan'*. Having got a long rope during the tours of England and Australia, where he has been an absolute failure, the

Karnataka opener didn't do his case any good on his return, looking completely rusty. His 13 off 25 balls had two boundaries but he was unable

find the gaps during the Powerplay overs. I er Jamie Overton, who dismissed him caught by Zachariah Chappell.
Rahul, considered to be a favourite of the team man-

agement, will still get two more shots in the ongoing A series. The team management is still undecided on the reserve opener's slot and Rahane with scores of 59 and 91

in the first two games has made a case for himself.

In the final two matches, young Rishabh Pant will be opening the batting as he is also a strong candidate for the Ŵorld Čup berth.

Pakistan shrugged off a four-

P match suspension imposed on captain Sarfraz Ahmed with a crushing eight-wicket win over South Africa in the fourth one-day international at the Wanderers Stadium on Sunday.

The result levelled the five-

match series at 2-2. The deciding match will be in Cape Town on Wednesday.
Pakistan's bowlers set up the

win, bowling out South Africa for 164. Imam-ul-Haq made 71 before playing a loose shot when the scores were level as Pakistan cruised to victory with 18.3 overs to spare.

Stand-in captain Shoaib Malik said at the after-match presentation that Pakistan only found out after they arrived at the ground that Sarfraz had been banned under the International Cricket Council's anti-racism code for remarks aimed at Andile Phehlukwayo.

The ban had still not been announced by the ICC when Malik walked out for the toss.

Malik handled his bowlers and fielders astutely and South Africa were kept under pressure almost from the time he won the toss and sent them in on a pitch which had

Shaheen Shah Afridi made two early strikes before Hashim Amla (59) and captain Faf du Plessis (57) made half-centuries and put on 101 for the third Malik's use of spinners Imad

Wasim and Shadab Khan kept the scoring rate in check and both fell to the slow men before the fast bowlers returned. Mohammad Amir dismissed

the dangerous David Miller before fellow left-arm fast bowler Usman Shinwari claimed four wickets in six balls. He finished with four for 35 and was named man of the

behind for 18 and bowled Dale Steyn for a two-ball duck. Kagiso Rabada was caught behind first ball and Beuran Hendricks survived an appeal for leg before wicket with what Shinwari hoped was the hat-trick ball.

stumps but Shinwari acknowl-

COACH



Shinwari had Dussen caught

The ball was crashing into the

edged that umpire Bongani Jele had made the right decision

Imam, the top scorer in the start of Pakistan's reply. He and Fakhar Zaman (44) put on 70 for the first wicket before he was joined by the in-form Babar Azam. who finished with 41 not out.

It was South Africa's first defeat in eight matches on what has become known as 'Pink Day' with their players dressed in pink in aid of breast cancer awareness.

Eves lose 2-3 to Spain in opener

PTI MURCIA

Indian women's hockey team put up a spirited fight before losing 2-3 to Spain in their opening match here.

Udita (12th minute) and

Gurjit Kaur (48th) scored for India, while Maria Tost (23rd), Lola Reira (39th) and Begona Garcia (40th) sounded the board

for Spain on Saturday.
India used strong attacking strategy to begin the first quarter on a positive note. The team made the first

breakthrough when it managed to earn a penalty corner in the 8th minute but could not convert the shot. However, in the following minutes the forwardline worked together to support experienced

Vandana who created a splendid

opportunity for compatriot Udita to score in the 12th A reverse pass by Vandana was picked up well by Udita who made no mistake in sending it past the Spanish goalkeeper Maria Ruiz to take a 1-0 lead.

In the second quarter, hosts Spain stepped up their game after the initial setback to score



Udita (12th minute) and Gurjit Kaur (48th) scored for India, while Maria Tost (23rd), Lola Reira (39th) and Begona Garcia (40th) sounded the hoard for Spain

an equaliser in the 23rd minute

through Maria Tost.
While the second half saw both teams defend well to contain each other from taking a lead, the third quarter completely belonged to Spain as they struck two goals in the 39th and 40th minute through Lola Reira and Begona Garcia respective

The fourth quarter remained tense for India as they fought back to make amends to their defensive laps-

es in the previous quarter.

