

OPINION 8
WHAT IMRAN
KHAN FORGOT

WORLD 12
UN EXAMINING SAUDI
WOMAN'S ASYLUM BID

AVENUES 13
TOP COURSES & OFF BEAT
CAREERS OF 2019

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16 SPORT

SC reinstates Alok Verma

But bars CBI chief from taking policy decision till selection panel call

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major rebuff to the Centre and Central Vigilance Commission, the Supreme Court on Sunday reinstated Alok Verma to the post of CBI Director by setting aside their orders sending him on leave.

However, the court made it clear that on reinstatement, Verma will cease and desist from taking any major policy decisions till the Selection Committee's decision. Verma's two-year tenure as CBI Director ends on January 31.

On the issue of "divestment of power and authority" of Verma, the apex court said it is "still open" for the high-powered committee, which selects the CBI chief, to consider the matter within a week since the CVC is probing the charges of corruption against him.

The high-powered committee includes the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India (CJI), and the Leader of Opposition.

"We deem it proper to direct that Verma, Director CBI, upon reinstatement, will cease and desist from taking any major policy decisions till the decision of the committee permitting such actions and decisions becomes available within the time frame indicated," a Bench headed by the CJI said in its 44-page order.

The Bench also comprised Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph. The judgment was penned by CJI Ranjan Gogoi. However, the CJI didn't attend court and it was pronounced by Justice Kaul.

By its Tuesday's order, the SC set aside the October 23, 2018, orders of the CVC and the Department of Personnel and Training that divested Verma of his powers and appointed CBI's Joint Director M Nageshwar Rao to look after the duties and functions of the agency's director.

Verma and Special Director Asthana were sent on "leave" after corruption charges were levelled against each other and the CBI filed a FIR against

Asthana. While Verma had moved the apex court against the Government's orders, Asthana has not sought any relief from the SC but has moved the Delhi High Court for quashing of FIR against him in a corruption case.

The SC referred to its verdict in the Vineet Narain case and subsequent amendment in law to drive home the point that legislative intent has been to ensure "complete insulation of the office of the CBI Director from all kinds of extraneous influences, as may be, as well as for upholding the integrity and independence of the institution of the CBI as a whole".

The 1997 Vineet judgment relates to investigation of allegations of corruption against high-ranking public officials. The top court referred to a provision of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, which said the CBI Director cannot be transferred without the consent of the Selection Committee.

"If the word 'transferred' has to be understood in its ordinary parlance and limited to a change from one post to another, as the word would normally convey and on that basis the requirement of 'previous consent of the committee' is understood to be only in such cases, i.e. Purely of transfer, such an interpretation would clearly negate the legislative intent," the Bench said.

It said the institution of CBI has been perceived to be necessarily kept away from all kinds of extraneous influences so that it can perform its role as premier investigating and prosecuting agency "without any fear and favour and in the best public interest".

"The head of the institution, the director, therefore, has to be the role model of independence and integrity which can only be ensured by freedom from all kinds of control and interference except to the extent that Parliament may have intended," it said.



BALL IN SELECTION PANEL COURT

- Alok Verma's two-year tenure as CBI Director ends on January 31
- On the issue of "divestment of power and authority" of Verma, the apex court said it is "still open" for the high-powered committee, which selects the CBI chief, to consider the matter within a week since the CVC is probing the charges of corruption against him
- The head of the institution, the director, therefore, has to be the role model of independence and integrity which can only be ensured by freedom from all kinds of control and interference except to the extent that Parliament may have intended, said the apex court

Verma leave order bonafide: Jaitley

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government took the decision to send the CBI's two senior officers on leave on the CVC's recommendation to protect the integrity of the investigating agency, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Tuesday, describing the action as "perfectly bonafide".

Reacting to the Supreme Court on CBI chief Alok Verma, Jaitley said the Government would comply with the orders of the apex court.



Now, none can save PM from Rafale probe: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said no one can save Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Rafale investigation as the SC has reinstated CBI chief Alok Verma, who was unceremoniously removed by the Modi Government.

Speaking to the media outside Parliament, Rahul said the CBI chief was "ousted" at 1 am as he was about to begin an investigation into the Rafale jet agreement.

Detailed report on Page 5

SC forms 5-judge Bench, Ayodhya trial from Jan 10

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court will hear the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute case from January 10. The Bench will be headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and also comprise of Justices SA Bobde, NV Ramana, UU Lalit and DY Chandrachud.

"Take notice that the following matters (petitions in the Ayodhya land dispute) will be listed on Thursday the 10th January, 2019 at 10.30 am in Chief Justice's court before the Constitution Bench comprising the Chief Justice, SA Bobde, NV Ramana, Uday Umesh Lalit and Dr DY Chandrachud, JJ," said a notice uploaded on the apex court website.

On January 4, the top court had said that further orders in the matter would be passed on



January 10 by "the appropriate Bench, as may be constituted".

As many as 14 appeals have been filed in the apex court against the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment, delivered in four civil suits, that the 2.77-acre land be partitioned equally among the three parties -- the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

The apex court on October 29 last year had fixed the matter in the first week of January before the "appropriate Bench".

Later, an application was moved for according an urgent hearing by advancing the date, but the top court had refused the plea, saying it had already passed an order on October 29 relating to the hearing of the matter.

The plea for early hearing was moved by the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha (ABHM) which is one of the respondents in the appeal filed by legal heirs of M Siddiq, one of the original litigants in the case.

Central trade union nationwide strike partially successful

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

Services of PSU banks and Post offices were partially affected on Tuesday on the first day of the two-day nationwide strike called by Central trade unions against the alleged anti-worker policies of the Central Government.

While the strike evoked mixed response in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Gujarat, Goa, Tripura, it affected normal life in Kerala where trains were stopped, buses and auto-rickshaws kept off roads.

A union leader said 20 crore took part in the strike.

'Spirited' Delhiites gulped over 16.5L litre to ring in New Year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites partied hard to welcome 2019, gulping down over 16.5 lakh liquor bottles on the eve of New Year.

According to a Delhi Government official, there was a spurt in sale of liquor in the city on December 31.

The official said, as per records, the total excise collection of the city Government on December 31 was ₹16.4 crore.

"16,59,636 bottles of liquor were sold by all entities, including liquor shops, resto-bars



and clubs in the national Capital on December 31," the official said.

In 2017, the month of December had generated ₹458

crore for the Delhi Government from the sale of liquor. The city Government had earned revenue of ₹4,243 crore from the sale of liquor in the 2016-17.

Over 500 drunken revellers, most of them youngsters, were penalised by the Delhi Police on New Year's eve, underlining a decline in the number of such cases as compared to last year.

A total of 509 challans were issued for drink-and-drive cases on New Year's eve, traffic police said.

Unanimous LS clears 10% general quota Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With most Opposition parties grudgingly backing what they called a political "jumla" and the Government describing it as a "historic" measure, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday night passed the landmark Bill seeking to provide 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education for the economically backward candidates among the general category. The Government will table the Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

With an eye on upper cast votes in the forthcoming Lok Sabha election, all major political parties supported the legislation even though they questioned the timing and legal "firmness" of the move. As many as 323 members voted in support of Bill and only three voted against it.

Replying to an over four-and-half-hour debate, Social Justice Minister Thaavarchand Gehlot sought to allay doubts raised by several Opposition members about the legislation's fate if challenged in the Supreme Court, saying he can say with confidence that the apex court will accept it.

The Modi Government's policy and intention is good and that is why it has enabled the reservation for the poor in the general category with constitutional amendment, he said, seeking support of all parties for the passage of the Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill 2019.

"Your doubts are unfounded. Put them to rest," he told Opposition members, many of whom dubbed the Bill as "jumla" and "gimmick", questioned its legal standing and accused the Government of bringing it in haste with an eye on the Lok Sabha polls.

Gehlot claimed that the Bill is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion when he assumed power in 2014 that his Government would be devoted to the cause of the poor and work for "sabka



Flowers blossom at Parliament house during the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday

saath sabka vikas" (With all, development for all).

Modi and Congress president Rahul Gandhi were present in the House when the Bill was passed.

AIMIM member Asaduddin Owaisi opposed the constitutional amendment Bill saying the Bill is fraud on the Constitution.

The Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill 2019 seeks to amend the Constitution by introducing provisions for reservation for economically weaker sections, he said, adding it presently mentions only social and educational backwardness as the criteria for quota.

"I oppose this Bill. This is

a fraud on the Constitution," he said.

Union Minister Arun Jaitley made a forceful pitch for the passage of a Bill providing 10 per cent quota for the poor among the general category, saying almost every party, including the Congress, had supported the measure in their poll manifesto.

Making an intervention in the Lok Sabha, he rejected suggestions that the measure may fall foul of a Supreme Court judgment putting a cap of 50 per cent. The bar, he added, is for caste-based reservations, while the Bill seeks quota for the economically weaker sections in the general category.

HRD to add 10 lakh seats in institutions to make up for loss

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

HRD Ministry on Tuesday convened a meeting to work out the modalities to implement 10 per cent reservation for the "economically weaker" sections within upper castes in higher educational institutions. Sources said the Ministry is working out the number of seats that need to be increased in the educational institutions to be able to implement this quota.

Sources said initial estimates reflect that around 10 lakh seats will have to be added in institutions across the country, including Central universities IITs and IIMs, among other prestigious higher educational institutions.

"The modalities are yet to be worked out about how the quota will be implemented. All the universities and educational institutions recognised by the University Grants Commission whether Government run or private will have to implement the quota," source said.

The Centre on Monday cleared the 10 per cent quota in Government jobs and education for the "economically weaker" sections, meeting a

key demand of upper castes. The related Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday and will come up in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

As per the All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2017-18, the country has a total of 903 universities, over 39,000 colleges and over 10,000 stand-alone institutions. The proposed reservation will be over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation enjoyed by the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and the other backward classes, and will take the total reservation to 60 per cent.

The Bill is likely to introduce criteria like an annual income below Rs 8 lakh and not owning more than five acre of agricultural land for those seeking quota benefits.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with students, teachers and parents about examinations and related stress this month end as part of the "Pariksha Pe Charcha" programme just like last year. Participants will also be able to join the interactive session from across the country and even abroad through video-conference.

Citizenship Bill pulls through LS despite Opp protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid opposition from the Congress, the TMC, Left parties and others as well National Democratic Alliance (NDA) allies Janata Dal (United) and Shiv Sena, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday approved a Bill seeking to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslim minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The contentious Bill provides Indian citizenship to the Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after six years of residence in India instead of 12 years even if they do not possess any document.

Piloting the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh told the Opposition that the Bill was not against the provisions of the Constitution and would give succour to persecuted



Activists under various student union outfits protest against Citizenship Bill in Khumulwng, West Tripura, on Tuesday

minorities in the three neighbouring countries.

Allaying apprehensions from Assam where its coalition partner Asom Gona Parishad (AGP) has resigned from the

BJP-led State Government, the Home Minister said the law is not meant for Assam only but for the entire country which would bear its "burden".

Congress and the TMC

staged a walk out from the House in protest with the latter demanding that the Bill should have also included persecuted minorities from the Muslim community in these

CAPSULE

NILEKANI TO HEAD RBI'S DIGITAL PAYMENT PANEL
Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday constituted a high-level committee under Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani to suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments in the country. P11

HC DISMISSES PLEA TO REMOVE KEJRIWAL AS CM
New Delhi: The Delhi High Court dismissed removal of AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister of the national Capital on the plea that he is facing prosecution in a criminal case.

PASWAN LOSES VIP STATUS AT PATNA AIRPORT
Patna: Denial of VIP privileges to Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan at the airport here a day ago raised some eyebrows though an official asserted on Tuesday that the situation arose since orders for extending the facilities were not issued by the competent authority.

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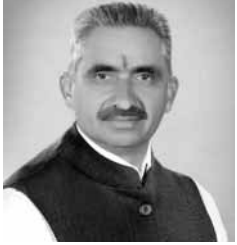
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Changes will be visible in 6 months: Doon Mayor

MONISHA BAHUGUNA ■ DEHRADUN

After being elected the fourth mayor of Dehradun in November 2018, Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' has been busy getting acquainted with the range of issues affecting the city and the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD). Known to have risen from humble beginnings to his current position through diligence and work, he shared his views with *The Pioneer* on his priorities and plans for bringing about positive changes in Dehradun.



problem we are facing is that the staff strength has remained the same as it was in the past. The number of the staff in the MCD is less while the workload has increased considerably. Plus, the newly created wards have many problems too.

What are your main priorities as the mayor of the city?

Right now, one of my basic and main priorities is to improve the sanitation services in the city. Our plan is to maintain proper cleanliness not only in the city but in the suburban areas as well. Under the present circumstances, we are trying our best - also undertaking special drives like the fortnight long sanitation drive launched on Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat's birthday which achieved good results. My second priority is to maintain proper street lighting in the city. We are also focusing specially on the suburban areas where there are few street light poles. Our attempt is to improve the situation in such areas too within six months.

What according to you is the major problem facing the MCD?

Dehradun city has about tripled in size in recent years. Forty new municipal wards have been brought under the purview of MCD which earlier had 60 wards. The main

How do you plan to tackle the worker-related issues faced by MCD?

As a start, we are posting 10 more sanitation workers in each ward. For the newly created wards, we will be outsourcing the sanitation work to 320 workers.

How do you plan to tackle the challenge of managing 40 new wards when already existing 60 wards still face various issues?

We are trying our best to maintain the facilities in the 60 older wards. For the newly added 40 wards, we will first focus on providing all the basic facilities in these areas. The city will see the changes in the next six months.

Recently the financial powers of the urban local body officials, mayors and boards have been increased- how this will help in better development of the city?

The Municipal Corporation which we call 'Chhoti Sarkar' was viewed as less important in the past

MCD starts drive against illegal roadside vendors

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) began a drive against illegal roadside vendors on Tuesday. The drive was started in the presence of mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' and municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey along with other officials. About 25 policemen were also present in the drive which also saw collection of about ₹12,000 in penalties from the vendors on its first day.

According to officials, about 2,000 vendors are licensed by the MCD but the total number of vendors plying their trade in the city is about 5,000. The drive is aimed at removing such unlicensed vendors from the public places in the city so that the various problem caused by them can be minimised.

However, the vendors but because of steps taken by the Chief Minister we have more rights now. Earlier, when we had fewer powers it was very difficult to pass any work, for every small or big approval we had to pass it through the secretariat. But now as we have the rights, work on any proposal passed by the board will take lesser time to start. We are thankful to the CM for this step will help us greatly.

What is your immediate priority after enhanced financial powers?

The first project is to upgrade the street lights in Dehradun, especially in the suburban areas. There are about 25,000 street light poles in the village area and a

affected by the drive have their own issues. A roadside vendor, Mehendi Hasan said, "We are getting forcefully removed from the roadside but nothing has been done for us. We are poor and this is the only source of our income. We have requested the officials many times but nothing has been done for us so far."

Another roadside vendor Chand Lal said, "The police officers came and took our vegetable boxes and other goods. They didn't even hear our plea, which is very wrong. The senior officers should at least help us or provide us with some solution so that we can shift to some other place."

Meanwhile, municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said, "Only licensed vendors will be allowed to ply their trades, the others will be evicted from the places they occupy."

majority of them need repairs. The project to repair and fix the street light poles is about ₹8 crore which will be passed shortly.

Do you have a plan for improvement of public transport in Dehradun?

Under the smart city project, 35 electric buses will be started in the city very soon. Also, there are many modified two-wheeler vehicles, rickshaws and roadside vendors sans any written document of permission from the MCD. We will try to stop operation of such unauthorised vehicles and vendors which will also help improve the traffic system in the city.

What is your view on the



unplanned development of the city?

The city has been built the way it is now, it is very hard to solve the problem regarding the structure. But, we can say that if someday a master plan will work that can be helpful for the city. Also, we hope that the

smart city project will solve many problems in the city.

How will MCD tackle the long standing issue of vendors zone not being effective in the city?

We have issued about 1,500 licences to vendors but the

'Maintaining sanitation is among my main priorities': Municipal Commissioner

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After recently assuming charge as the municipal commissioner of Dehradun, Vinay Shankar Pandey said that maintaining the desired level of sanitation in the city is among his top priorities. Further, for better management of the areas under the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD), the 100 wards have been divided into five zones.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, Pandey said, "Cleanliness means clean air and safe environment. My priority is to provide such conditions in the city. My second priority in this aspect is to keep the city safe from diseases like malaria. This part of our work has remained neglected. But this time we will make a strong framework to clean stagnant water in various areas of the city and fogging will be done properly to keep our city free of such diseases."

Elaborating on the division of wards into zones he said, "We have divided all the



100 wards into five zones with at least 20 wards each. We will establish five new zonal offices in each of these zones. Various works related to sanitation, complaints, birth and death certificate will be done from these five zonal offices. The formation of these offices is likely to be completed in 15 to 20 days."

He further informed that a system will be put in place for round the clock cleaning along roads that see maximum movement. One truck and one trolley will be deployed in such locations. "Our sanitation workers will remain in these areas and will clean it regularly. This way cleanliness in all these areas will be maintained properly," he added.

actual number of vendors in the city is about 6,000. We will act against vendors working without licence which will also help develop a proper framework. Plus, work will also start shortly on the vendors zone plan under the smart city project.

When will the city start seeing benefits of the smart city project?

The smart city project is a major project. The city will start experiencing its benefits from this year. We too have approved some of the tenders for works like making of smart toilets. This project will definitely change the scenario in the city.

AWGP to launch thought revolution campaign during Kumbh Mela

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP) is all set to launch a string of awareness programmes during the Kumbh Mela being held at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. The head of AWGP Pranav Pandya said that his organisation would launch thought revolution campaign during the mega religious congregation. "We think that the congregation is not just meant for religious discourses and holy dips but it should also be used in hosting awareness programmes regarding the need of women empowerment, keeping the holy Ganga clean and the like," he said.

It is learnt that AWGP volunteers would distribute the books penned by Acharya Sri Ram Sharma during the readers' conclave which would be hosted in course of the country's biggest religious congregation. Pandya said that a host of programmes would be start-



ed from January 17 to be organised by his organisation's volunteers who have been trained for the purpose.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, the national coordinator of Shantikunj Kalicharan Sharma said that the campaign would start with a grand procession followed with mahayajna. From January 18, 108 kundiyas yajnas would be performed, he added. Pandya further said that the campaigns to be launched during the mela would be themed on women empowerment, nirmal Ganga abhiyan (clean Ganga campaign), water conservation and tree plantation. "We are deter-

mined to make the holy congregation an occasion to launch social awareness and environmental awareness campaigns. The timeless religious traditions associated with the mela for millennia should be blended with social and environmental messages to make things complete. We are particularly focused on Ganga which embodies the soul of the holy land. It must be helped to keep its unimpeded and clean flow for the survival of our culture. All the dedicated volunteers of the pariwar would plunge headlong into reaching out to the people who would gather with their messages," he added.