A tactical approach to their attack saw them win a crucial PC which was brilliantly converted by dragflicker Gurjit Kaur in the

48th minute. The following minutes were evenly fought by both teams but Spain ensured they upped their defence to deny India an equalis-



AIFF GEARS UP

 $T^{\text{he All India Football}}_{\text{Federation (AIFF) on Sunday said it will launch its}}$ hunt for a new national coach in the next few days and would be aiming for a "dynamic per-sonality" with considerable international experience instead of a high-profile name.

Stephen Constantine's departure after the heartbreaking group stage exit at the AFC Asian Cup has left the top post

AIFF general secretary Kushal Das said the candidate to replace him has to be well versed in man management, adding the federation will advertise for the coach's post within the first week of

FOR

The experience of having coached a national team is always important because what you get from that, you won't get elsewhere," Das said.

"He has to be good in man management, has to have a vision for Indian football and he should be someone who is ready to take us to the next level. We are just not looking at some big names."

India went into the Asian Cup rejecting rumours of a longstanding feud between Constantine and a few senior players, including the talismanic Sunil Chhetri, and the AIFF wants to avoid a similar situation in the future

The apex body had, in the past, refused to acknowledge when asked if all was good between the coach and players.

Das stressed on the need for the head coach to have good relations with players, support staff, Indian football adminis-

trators and the clubs.

"Ideally, he should be a father figure working in tandem with the players, clubs and All India Football Federation. He has to tell us about his vision and be willing to accept the challenge of taking our football

to the next level, which is exactly what we want," Das said. Without reading much into

the rumours around his dispute with players and his penchant for frequently experimenting with the personnel, Das felt Constantine's tenure was fruitful for the Indian team. "We have come a long way

from the 2011 tournament, But still we have impressed and I think we were unlucky against UAE and Bahrain.

With the talent we have in our U-16, U-20 national teams I am confident that Indian football can only go up from here," Das said.

He said that at a time when Indian football is trying to climb up the ladder, a foreign-er will be better suited for the top job.

Seven heaven for Djoker

Novak routs old foe Nadal 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 in men's decider, wraps up record 7th Aus Open title

ovak Djokovic said he played his "best final in a Grand Slam" to win a record mag-nificent seventh Australian Open with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 rout of Rafael Nadal on Sunday.
"It's one of the best, if not the best, matches

I've played in a Grand Slam final," the Serbian world number one said after winning his 15th major title in just 2hr 4min.

The demolition of second seed Nadal put Djokovic, 31, out on his own ahead of Roger Federer and Roy Emerson, who both won six Australian Open men's singles titles.

The top seed dropped to his knees and kissed

The top seed dropped to his knees and kissed the ground after vanquishing his greatest rival.

"It's quite unreal we are still playing at this level and still competing for the biggest titles in sport and it's just an amazing evening," he said, pausing frequently to hold back his emotions.

"Under the circumstances, maybe this is the best quality tennis I, have played against Pafa in

best quality tennis I have played against Rafa in a final."

'THIS IS AMAZING'

"I'm just trying to contemplate on the journey in the last 12 months. I had the surgery exactly 12 months ago," he added, referring to an elbow operation that saw him slump out of the world's top 20 before bouncing back to win Wimbledon and the US Open. "To be standing now here in front of you today and managing to win this title and three out of four Slams, this is amazing. I am

The pair's only previous final in Australia, in 2012, developed into a record-breaking 5hr 53min slugfest — the longest in Grand Slam history.

A repeat of that epic never materialised with Nadal uncharacteristically nervous at the start and Djokovic taking an immediate advantage that he would never relinquish. Djokovic said a fast start

had always been his plan.

"(It was) exactly what I intended to do, to step out and bring on the intensity because I knew there would be intensity waiting for me on the other side."

The Spaniard had not lost a set and had not had his service broken since the third set of his first round match but that streak ended in a flash as the Serb came sprinting out of the blocks.

"I definitely needed a good start, we had both

been playing well coming into the match," said

'I knew I had a good chance if could dictate

TOTAL CONTROL

Diokovic was in total control on his own delivery and won his first four service games with out conceding a single point, even inducing Nadal to miss a forehand completely on the way to grab-



Novak Djokovic, right, holds his trophy after defeating Rafael Nadal in the men's singles final at the Australia

bing the set in 36 minutes.