AWGP volunteers would distribute the books penned by Acharya Sri Ram Sharma during the readers' conclave

Probe closed after woman constable decides not to pursue case against the senior cop

Now DGP to decide whether or not to take action against accused

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The woman constable who had levelled sexual harassment charge against a senior police officer is learnt to have decided not to pursue the case after the officer apologised. It is learnt that the accused officer tendered a letter of apology in connection with the alleged sexual harassment case. Now, it is for the director general of police (DGP) to decide whether some action is taken against the accused officer or not.

The inspection committee has submitted its report which is supposed to contain all the details, including the call recordings on the woman constable's personal mobile number. It is also learnt that while picking her up from her house, the accused officer had dropped the driver and a co-passenger at Dudadhari Chowk to make sure he be left alone with the woman constable. The accused officer is

learnt to have said that the woman constable had levelled such charges after her plea of transfer to Dehradun-the city she hails from-had been turned down.

Many questions, however, have remained unanswered as to why the senior police officer used to go to her house and allowed her not to attend office. Though the probe is closed after the complainant withdrew her charge the question as to whether the police department would take some action based on the inspection committee report against the accused officer remains unanswered.

As reported earlier, pressure was allegedly mounted on the complainant's brother who is also working in the police department.

Notably, a woman constable had alleged that a police officer deputed in a senior position in Haridwar city circle had sexually harassed her. The complaint had been made to then SSP Haridwar Ridhim Agarwal on December 28 last. The very next day, a probe had been initiated.

Ganga to have sufficient water flow during Prayagraj Kumbh Mela, says UP minister

PNS ■ HARIDWAR



PNS ■ HARIDWAR

While inviting the ascetics based in Haridwar to the Kumbh Mela slated in Prayagraj, the Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Minister Dharmpal Singh said that a continuous supply of 12,000 cusecs of water from Tehri Dam would help the holy Ganga maintain its normal flow during the occasion of auspicious snans when millions of devotees would take holy dip in the river. "The first major snan would be held on the occasion of Makar Sankranti and several ones would follow. We have made sure that the flow of Ganga is maintained till March 4, the day Kumbh Mela would end," the UP Minister said. He had come to invite Jagadguru Swami Rajrajeshwarashram, in particular, to Kumbh Mela being held in Prayagraj.

He further said that the devotees would not just have ample volume of water in the Ganga for taking holy dips during the entire period of Kumbh Mela but the farmers too would continue to get enough water through the Ganga canal during Kumbh Mela which would continue for nearly three months. "After the Prime Minister Narendra Modi upgraded the status of Kumbh Mela the Government's focus has remained trained on revamping the infrastructural facilities. While the Ardhkumbh Mela has been given the status of Kumbh the

He further said that the devotees would not just have ample volume of water in the Ganga for taking holy dips during the entire period of Kumbh Mela but the farmers too would continue to get enough water through the Ganga canal during Kumbh Mela which would continue for nearly three months. "After the Prime Minister Narendra Modi upgraded the status of Kumbh Mela the Government's focus has remained trained on revamping the infrastructural facilities. While the Ardhkumbh Mela has been given the status of Kumbh the main Kumbh Mela is now Mahakumbh Mela under the new proposal," Singh said

main Kumbh Mela is now Mahakumbh Mela under the new proposal," Singh said. "I have come here to assure all that the devotees would not face shortage of water in Ganga during the Shahi and general snans (bathing days) like what they faced during the previous occasions. Just knee-deep water used to be left in the river for the devotees who come from across the world. This time, things would be different as the

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the departments to ensure that the minimum level of waist-deep water is maintained all through the snans to be held during the Kumbh Mela," he said.

Earlier, the UP Irrigation Minister came to Haridwar along with some senior Tehri Dam officials for a review meeting before the first snan of Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj is held.

Sky to remain partly cloudy in U'khand though rain is unlikely

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

As per the State Meteorological Centre, the sky would remain mainly clear to partly cloudy in the State on Wednesday. Dry weather is likely to prevail in Uttarakhand for a few days though shallow to moderate fog is likely to envelop some parts of the plains, especially in some areas like Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts, on the day.

As per the forecast for Dehradun, while the sky would remain mainly clear mist is likely to form during the morning hours on Wednesday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle at around 21 degree Celsius and 5 degree Celsius respectively.

The weather officers said that after a brief lull in the rainy spell, it might rain again in the coming days. The mercury would start to rise around the third week of the month, they say.

The maximum and minimum temperature recorded at various towns of the State on Tuesday were 21.3 degree Celsius and 4.9 degree Celsius in Dehradun, 22.0 degree Celsius and 3.0 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 11.5 degree Celsius and 0.5 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar and 11.4 degree Celsius and 1.0 degree Celsius in New Tehri respectively.

After a brief lull in the rainy spell, it might rain again

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE FORCE

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Commandant (Engr) SHQ (DDN) ITB Police Force, invites on behalf of the President of India online item rate bids on two bid System for following works:-

NIT No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Last date & time of submission of bid	Time of Completion
11/2018-19/SHQ(DDN)/1	Upgradation of Helipad (size 150mx30m) at Laphal Post of 1 st BN ITBP, Joshimath.	81914557/-	1639000/-	24.01.19 (1600 Hrs)	24 months (Two working season)
12/2018-19/SHQ(DDN)/8	Construction of Platoon office with ops room, GOs Accommodation, WT station/ office, training shed/ recreation hall and Stable at Chujjan Post of 8 th BN ITBP Gauchar	20190255/-	404000/-	24.01.19 (1600 Hrs)	24 months (Two working season)
13/2018-19/SHQ(DDN)/8	C/o Coy office with Ops room, GOs accommodation, SOs accommodation, Jawan barrack, Ration/clothing & mist store, WT station/office, MI room and Stable at Sanchutala Post of 8 th BN ITBP, Gauchar	41284048/-	826000/-	24.01.19 (1600 Hrs)	24 months (Two working season)

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the web site (www.itbp.gov.in & www.eprocure.gov.in)

Commandant (Engr) SHQ (DDN) ITB Police

DAVP 19112/11/0365/1819

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Cong to charge-sheet BJP Govt in U'khand

Navprabhat, Tilak Raj Behar, MLA Manoj Rawat and others asked to prepare draft

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The state Congress would prepare a charge-sheet meant to expose the alleged misuse of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-helmed Government in two years. After the charge-sheet is prepared, the party would submit it to the Governor. We would also take the same to the common people of the State," he added.

Rajeshwar Painyuli would be the members of the committee.

The in-charge of Uttarakhand Congress, Anugrah Narayan Singh said that the Congress had raised many issues of public interest over the past two years, submitted memorandums, complaints and held demonstrations. "However, the State Government has taken scant notice of them. This is why we have decided to submit the charge-sheet against it to the Governor. We would also take the same to the common people of the State," he added.

CONG FILES POLICE COMPLAINT AGAINST GOYAL FOR ANTI-DALIT REMARKS

Taking a serious note of the alleged derogatory remarks allegedly made by the Mahanagar BJP president Vinay Goyal about the Dalits, the Congress has submitted a complaint at the Kotwali police station on Tuesday. On the day, the Congress activists led by the former State convener of Scheduled Caste Forum Mohan Kala and the president of the women wing of Mahanagar Congress, Kamlesh Raman met the in-charge of Kotwali police station and submitted a com-

'Committee formation another drama by frustrated Congress'

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Termining the formation of a committee by the Congress for preparing a chargesheet against the Bharatiya Janata Party as laughable, the BJP State media in charge Devendra Bhasin said that such talk appears surprising coming from the Congress which is synonymous with corruption. He said, "The term of the Congress in office at the Centre and State has been riddled with corruption. At present, both the Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

the State Government under Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat are tainted.

The public have faith in these Governments that have zero tolerance for corruption. But, the Congress is unable to handle this and is hence resorting to drama again. Whatever the Congress does, the people know its reality and with this drama about formation of a committee, the Congress is going to get stuck in its own play.

Congress leaders in Uttarakhand are indulging in various dramas but that party should first check its own record," said Bhasin.

insult to the Dalit community, the Congress leaders said that it has unmasked the true mind-set of BJP. In the complaint, the Congress leaders demanded a case be registered against Goyal for his derogatory utterances.

Set up SIT headed by HC judge in BJP Me 2 case: Congress

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Congress vice-president Surya Kant Dhasmana demanded investigation by SIT to be headed by a sitting judge of Uttarakhand High Court (HC) into sexual harassment charge levelled by a BJP worker against the former State BJP general secretary Sanjay Kumar.

Addressing the media persons at Rajiv Bhawan here on Tuesday, he alleged that the BJP-helmed Government and the ruling party organisation are pulling out all the stops to hush up the case. Dhasmana claimed that the victim is being coerced into taking back the case by the BJP organisation.

He further said that the police are working under pressure. "They have given enough opportunity to the BJP to pressure the victim into submission," he alleged.

The Congress leader said that through audio recordings now in circulation, it is clear enough that Mahanagar BJP unit president and a senior functionary of Yuva Morcha are pressuring the victim to



take back the case in the interest of the party.

Casting question on the motive of police in registering the case under section 354 of Indian Penal Code (IPC), the State Congress leader said that the victim's allegation of her mobile phone containing damning evidences against Sanjay Kumar being snatched

Day one of strike affects banking services

Transaction worth ₹500 crore stuck up

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The strike by bank and insurance employees affected the commercial activity in Uttarakhand on Tuesday.

The two-day strike call is given by many labour organisations against anti-labour policies of the Union Government. The strike crippled banking sector as all the employees of nationalised banks remained on strike on the day due to which business transactions worth ₹5000 crores were affected in Uttarakhand.

On the day, the employees under the banner of Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) assembled at the Gandhi Park from where they took out a march which passed through many areas of the city.

The demands of the workers are payment of minimum wages, abolition of new pension policy and restoration of old pension scheme, wage revision of bank and insurance workers and amendment in new transport policy.

Khel Mahakumbh officially inaugurated by CM



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat officially announced the start of the State-level Khel Mahakumbh 2018 here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the State Government is arranging foreign coaches to provide special training to sports coaches in Uttarakhand.

Rawat said that Uttarakhand had received the historic opportunity to host the national games in 2020. He said that organising the Khel Mahakumbh, the Sports

Department is trying to enable maximum number of youngsters to participate in it. He said, "Sports are not just games but also a means to feel one. Sports also create a sense of love for the country and a feeling to do something for the nation. Today, the emerging players are playing for their school, district, state. We wish that players will get the privilege of playing for their country in the future."

It will be recalled that to promote sports, Khel Mahakumbh was first organised in Uttarakhand in 2017. These competitions are organ-

ised in different categories from Nyay Panchayat to State level.

Prize money for winning players at block, district and State level competitions has been doubled by the State Government this year. In the Khel Mahakumbh this year, 3744 boys and 3666 girls totalling to 7410 sportspersons, will participate in various age categories in 13 sports disciplines at the State level.

Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Arvind Pandey, MLA Umesh Sharma 'Kau' and others were present on the occasion.

Police officers' portfolios changed

Manjunath TC new SP Chamoli, Sweta Chaubey new SP City Dehradun

Dehradun: The State administration has changed portfolios of some police officers on Tuesday. It has shifted 13 officers, including three IPS officers, in the reshuffle. As per the orders, the superintendent of police (SP) Chamoli, Tripti Bhatt has been transferred as Commandant of SDRF while Manjunath TC would be the new SP of Chamoli. SP Haridwar Rachita Juwal has been shifted as SP, Traffic, Nainital while SP City, Dehraun Pradeep Rai has been transferred to Kotdwar. The SP, CB CID, Sweta Chaubey would be the new SP City of Dehradun while Manikant Mishra has been shifted from SP Rural Haridwar to SP Rural Dehradun.

Naveen Singh would be the new SP, Rural of Haridwar and SP, Rural Dehradun, Sarita Dobhal has been sent as additional SP, CB CID. Commandant PAC, Parmendra Dobhal has been transferred as additional SP Rural, Dehradun. Harish Verma would be the new additional SP CID, Haldwani.

The additional SP Haridwar, Parikshit Kumar who was embroiled in alleged harassment case involving a woman constable has been shifted to 46th battalion of PAC in Udhm Singh Nagar. Manoj Kumar Katyal would be the new additional SP GRP Haridwar while PC Arya would take charge as additional SP traffic Dehradun.

HNB medical varsity bats for new combined campus

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The HNB Uttarakhand Medical Education University has submitted a proposal to the State Government to set up a new combined campus for the university, a 750-bed associated hospital for Government Doon Medical College, office of director medical education and offices of all councils in Dehradun. The vice-chancellor (VC) of the university, Prof Hem Chandra said that though the idea is in the format stage setting up of a combined campus would ensure that the requirements of next 50 years are fulfilled.

He further said that at least 25 acre of land is required for the purpose and it is for the Government to scout for the land. The VC said that the erstwhile Doon Hospital which is now acting as associated hospital of GDMC is suffering from space constraints and considering the fact that the college would be upgraded in future, it is imperative that a new 750-bed hospital is set up.

The VC said that the university would soon start Ph.D courses in various disciplines of medical education and



nursing. A separate research section would be set up in the university for the purpose, he said.

Informing about his tenure which started on September 6, 2018, Prof Hem Chandra said that he had taken the decision to shift the university campus from the previous location to the GDMC campus.

He said that he has constituted a core group consisting of him, director medical education, principals of all four Government medical colleges and representatives of the Governor and the Government for smooth functioning of the university.

The VC further said that the university has decided to start online evaluation of answer sheets and centralised theory paper evaluation. He added that a two-year diploma course in hospital administration would start in the university from July this year.

CS chairs USAC governing body meet



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Space Application Centre (USAC) should share the findings of its research works with the departments concerned so that the benefit of such research reaches the intended beneficiaries. The State's chief secretary Utpal Kumar Singh said this while presiding over the ninth meet of the USAC governing body at the secretariat here on Tuesday.

In the meeting, the USAC director MPS Bisht presented the progress report of the centre for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. Bisht also spoke in detail about the works being undertaken by the centre.

During the meeting, USAC officials also assured that for the Song river, the mining control model design will be prepared in 45 days.

been undertaken for creating multi-purpose lakes in different locations.

The USAC has also undertaken work on school mapping, caving circuit in tourism sector, Panchayat level mapping, Vidhan Sabha constituency mapping programme, wetland mapping, geo-morphological mapping, booklet publication and prepared training, skill development and management programmes for the development block and district levels. These works are proving useful in works being undertaken by the departments concerned, he added.

During the meeting, USAC officials also assured that for the Song river, the mining control model design will be prepared in 45 days

All students of GDMC pass Anatomy (Practical)

Exam held again after unrest

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In the Anatomy (Practical) of 1st year students of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) held again after the student erupted in protest, all the 39 students who appeared have passed. The practical exam was held again under the direction of HNB Uttarakhand Medical Education University after 40 out of 52 students had failed Anatomy examination, resulting in student unrest.

The registrar and controller examination, Vijay Juwal said that the re-examination in practical of Anatomy had been held on January 7 in which 39 out of 40 students appeared and all of them cleared it.

He, however, clarified that seven out of 52 students have failed in the overall examination in Anatomy (Theory + Practical).

It is pertinent to mention here that the students of first

year MBBS of GDMC had started an agitation on December 17 last after they had found that a majority of them had flunked the practical examination.

The students had been particularly angry with the head of department (HoD) of Anatomy of the college, Dr S K Agarwal over 40 out of 52 students having flunked the exam in Anatomy.

The students had alleged that the HoD of anatomy had openly threatened students that he would fail all the students in practical examinations. Parents of the students had also joined the agitation and sat on a dharna in the college for three days. The students had relented after an inquiry had been ordered by HNB Medical Education University after which the examination was held again.

Seven out of 52 students have failed in the overall examination in Anatomy (Theory + Practical)

Duo caught with leopard pelt, hashish



PNS ■ HALDWANI

Two persons were arrested with a leopard pelt and 870 grammes of hashish in a joint operation conducted by the special operation group (SOG), anti drugs task force, local police and the forest department on Tuesday.

According to police sources, during vehicle checking two persons travelling on a two-wheeler were found to be carrying one leopard pelt and more than 800 grammes of hashish. They were caught at Baltir turn near Thal.

The duo have been identified as Balwant Ram and Girish Kumar, both residents of Pithoragarh district. According to the police the cost of the contraband seized from the duo is about ₹4 lakh in the international market. Cases have been booked against the two under the Wildlife Protect Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

10% reservation for poor upper caste members a historic decision: Bansal

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The 20 point programme implementation committee vice-chairman and Bharatiya Janata Party state general secretary Naresh Bansal

said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken a historical step with the Union cabinet approving provision of 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker members of general category.

Addressing the media persons at the BJP State office here on Tuesday, Bansal said that while caste based reservation was being provided, many persons from general category who were poor were being

deprived of facilitating proper education for the children and employment opportunities. The decision taken by the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the problems faced

He aired hope that all parties would support it in the parliament. Replying to media queries on whether the decision will be approved in the parliament and the Supreme Court if it is challenged there, he said that all parties should support this



Boats docked on the shore of Naini lake on a cold Tuesday in Nainital

Pioneer photo

by such citizens. A large number of people from various religions and castes have welcomed this decision of the union cabinet.

Termining the decision as revolutionary, he expressed hope that all parties would support it in the parliament. Replying to media queries on whether the decision will be approved in the parliament and the Supreme Court if it is challenged there, he said that all parties should support this decision.

Further, he said that it is for the parliament to frame laws and for the supreme court to review the same if needed. The needful will be done if this decision is challenged in the apex court, he added. The BJP State media in charge Devendra Bhasin and party spokesman Virendra Singh Bisht were also present in the Press conference.

Farmers unions' gears up for protest

BJP set to announce Kisan pension scheme to appease them

NISHU MAHAJAN ■
CHANDIGARH

With barely a few months to go to 2019 general elections, the farming community and its issues is set to take centre stage in agrarian state of Haryana.

The farmers, who form a large voter base in Haryana are all set to hold state-level rallies to raise their demands while the BJP led Haryana Government has proposed to roll out a pension scheme for farmers in a bid to assuage the angry farming community ahead of the Lok Sabha polls 2019.

According to the 2011 census data, the total rural population in Haryana is 1.65 crore, which is 65.21 per cent of its total population and are engaged primarily in farming and other related activities.