The second set followed a similar pattern

The second set followed a similar pattern, with Djokovic racing through games on his own serve, while Nadal struggled to hold.

The pressure told in the fifth game and Djokovic broke again when Nadal hit a lob vol-

ley long after an exchange at the net.

The on-song Serb was so fired up he broke
Nadal again to go to 5-2 before serving out for a
two-set lead with three aces in a row with just 1hr

16min on the clock.

The statistics were as telling as the scoreline: Djokovic had served eight aces to Nadal's one and made just four unforced errors while the Spaniard had coughed up 20. When Djokovic broke again in the third game of the third set it was just

THE DEMOLITION OF SECOND SEED NADAL PUT DJOKOVIC, 31, OUT ON HIS OWN AHEAD OF ROGER

FEDERER AND ROY EMERSON, WHO BOTH WON SIX AUSTRALIAN OPEN MEN'S SINGLES TITLES

a matter of how quickly he would finish off Nadal. The end was swift, as Diokovic withstood one break point at 3-2 before administering the last rites in a flurry of winners off both wings.

"Even if tonight was not my best day of course
I had someone that played a lot better than me tonight," said Nadal

Victory extended the Serb's win-loss record against Nadal to 28-25 and squared the Grand

Slam final count between the pair at 4-4.

Djokovic has now completed a hat-trick of Slams following his wins at Wimbledon and the He will go to Paris in May for the French

Open seeking to become the only man in the Open Era to win all four majors twice.

Eastern District Police

Police would like to issue a warning to

group touring the country at the moment.

Witnesses report seeing this group badly

assault an innocent looking bunch of New

you are carrying anything that looks like a

Zealanders in both Napier and Mt Maunganui

in the last week. Extra care should be taken if

members of the public about the exploits of a

'Osaka well deserves Number 1 ranking'

Naomi Osaka's win over Petra Kvitova in the women singles final of Australian Open on Saturday hitched the 21 year old Japanese young superstar name in the record book of women's tennis, as the going to be world number one women's player (when the list gets updated on Monday) becomes the first player since Jennifer Capriati to win the next Grand Slam after her maiden major title.

Speaking about Osaka's sensational performance in the

Speaking about Osaka's sensational performance in the night of final, former Indian number one singles players Somdev Devvarman was full of praise for the young achiever, who first grabs spotlight after mauling Serena Williams in one-sided US Open final in September 2018.

"The stakes were very high in the final. Not just the title that was on the line but also world number one that neither of the women had accomplished before."

"It was a very interesting game and I think the two girls faced quite phenomenal in this match without a doubt win-

ning plenty of great points." "Osaka was brilliant in the tiebreak And then she did really well especially in the third set to take a path from the break at the end of second and compose herself again, refocus and come back and win the match. I was an unbelievable after Australian Open final effort for Naomi and



Naomi Osaka poses with the winners trophy

guest panelists for *Sony Sports* live studio show for Australian Open. a tough one for Kvitova," said Somdev who was one of the

Speaking further about Naomi the 33-year-old veteran, whose best performance in the season's first Grand Slam was way back in 2013 when he entered the second round said that she has proved that her US Open win wasn't a fluke and she is well deserved for the number one ranking.

"I think Osaka is one of the brighter futures for WTA circuit, US final was unfortunate (because of the crowd boo-

ing Serena) but at the end of the day she won it very gracefully and here she did it once again proving that win was not

"She is now the world number one and I think she is well

earned, well deserved."

"In Australia, she only lost three sets on the way to the title. She is playing really well and obviously has improved a lot; she has learned how to deal with pressure. It's not easy to deal with pressure and expectations coming into the tour-nament as a number four seed but she has done a great job.

"We have to congratulate her on her feet, I think winning two Slams final back to back and that too your first Slam final something has never done long back. She has joined a very privileged group of Chris Evert and other greats and a group that has a lot of success at the WTA tour. Pretty great future for her ahead and I think she will be a wonderful ambas-

SINGLES

KVITOVA PULLS OUT OF FED CUP TIE

PRAGUE: Australian Open finalist Petra Kvitova will not play in the first-round Fed Cup tie as the Czech Republic face Romania on February 9-10, Czech media said on Sunday, quoting her manager. "She defends her titles in St Petersburg the week before that and in Doha the week manager Miroslav Cernosek told the website of the DNES broadsheet daily. "Neither I nor captain Petr Pala expect her to take part," he said, adding however that he expected Kvitova to join the Fed Cup team later. "She has always played... When she could. She is not one of those looking for excuses," he added. With Kvitova on the team, the Czechs have won six of the last eight Fed Cups. In last year's final, they swept the US team 3-0 in Prague.