Apparently, the farmers will hold the key for the major political parties in elections to

10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana.

The Manohar Lal Khattar Government in Haryana have had faced several protests from the farming community in the past four years. With the 2019 polls nearing, the farming community is now again up in arms against the ruling BJP.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU, Chaduni) has announced to hold a state-level rally in Kurukshetra on February 3 to pressurize the government on the issue of loan waiver. Similarly, a Kisan maha panchayat is proposed to be held on February 6 in Barwala of Hisar on the issue of loan waiver.

Farm debt waiver had remained a crucial issue in the recently concluded elections to five state assemblies in the country Ahead of Lok Sabha also, the political parties have been making a series of promises from farm debt waiver for farmers to providing subsidy or special incentives to

THE FARMERS WILL HOLD THE KEY FOR THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN ELECTIONS TO 10 LOK SABHA SEATS IN HARYANA

woo the farmers' voters.

"A state level rally will be organized in Kurukshetra on February 3 to raise the demand of farm loan waiver. Other demands including minimum income guarantee scheme, implementation of Swaminathan Commission report, pension scheme will also be raised during the rally, said BKU Haryana president Gurnam Singh Chanduni while talking to The Pioneer.

Gurnam Singh said that several states have announced farm loan waiver but the Haryana Government has failed to take up this issue so far.

He said that the BKU has

written to all the political parties on farmers' issues. In 2019 general polls, the BKU will support the political party which will accept all our demands, said Gurnam Singh, who had recently announced to field BKU candidates for the polls.

Rattan Mann, president of BKU (Mann faction), Haryana said that a Kisan maha panchayat of farmers will be held in Barwala on the issue of loan waiver and thousands of farmers will attend the programme.

Besides, complete loan waiver, other issues related to farmers will also be raised at the maha panchayat. Other demands include implementation of the

Swaminathan Commission report, loan waiver for farmers, retirement allowance of Rs 5 lakh to all farmers after attaining the age of 60, medical insurance for farmers, he said.

Aware of the growing anger among farming community in the state, Haryana Government is formulating a pension scheme for farmers, apparently in a move to woo the community ahead of elections.

The government's constituted committee under Haryana state BJP chief and MLA from Tohana, for finalizing the pension scheme will meet on Wednesday here.

Barala said that the previous meeting of the committee was held on December 27. The committee would soon submit its report to the Chief Minister Manohar Lal.

He said that after implementation of Kisan Pension Yojana, the financial condition of farmers would be strong. The other members of the

committee are MLAs namely Abhay Singh Yadav, Mahipal Dhandra, Ghanshyam Das Arora, Pawan Saini and Director General, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department, Ajit Balaji Joshi.

Meanwhile, the farmers' unions have expressed displeasure over not including any member from the BKU in the government's constituted committee.

The farmers' union leader Rattan Mann said that atleast two representatives from the BKU should have been included in the committee as the government is formulating a pension scheme for the benefit of farmers.

Earlier in a series of decisions to woo the farmer, the Haryana Government had set up 'Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran' and announced to issue demand notices for about 44,000 pending tube-well connections since January 1, 2014 by March 31, 2019.

550TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU NANAK DEV

Hry to organise 'Jan Jagran rally'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government will organize a 'Jan Jagran Rally' to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

"The rally would pass through those areas where Guru Nanak Dev had visited. Apart from this, a mobile app has been prepared by the State Government which has detailed information about the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev," said an official spokesman.

He said that a review meeting for the celebrations of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev was held by the Executive Committee chaired by the Haryana Chief Secretary DS Dhesi, here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, it was informed that mobile light and sound shows would be organized on the occasion of year long celebrations. The information regarding the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev would be disseminated among people through these shows in all districts of the state, the spokesman said.

It was also informed that seminars would be organized in universities and colleges on the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev and their relevance in the

present scenario by inviting intellectuals. Apart from this, seminars on the life of Guru Nanak Dev would be organized in schools besides organizing sports events and other functions.

The spokesman said that 'Gagan Mein Thal Aarti' would be started at a lake in the state which has sufficient water level. The matter related to the approval from the Central Government to facilitate pilgrims interested in visiting Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, was also reviewed in the meeting.

Discussions were held in the meeting on various issues such as compilation of 100 sayings of Guru Nanak Dev, including Punjabi language in primary schools, planting 550 trees in each village, launching Swachhta Abhiyan, preparing a booklet on places where Guru Nanak Dev had visited and a proposal to name a building the state after the name of the Guru, he added.

Those present in the meeting included MLA Assandh, Bakhshish Singh Virk, Additional Chief Secretary, School Education Department, PK Das, ACS Art and Cultural Affairs Department, Dheera Khandelwal among others.

Capt Abhimanyu lashes out at Rohtak MP on old pension plan

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Finance Minister Capt. Abhimanyu on Tuesday lashed out at Rohtak MP Deepender Singh Hooda over the issue of implementation of old pension scheme.

Questioning the written communication of Deepender Singh Hooda sent to the Chief Minister Manohar Lal regarding resumption of employees' pension, Capt. Abhimanyu said that why had he not suggested the same when his father Bhupinder Singh Hooda had implemented the new pension scheme.

Bhupinder Singh Hooda led Congress ruled the state for 10 years but Deepender Hooda did not raise the issue of pension at that time, Capt. Abhimanyu said while talking to the mediapersons here.

Slamming the Rohtak MP, the Finance Minister said that Deepender Hooda should first apologize to the people of Haryana for the mistakes made by his father during his tenure as the Chief Minister.

He said that the opposition has no issues to raise. Be it the Congress party, the INLD, AAM Party, newly constituted JJP or any other party, they have no issues to raise. These parties are sometimes instigating the protest of employees, he said.

The recent civic body elections in five cities have proved that the people of Haryana are with the BJP as the party works with the clear intention of serving people, he said.

He said that it is clear that BJP would form government at



successful system and with GST chain of transactions, any one who tries to indulge in forgery will be nabbed, he said

The government had recently ordered to lodge FIRs against 44 fake firms for GST related scams.

Reacting to Delhi CM and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal's rallies in Haryana to woo the voters, the Finance Minister said that AAP is not in competition in Haryana. People of Haryana know the malfunctioning of AAP Government in Delhi, he said.

On recent developments in Punjab AAP, Capt. Abhimanyu said that the party has no ideology and it is divided in various factions in the state.

Capt. Abhimanyu, who has been appointed in-charge for parliamentary polls in Punjab, which has 13 seats, and Chandigarh having just one seat, said that the BJP will win these seats in the general elections.

About possibility of alliance of AAP with SAD (Taksali) in Punjab, the Finance Minister said that such factors would not impact the outcome of general elections. People know that no other leader has a vision like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

On Prime Minister not making any announcement for Punjab in recently held Gurdaspur rally, he said that it was a thanksgiving rally. The Prime Minister was visiting the state after achievements related to Kartarpur Corridor, approval of airports, IIT and IIM for Punjab, he added.

3 factory workers killed in boiler blast in Lalru

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Three people were killed while one more was severely injured Tuesday when an explosion took place in a boiler at a factory in Mohall district's Lalru town, about 30 km

from here, police said.

The incident took place in the morning when workers were repairing a motor at the co-generation power plant in Dera Bassi tehsil, an official said.

A boiler of the factory unit

exploded, leading to the death of three migrant workers, all aged between 20 and 28, he said.

They were identified as Manish, Hemant and Sanjay, police said, adding that an investigation was underway.

SAD MLA Balkaur Singh denies joining JJP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a major embarrassment to the newly floated Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), Shiromani Akali Dal lone legislator in Haryana, Balkaur Singh on Tuesday claimed that he had never joined the JJP and still a member of SAD.

The development came two days after the JJP claimed that SAD's MLA from Kalanwali (SC) seat in Sirsa district has joined the party.

Following his meeting with SAD patron Parkash Singh Badal on Tuesday here, Balkaur Singh denied having joined the party and said that he is a member of SAD.

Sources said that Balkaur

Singh was asked to explain his position during the meeting with senior Badal.

During the meeting, the SAD lone legislator in Haryana reportedly denied having joined the party. Balkaur Singh claimed that JJP founder Ajay Chautala and other party leaders had come to meet him at his residence and handed over the party's flag to him during their meeting on Sunday. Later, the media reported the matter wrongly that he had joined the JJP, he said.

While talking to a section of media, Balkaur on Tuesday said that he has not joined the JJP and only supported them as they were part of the INLD, an alliance partner of SAD ear-

lier. I felt hurt after knowing that false propaganda have been spread about my political affiliation. I am still the member of SAD and any decision related to an alliance with other political party will be taken by the SAD patron Parkash Singh Badal, the MLA said.

Balkaur had won the 2014 Assembly election with the support of SAD's political alliance partner Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) from Kalanwali constituency.

Notably, the JJP had come into existence a month ago following a split in the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), after a bitter power struggle

between Ajay Chautala and Abhay Singh Chautala, the grandsons of Devi Lal who had founded the INLD.

According to a press release issued by the JJP on Sunday, it was claimed that Balkaur Singh, 49, joined the party in the presence of its founder Ajay Chautala at Kalanwali town. The JJP had claimed that Kalanwali Municipal Committee's president Sonu and Singh's other supporters have also joined the new political outfit.

The press release while quoting Balkaur Singh had stated, "I have always been follower of the policies of Chaudhary Devi Lal. In the current scenario, Ajay

Chautala and his son Dushyant Chautala are following his principles in true sense which has inspired me to join the JJP."

In the 90-member Haryana Assembly, Balkaur is the lone SAD legislator and is used to support the INLD on various issues.

Ajay Chautala had on Sunday claimed that there is a growing public support in JJP's favour and more prominent people would be joining the outfit in the upcoming days.

Ajay Chautala, who is serving a 10-year jail term in connection with a teacher recruitment scam in Haryana, is currently out on parole.

Dera chief Rahim to appear in court via VC on Jan 11

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh will be produced via video conference in the special CBI court in Panchkula on January 11 for the verdict in the murder case of Sirsa-based journalist Ram Chander Chhatrapati.

The CBI court judge Justice Jagdeep Singh is likely to pronounce verdict in the case on January 11. Ram Rahim is the prime accused in the murder of the journalist who was shot dead in October 2002. The Dera chief is currently lodged at the Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak serv-

ing a 20-year sentence for raping two female disciples.

Haryana Police had sought court's permission to allow presence of Gurmeet Ram Rahim through video conferencing for the verdict in the murder case of Chhatrapati.

The state police, in its application had cited the lawlessness that was witnessed in Panchkula after the conviction of Dera chief in a rape case on August 25, 2017. The police had submitted that during August 2017 violence, 43 people were killed.

Earlier, Justice Jagdeep Singh, in his

order delivered on January 2, had directed the Superintendent of Sunaria jail to ensure the presence of Ram Rahim in court on January 11. He had also directed the other three accused — Nirmal Singh, Kuldeep Singh and Krishan Lal — out on bail at present, to be present on that date.

The journalist Chhatrapati was shot at in October 2002 after a newspaper owned by him, 'Poora Sach', published an anonymous letter narrating how women were being sexually exploited by the sect head at the Dera headquarters.

According to the CBI chargesheet

filed in the murder case, Dera manager Krishan Lal had given his licenced revolver and a walkie-talkie to two shooters in the presence of Ram Rahim. Thereafter, both accused fired at Chhatrapati in front of his house on October 24, 2002.

Ahead of the verdict, the police have tightened the security to avoid any untoward incident in the state, said a police official.

Haryana Government has issued high alert for Panchkula district. Foolproof security arrangements have also been made in Sirsa and Rohtak, he said.

Punjab to offer subsidy on paddy transplanners

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To encourage farmers towards mechanized paddy transplantation, Punjab Government on Tuesday said it has come up with a comprehensive plan to provide paddy transplanners with 40-50 percent subsidy, which would ease out the labour problem being faced by the farmers in peak season.

A statement said the Agriculture Department would provide a subsidy of 50 percent to the farmers encompassing various sections including small, marginal, Scheduled Castes and women while 40 percent subsidy would be provided to remaining farmers on these machines.

The Department has sought applications from farmers interested in getting subsidized paddy transplanners till January 20, so that appropriate steps could be ensured for booking machines in view of forthcoming season in the month of June and July. Farmers desirous of procuring these machines could send their applications to the Block Agriculture Development Officer or District Agriculture Officer in their concerned districts.

Secretary Agriculture KS Pannu said Punjab had already taken a lead in mechanized farming of all crops except the sowing of paddy and harvesting of sugarcane, which was still being operated manually.

Punjab was facing acute shortage of labour for the past few years due to constant decline in manpower from other parts of the country, which earlier came to the state during paddy transplantation. Henceforth, the State Government has taken conscientious decision

to popularize the concept of mechanized paddy transplantation, under which the farmers were being supplied subsidized paddy transplanners.

Pannu said the Agriculture Department had already uploaded the company wise details of the machines along with its rates so as to enable the interested farmers to procure these machines of their choice on affordable rates.

Secretary Agriculture added that there were two types of transplanners, one with 'walk-behind' which could be operated by one person and one helper to upload trays. This machine covers four to six acres per day while the second self-propelled 6-8 row machine covers 10 to 12 acres per day. These machines also ensure uniform transplantation of paddy as per the recommendations of Punjab Agriculture University, he added.

The maximum subsidy on walk behind 4-6 row rice transplanting machine would be up to Rs. 1.5 lakh in case of 50 percent subsidy and Rs. 1.20 lakh in 40 percent subsidy. Likewise, the subsidy on 4-8 row self-propelled paddy transplanter would be up to Rs. 5 lakh in respect of 50 percent subsidy whereas Rs. 4 lakh in 40 percent subsidy cases. A subsidy up to Rs. 8 lakh would be given on self-propelled rice transplanners above 8 rows in case of 50 percent subsidy component and up to Rs. 6.50 lakh in 40 percent subsidy, Pannu added.

He said the major challenge in mechanized transplantation of rice in Punjab is sowing of paddy nursery for which machine manufacturers have been asked to ensure the hand holding of farmers through trained staff.

Cold conditions continue to prevail in Punjab, Hry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Cold conditions continued to prevail in several places of Punjab and Haryana on Tuesday.

Fog reduced visibility in the morning in places like Ludhiana, Adampur, Halwara, Bathinda, Hisar and Karnal. Adampur near Jalandhar was the coldest place in the two states with a minimum temperature of 5.3 degrees Celsius, meteorological department officials said.

In Punjab, Gurdaspur recorded a low of 5.8 degrees Celsius, Bathinda settled at normal minimum temperature of 5.6 degrees, Amritsar 7 degrees, Ludhiana and Patiala recorded 9.1 degrees and 7.9 degrees Celsius respectively, officials said.

Chandigarh recorded a low of 6.7 degrees Celsius.

In Haryana, Narnaul and Karnal recorded 6 degrees Celsius each, Hisar settled 7.6 degrees, Bhiwani and Sirsa recorded 7.7 degrees Celsius each.

Budget Session of HP Assembly from Feb 4

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Cabinet in its meeting held here on Tuesday decided to convene the budget session of the state Assembly from February 4 to 27.

The Cabinet, under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur also decided to recruit 1063 constables in Police department on regular basis through direct recruitment to ensure better law and order situation in the State out of which 213 will be women constable.

It gave approval to fill up 200 posts of MBBS doctors on contract basis through walk-in-interview in Health and Family Welfare department to cope with the shortage of doctors in remote and far flung areas of the State.

It decided to start new 'Ujjwala Grihini Suvidha Yojna' in the State to achieve the goals of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Under this scheme, the selected beneficiaries of the State under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna would be provided additional benefit of free LPG connection, free first filled gas cylinder stove etc. as being given under the Mukhya Mantri Grihini

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Suvidha Yojana.

The approval was accorded to increase the incentive amount of MBBS doctors appointed or to be appointed on contract basis by Rs. 10,000 per month and that of specialist doctors by Rs. 15,000 per month to encourage doctors to serve in tribal, remote and far flung areas of the State.

The Cabinet gave its nod to fill up vacant posts of part time water carriers on compassionate ground, provided the candidates are below the poverty line or has a low

income certificate issued by competent authority, widow, member of family living in extreme indigent conditions, women deserted by her husband, handicapped person or an orphan.

It also decided to purchase 46 new ambulances under National Ambulance Service - 108 to ensure prompt service to the patients in emergency.

The nod was also given to upgrade Community Health Centre, Indora in Kangra district to 50-bedded hospital along-with creation of 34 posts of various categories.

The Cabinet approved upgradation of 50-bedded hospital, Rajgarh in Sirmour district to 100-bedded hospital along-with creation of 25 posts of different categories.

It also gave its approval to declare Makar Sakranti Mela of Tattapani in Mandi district as district level fair.

The Cabinet gave its nod to adopt new e-stamping scheme for non-judicial stamp papers to facilitate the people to procure stamp paper online and they would not need to go to treasury and banks for the stamp.

Delayed agri projects cost Govt ₹1.2L cr

Around 100 irrigation-related projects pending for about two decades have cost Govt exchequer heavily

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 100 irrigation-related projects pending for about two decades now due to several issues, including political, have cost the Government exchequer a mind-boggling ₹1,20,772.05 crore. These projects include some of the famous and significant ones like Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat, Indira Sagar Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh, Gosikhand irrigation project in Maharashtra, Shahipur Kandi dam in Punjab, Saryu Nahar Pariyojna in Uttar Pradesh, Teesta Barrage in West Bengal, Dhansiri project in Assam, Kosi Barrage in Bihar, Gumani Barrage in Jharkhand and Rukra Indira Irrigation project in Odisha.

Benefit Programme (AIBP) by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) revealed several deficiencies in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The report was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

The performance audit revealed that the total cost overrun in 84 major and medium irrigation projects, including 16 completed and 68 ongoing projects was ₹1,20,772.05 crore which was 295 per cent of their original cost.

According to performance audit, the cost of Sardar Sarovar project was revised from ₹39,240.45 crore in May 2010 to ₹54,772.94 crore with stipulated completion by March 2020. This led to an increase in project cost by ₹15,532.49 crore (40 per cent) of which increase of ₹5,722.29 crore alone was



These projects include — Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat, Indira Sagar Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh, Gosikhand irrigation project in Maharashtra, Shahipur Kandi dam in Punjab, Saryu Nahar Pariyojna in Uttar Pradesh, Teesta Barrage in West Bengal, Dhansiri project in Assam, Kosi Barrage in Bihar, Gumani Barrage in Jharkhand and Rukra Indira Irrigation project in Odisha

attributable to price escalation and ₹6,384.70 crore was due to change in design and inclusion of additional requirements.