ITALIANS ARRIVE FOR DAVIS CUP TIE

KOLKATA: The Italian Davis Cup squad, led by world number 18 Marco Cecchinato, arrived here on Sunday for the World Group Qualifiers against hosts India at the South Club from February 1-2. In absence of Italy's topranked Fabio Fognini who has ruled himself out to treat an injury, Cecchinato will spearhead the team on the grass courts. Cecchinato who made a first round exit at the Australian Open against Serbia's Filip Krajinovic is expected to be a threat on the opening day of the tie. World number 35 Andreas Seppi is the next best Italians in terms of ranking. The other members of the contingent includes number 54 Matteo Berrettini, Thomas Fabbiano (102) and doubles world number 88 Simone Bolelli. A total of 24 teams will play in the knockout qualifiers on February 1 and 2 to decide which 12 teams will play the vear-end Final in Madrid in November 2019

EAST BENGAL WIN KOLKATA DERBY

KOLKATA: Kerala youngster Jobby Justin once again emerged as a game-changer with an assist followed by an opportunistic strike that enabled East Bengal defeat arch rivals Mohun Bagan 2-0 to remain in I-League title contention. The 25-year-old first set it up for Jaime Colado who broke the deadlock in the 35th minute and then angled his header to perfection beating custodian Shilton Paul to seal three points for the red and gold brigade. It is after 15 long years that East bengal have won both derbies in a single edition of national league. With this win, East Bengal with 25 points from 13 games moved up to fourth position. Real Kashmir has same noints from equal number of matches but are placed third on account of better goal difference.

10-MAN NEROCA SHARE SPOILS

IMPHAL: Neroca FC played out a goal-less draw against Aizawl FC to suffer a setback in their hopes of remaining in the I-League title hunt here on Sunday. The eventful game saw Neroca's Brazilian defender Eduardo Ferreira receive a red card for a dangerous challenge on Zikahi Dodoz in the 48th minute. Neroca FC, after two consecutive defeats to Mohun Bagan and Churchill Brothers, needed a win to return to title contention. However, it was the visitors Aizawl FC who threatened to draw first blood but they were unable to convert the opportunities that came their way. Aizawl missed an opportunity when their Nigerian forward Kareem Nurain's shot from just outside the box hit the post and then cleared by a Neroca defendor. The Manipur side, on the other hand, took time to settled down but later made some promising moves and breached into the Aizawl box defenders and goalkeeper Lalawmpuia, who ensured that the hosts do not edge them out early.

Hardik on spotlight as India look to seal series

PTI MOUNT MAUNGANUI

well-deserved break on the Awell-deserved break on the Acards, India captain Virat Kohli will be aiming to seal the five-match series when his team square off against a confused New Zealand in the third ODI here on Monday.

The Indian captain has been given a break as part of BCCI's workload management pro-gramme and he would ensure that he finishes his assignment Down Under on a high after the maid-en Test and ODI victories in Australia.

An unassailable 3-0 lead would be a fitting revenge to India's abject 0-4 humiliation during the 2014 limited overs

One of the primary focuses of Monday's encounter could be inclusion of Indian cricket's latest enfant terrible Hardik Pandva. who is coming back from provi-sional suspension for his loose talk on a TV chat show.

Pandya's presence lends solidity and balance to the side and the skipper has time and again admit-

The Baroda all rounder's replacement Vijay Shankar is a decent cricketer but is yet to possess the X factor that Pandya has.

That Shankar was given only two overs in the second ODI is an example that he is still not ready



Highlighting India's domination over the hosts in a unique and amusing way, the Easter District Police of New Zealand has come up with a warning for the citizens via Facebook

Pandya is a few clicks quicker than Shankar whose bowling in the three ODIs that he has played has not been penetrative.