The cost Krishna Koyla LIS of Maharashtra was revised at 2013-14 price level from ₹2,224.76 crore to ₹4,959.91 crore. This led to an increase in project cost by ₹2,735.15 crore (122 per cent) of which ₹244.64 crore alone was attributable to price escalation, ₹282.77 crore was due to other causes and ₹41.51 crore was due to change in design.

The cost of Chokha Rao project in Telangana was revised

from ₹6,016 crore to ₹13,445.44 crore in 2017. This led to an increase in project cost by ₹7,429.44 crore (123 per cent) due to changes in the scope of work. The cost of Indiramma flood canal in Telangana was revised from ₹1,331.30 crore to ₹5,940.09 crore in 2016 due to change in Standard Schedule of Rates, deviation in the project execution and changes in the scope of work.

Velligallu of Andhra Pradesh, Lower Wardha, Wang and Krishna Koyla LIS of Maharashtra were delayed ranging from four to 25 years

in approval of Detailed Projects Reports. These projects were finally approved for a total amount of ₹7,498.77 crore. The canal length of 3,420 metre of Kachnari Diversion scheme of Madhya Pradesh could not be constructed due to non-availability of actual command area (CCA of 220 ha) on site during execution. This showed that the DPR had not correctly assessed the availability of command area.

The work of concrete lining of the Madhya Ganga Canal project sanctioned in July 2007 at a cost of ₹117.87 crore was

stopped after completion of work up to 31.55 km out of 66.20 km on the pretext of affecting the groundwater recharge. "This showed that the requirement and feasibility of providing concrete lining had not been adequately analysed at the DPR stage leading to avoidable expenditure on bed lining," it said.

Of the 73 delayed MI schemes, 40 minor projects were completed after delays ranging from two months to 12 years and 33 were ongoing with time overrun ranging from one month to five years.

As per audit report, ₹179 crore incurred on repairs and maintenance of the Sardar Sarovar Canal network was booked by the project authorities during April 2010 to March 2017 under AIBP.

The CAG performance audit notes that the projects have been languishing due to subject mis-governance apart from land acquisition issues, the projects has hit inter-state coordination, financial, rehabilitation and resettlement walls.

Opp, Govt lock horns over RS Session extension



A view of the Rajya Sabha Session on Tuesday

PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition and Government on Tuesday locked horns over the decision of the latter to extend the functioning of the Rajya Sabha by a day to facilitate the passage of the 10 per cent reservation earmarked for the economically backward upper castes.

While the Centre claimed that it is the authority of the Government and the Chairman of the House to extend the sittings, the Opposition insisted that they should have been consulted before making the announcement.

Both sides during the day held several rounds of meetings amid setting a record sort of by six adjournments of the Upper House to resolve the issue but ended with Deputy Chairman Harivansh adjourning to meet on Wednesday prompting the Opposition members to sit in protest in the House even after adjournment for the day.

Opposition parties led by Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad also held a protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue late evening while the Lok Sabha continued to discuss and debate the proposed Quota Bill.

Leaders of Opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha and the Leader of the House discussed the extension of the ongoing Winter Session by one more day with Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu who in turn discussed the issue with the Leader of the House and

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. Jaitley asserted that it was the prerogative of the Government to call, advance, extend Session of the Parliament or of either of the two Houses. He referred to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) which states "The Council shall sit on such dates as the Chairman, having regard to the state of business of the Council, may from time to time direct."

During the discussion with the Opposition leaders, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel pointed out to the precedents in 2011 and 2013 when the Session of the House was extended similarly towards the end of the Session.

Amid the ruckus, Health Minister JP Nadda moved The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018, for consideration and passage after T Subbarami Reddy could not move the statutory resolution disapproving the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance. This move was also protested Jairam Ramesh and TMC Derek O'Brien even reached the podium and sought to know how this matter could be taken when House was not in order.

The House also witnessed unruly scenes, with almost entire Opposition on its feet over alleged misuse of CBI and demand for discussion on the issue under rule 267 suspending the listed business.

INSHORT

INDIA TO US: WITHDRAW OR MODIFY TRAVEL ADVISORY

New Delhi: The Government has urged the US to "withdraw or modify" its advisory against travelling in India, which was issued after Zika cases were reported in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, saying the outbreak has subsided.

CINEMATOGRAPH ACT: I&B MIN PROPOSES CHANGES

New Delhi: The Information & Broadcasting Ministry has proposed changes in the Cinematograph Act to impose strict penalties to combat film piracy and sought comments from people on a draft bill. In order to check film piracy, particularly release of pirated version of films on the internet which causes huge losses to the film industry and government exchequer, the I&B ministry intends to have an enabling provision in the Cinematograph Act, 1952, a statement said.

DGP'S APPOINTMENT: SC TO HEAR PLEAS ON JAN 15

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said it will hear on January 15, petitions of various State Governments seeking to implement local laws regarding selection and appointment of Director General of Police. The top court said it will hear the pleas of Bihar, Punjab and Haryana along with the petitions filed by West Bengal and Kerala.

ASSAULT ON BUSINESSMAN BY EX-MP: SC TAKES NOTE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court took note of alleged incident of former MP Atiq Ahmed kidnapping a businessman in a jail in UP and assaulting and forcing him to transfer his business.

No one can save Modi from Rafale probe, says Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said no one can save Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Rafale investigation as the Supreme Court has reinstated the CBI chief who was unceremoniously removed by the Modi Government.

Speaking to media outside Parliament, Rahul Gandhi said the CBI chief was "oust" at 1 am as he was about to begin an investigation into the Rafale jet agreement and Prime Minister Modi and his Government cannot run away from a probe into the deal.

He said the entire nation will know "without a shadow of doubt" that he has taken ₹30,000 crore of people's money and given it to his "friend" Anil Ambani, Rahul Gandhi said on his first reaction to the Supreme Court order for CBI Director Alok Verma.

"The CBI chief was ousted at 1 am in the night because he was about to begin a probe into the Rafale deal. The CBI chief has been reinstated and we have got some relief. Now let's see what happens. They cannot run away from Rafale, it is impossible. Modi ji ran away from a debate. He should have discussed with the

Rafale issue, in the people's court. No one can save them from Rafale, as Rafale is the truth. No one can run away from the truth," he said.

Shortly after Verma was sent on leave late in October, Rahul had accused Modi of allegedly removing him in an attempt to stop the officer from investigating the Rafale "scam". The party has often pressed the charge against the Government since. It had also said that divesting Verma of his statutory powers abruptly — amid a feud with his deputy Rakesh Asthana — was illegal.

The Congress party has been targeting Modi on the deal alleging the price of each Rafale aircraft has sharply increased from ₹526 crore, negotiated by the previous UPA Government, to ₹1,600 crore and that the contract will help Anil Ambani get ₹30,000 crore benefit through offset contract. Ambani too has rejected the charges.



Modi care: Guidelines for pvt investments for opening new hospitals in cities issued

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Almost four months after it launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) providing hospitalisation cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year from poor strata, the Centre has now issued broad guidelines for private investments in setting up of hospitals in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities for smooth functioning of the scheme.

The PMJAY was launched from September 23, 2018, for providing hospitalisation cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year to over 10 crore poor and the deprived families (approx. 50 crore people) in the empanelled hospitals throughout the country.

So far 33 States/UTs have signed MOU for implementing



PMJAY out of which 29 have already launched the scheme.

"The objective of the broad guidelines is to improve the supply of healthcare services in the underserved areas to ensure maximum utilisation of the benefits under PMJAY and to improve the demand for quality healthcare services at affordable prices to general public," said a senior official from the Union Health Ministry.

As per the guidelines, he said that under model I, a doctor owned hospital can have 30 to 50 beds, under model II is doctor manager partnership-multispecialty (100 beds) while under model III, multispecialty hospi-

tal can have 100 beds or more.

To incentivise private sector, incentives will be provided during land allotment, various clearances will be facilitated with specific timelines among others.

While private sector will have the responsibility to build, design, finance, manage operate and maintain with quality standards, besides taking market risk and provide services at PMJAY rates, the Government will be entrusted the task of ensuring sufficient unencumbered land on lease or through bidding, facilitate various permissions and clearances through special window with timelines, compulsory empanelment of the hospitals for PMJAY and other Government scheme, ensure timely payments for services.

Protect zoo birds against highly contagious viral: CZA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following death of peacocks, chicken and ducks due to avian influenza (H5N1) in Munger and Puri districts in Bihar and Odisha respectively, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has alerted all zoos in the country to protect the birds in captivity against the highly contagious viral disease which affects only members of the birds family.

The virus is transmitted mainly through migratory birds. But even these winged beauties

are prone to virus threat.

Issuing alert in this regard, CZA member secretary Dr Anup Kumar Nayak said that the zoos have also been asked to follow "standards, guidelines and protocol on disease diagnosis and cure of wild animals in Indian Zoos," published by the CZA in collaboration with the Indian Veterinary Institute. CZA is autonomous body of the Central Government responsible for oversight of zoos across the States.

The State authorities have also been advised to improve



bio-security measures in the zoos to avoid spread of the viral disease among captive animals.

Patna's Sanjay Gandhi Zoo director Amit Kumar said the zoo will remain closed for pub-

lic till situation is under control. The zoo was closed after strains of avian influenza virus were found in six dead peacocks last December. The samples of the second lot of dead birds have been sent to a lab and reports are awaited, he added.