Pandya can also bat at No 6 if situation arises and his busy approach in batting can also get

ing in middle overs as the skipper wants.
O t h e r w i s e

O t h e r w i s e

Indian team doesn't require much who accounted for 12 of the 20

tinkering. New Zealand, on the other

Marin limps out, Nehwal wins

wickets in the last two ODIs.

Kuldeep has looked the most

hand, has looked clueless against menacing as he claimed two four-

while Chahal returned with two in the first ODI, looked good dur-

wickets on both the matches.
Seamers Bhuvneshwar
Kumar and Mohammed Shami also have done their job well, get-ting crucial breakthroughs for the

India's batting too have complemented the bowlers, looking rock solid in both the games with Shikhar Dhawan's return to form lending the team the much-need-

ed support at the top.

If he had scored an unbeaten
75 in the first ODI, he cracked a 67-ball 66 in the second game.

Vice captain Rohit Sharma, who had flopped in the first ODI, too entertained the spectators here with a strokeful 87 en route his 14th century stand with

opening partner Dhawan. Skipper Kohli also looked in good nick in both the matches, while Ambati Rayudu seemed to have found his mojo back with a 49-ball 47 on Saturday.

An ageless Mahendra Singh Dhoni too continued his rampaging run with vet another paging ruii with yet another unbeaten 33-ball 48 to take India across the 300-mark, while Kedar Jadhav has also grabbed the role of a finisher with both hands. While the batting looked in place, there is a slight concern

bout the visitors fifth bowler's slot where Pandva might fit in.

For Black Caps, captain Kane lliamson, who had top-scored ing his short stay in the second ODI, while all-rounder Doug Bracewell tried to take the game to the wires with a 46-ball 57 but none of the other batters could convert their starts.

PTI .IAKARTA

Ace shuttler Saina Nehwal claimed her first BWF title in two years after three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain limped out of the Indonesia Masters final due to a leg injury, here on Sunday.

The London Olympics Bronze medallist, who last won a BWF title in 2017 in Malaysia, was trailing 4-10 in the opening game when Marin decided to withdraw from the contest.

"It is important year for all of us. It was not good to see at all. It is painful. I have been getting injured a lot in the last few years and to see something like this on court is really painful," said Saina, who had suffered a career-threatening knee injury at the 2016 Rio Olympics

"I know how it is mentally because when I got that knee injury at the Olympics. I was very upset. I was crying like anything. So I know how difficult it for a large to set though such kind of is for a player to go through such kind of injuries but the sport is like that, it is cruel."

It is a creditable performance for the Indian, who had suffered a shin injury late



Saina lends support to Carolina Marin after she Saina/Twitter suffers injury during summit clash



"I took a break the whole of December. I played these events to see how good I am and I was surprised with myself. January 1 was my first match

(PBL) against Sindhu after the injury. I didn't do any kind of training. Doctors asked me not to do any training," Saina

"But I am not happy with the way I got it today. Of course I am happy that I could reach the finals, beating difficult opponents like He Bingjiao. Both the tournaments, I am very happy with my performance. It is great to beat (Nozomi) Okuhara, Binjiao, Dinar (Dyah Avustine).

"In the finals, of course Carolina had the upper hand and I wanted to fight and see how the match goes but it was unfor-tunate what happened," added the 28-year-old from Hyderabad.

Olympic champion Marin was favourite to win the title. Coming into this match, she led 6-5 in her head-tohead record against Saina, an opponent she beat last week at the Malaysia Masters semifinal in Kuala Lumpur.

The fast-moving Spaniard made a rampaging start to take the first two points before Saina started to engage her in rallies and caught the Spaniard at the net to log her first point.

But the Indian missed the backline

a couple of times and also found the net to allow Marin lead 6-2 at the Istora

The Spaniard looked in good form, unleashing her aggressive brand of badminton but an unfortunate injury brought a premature end of the match when Marin, leading 9-2, landed badly on her right leg and fall on the court in agony holding her knee.

After a medical time out, Marin tried to continue but eventually collapsed to the ground crying.
She conceded the match at 10-4 up,

limping out of the stadium in tears.

For Saina, it turned out to be yet

another impressive outing, following the semifinal finish at Malaysia Masters last

Next would be All England Championship, a title Saina has not been able to win yet.