The move aims to minimize the possibility of catching the infection among birds. "The zoo is being thoroughly sanitised. The zoo will be opened for visitors only after we get the negative reports from the lab where samples of the birds are being sent time to time as per

the CZA protocol," said Kumar. In few parts of Odisha too, bird flu has taken its toll on poultry birds. The State Government has declared areas in Kendrapara district bird flu hit and had vaccinated 35,000 poultry birds. As a precautionary measure, the Naveen Patnaik Government has asked schools and Anganwadi Centres not to provide eggs to children. Similarly, sale of eggs and chicken has been banned in Krishna Prasad block for next few days, said an official from the State Government.



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met Congress president Rahul Gandhi at latter's residence in New Delhi and is learnt to have discussed plans of uniting all Opposition parties against the BJP. Naidu also met Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, NCP's Sharad Pawar and NC leader Abdullah. Ever since the TDP moved out of the NDA, Naidu has been seeking to forge an anti-BJP front

SC sets aside Delhi HC's Division Bench order invalidating Monsanto's patent on BT cotton seeds

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside an order of the division bench of the Delhi High Court which had invalidated the patent right of US-based agro major Monsanto Technology over BT cotton seeds for its Bollgard technology.

The apex court restored the order of the single judge Bench of the high court which was not seized of the issue of patent but had dealt with the issue of trademark infringement claimed by Monsanto over the BT cotton seeds by Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.

Deciding appeal of Monsanto, Bench of Justices RF Nariman and Navin Sinha said, "Order of division Bench (of Delhi High Court) is set aside. The order of single judge dated March 28, 2017, is restored and suit is remanded to single judge for disposal in accordance with law. PTI

SC seeks Bengal Govt's response on BJP plea seeking permission for rath yatra

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought response from the West Bengal Government on a plea by the BJP seeking permission to take out rath yatra in the State.

The party's West Bengal unit has challenged the December 21 order of a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court, which had set aside the order of a single-judge bench allowing the procession.

A Bench comprising justices L Nageswara Rao and SK Kaul also asked the BJP state unit to submit a revised plan for its 'save democracy rally' for consideration by the State Government. The Bench posted the matter for hearing on January 15.

"In the meanwhile, the petitioner (BJP) will submit a revised schedule of the Rath Yatra/Ganatantra Bachao Yatra/Chetna Yatra to the respondent — State Government, during the course of the day. The State Government shall consider the same," the order said. The BJP has now decided to cut short its 40-day programme to 20 and the fresh yatras would start from Bahrampur, Diamond Harbour, Midnapore and Kolkata North Lok Sabha constituencies, a lawyer associated with the matter said, adding the decision was taken in view of the upcoming school examinations and the 2019 general elections. PTI

Assessment order passed on taxes of Rahul, Sonia but not given effect, I-T informs SC

New Delhi: The Income Tax department informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday that an assessment order (AO) with respect to the tax of top Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi for 2011-12 in connection with the National Herald case has been passed but not being given effect.

The top court allowed the AO, passed on December 31, 2018 raising the tax demand from Congress president Rahul, his mother Sonia and others, to be placed on record after the I-T department insisted on it but said that it would not form any opinion on the merits of the case on its basis.

A Bench of Justices AK Sikri, S Abdul Nazeer and MR Shah also asked Sonia and Rahul to file an affidavit and place on record in four weeks a CBDT circular which was issued on December 31, 2018, to clarify about taxes on valuations, but was recalled on January 4.

The court asked the I-T department to file its reply to the affidavit and the circular to be filed by the Congress leaders within a week thereafter. PTI

Iran ready to use influence over Taliban to bring peace to Af: Diplomatic sources

New Delhi: In case India wants to use Iran's channels of communication with the Taliban, then Tehran will be open to such a proposition, Iranian diplomatic sources have said, at a time when there was renewed focus on peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

They said though Iran's influence over the Taliban was not comparable to that of Pakistan's, still it would try to use the clout over the terror outfit for bringing peace and stability in the war-torn country.

Major powers like the US and Russia have been reaching out to the Taliban as part of efforts to push the stalled Afghan peace process.

The issue of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan is likely to figure during talks between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif on Wednesday.

In a significant move, India had sent two former diplomats in "non official" capacity to a conference on Afghan peace process in Moscow in November which was attended by a high-level Taliban delegation.

The conference organised by Russia was attended by representatives of Afghanistan as well as from several other countries, including the US, Pakistan and China.

The Iranian sources said Tehran was ready to use its influence over Taliban on behalf of the Afghan government. If India wants Tehran's channels of communication with the militant outfit, we are always open to do that, they said.

India has been maintaining a policy of not engaging with Taliban and pressing for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace initiative to bring peace and stability in the war-ravaged country. The Iranian sources said a Taliban-dominated Afghanistan will be security challenge to Iran, India, but it will be an existential threat to Pakistan.

Iran is learnt to have conveyed its view to Islamabad about how Taliban can be real threat to its existence. PTI

SC paves way for re-opening of Sterlite plant in Tuticorin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday paved the way for the re-opening of Vedanta's Sterlite copper plant at Tuticorin, which was at the centre of massive protests over pollution concerns, by refusing to stay the green tribunal order that had set aside the Tamil Nadu Government's decision to close it.

The apex court also stayed the December 21, 2018 decision of the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court which had ordered status quo in respect of re-opening the plant.

"The impugned order dated December 21, 2018 passed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court shall remain stayed," a bench comprising Justices RF Nariman and Navin Sinha said.

"The directions that have been passed by the National Green Tribunal, by its judgment dated December 15, 2018, will continue to subsist and will be subject to the ultimate outcome of the appeal," it said. The top court also sought response from Vedanta on the state Government's appeal against the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order to reopen the plant.

The State had moved the top court saying that the NGT had "erroneously" set aside various orders passed by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) last year with regard to the Sterlite plant. It had said the tribunal had consequentially directed the TNPCB to pass fresh orders of renewal of consent and issue authorisation to handle hazardous substances to the Vedanta Limited.

Lok Sabha gives consent to DNA Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a Bill that provides for regulation of use and application of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology for establishing the identity of certain categories of persons, including offenders, victims, suspects and undertrials.

The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018 regulates the use the technology to establish the identity of persons in respect of criminal matters listed and civil matters such as parentage disputes, emigration or immigration, and transplantation of human organs.

Replying to the debate, Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan said the DNA testing is being done on persons comprising a minuscule per centage of less than one per cent.

On concerns of members on the misuse of the Bill, the Minister said the misuse can happen of anything at any level. Even the blood sample collected by the clinical laboratories has the potential of misuse. Terming it a comprehensive Bill, he said it has taken a long duration of 14-15 years to bring this bill to this stage.

The Bill provides for establishment of a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA

Data Banks.

Every Data Bank will maintain the indices including crime scene index, suspects' or undertrials' index and offenders' index. The Bill also provides for seeking consent of the individual when DNA profiling is used in criminal investigations and identifying missing persons. However, consent requirements have not been specified in case of DNA profiling for civil matters.

Participating in the debate on the Bill Sanjay Jaiswal (BJP) said that future of the world is on the DNA Technology while Kalyan Banerjee (TMC) was of the view that the Bill was very good for the

criminal justice system, civil justice system and more so for the people of the country.

He also sought to know that if any investigative agency which is collecting the DNA abuses the power, what steps should be taken against that person under the law.

NK Premachandran (RSP) raised concerns about the Bill which includes Right to Privacy.

He was of the view that some legislature was required so that the DNA profile taken from the people was not misused.

Premachandran also said that the Bill should be sent to a Parliamentary Standing Committee.

DMK seeks resolution against 10% quota Bill

Economic backwardness is against Constitution, says MK Stalin

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The DMK, Tamil Nadu's principal Opposition party, came out on Tuesday against the decision of the Narendra Modi-led Union Government to provide 10 per cent quota in education and jobs to the economically weaker sections of the society.

DMK president M K Stalin, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, demanded the Tamil Nadu House to pass a resolution condemning the move. "The BJP is playing a dangerous game with the backward classes and others with the decision to set apart 10 per cent quota for the economically weaker sections. This



is a move which has been brought in with an eye on the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in mind," said Stalin. He reminded the House that such moves were struck down by the Supreme Court in the past.

"The Supreme Court has stated many times in the past that reservation was meant for only people belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes and not to economically backward sections. Economical backwardness is against the Constitution," said the DMK chief.

Stalin also claimed that it was his father late M Karunanidhi, who played a major role in implementing the Mandal Commission Report

which made 27 per cent quota for Other Backward Communities in central government jobs.

But Tamil Nadu Minister for administrative reforms D Jayakumar replied that it was a policy decision of the Union Government and nothing could be done at this stage. "We have to wait till the fine print is sent to the State Governments by the Centre. Then only we will be able to make any comments on the proposed move," said Jayakumar.

Interestingly, Tamil Nadu has 69 per cent reservation policy though the national limit is 50 per cent. The 10 per cent quota, if implemented in Tamil Nadu will hike the reservation quota to 79 per cent in the State leaving just 21 per cent for the general category.

Except for Brahmins, and some of the few sub-sects in the Hindu religion, all communities in the State have been incorporated as backward communities and other backward communities because of the political influence wielded by the community leaders.

CONTRADICTION IN J&K POLITICS

Coalition Govt better than single party: Mufti

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said coalition Governments deliver better results than single-party majority regimes, citing the example of the BJP-led Government at the Centre.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president was reacting to National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah's statement asking people of Jammu & Kashmir to give a clear mandate to any one party.

"Brute majority has had a history of sell outs in J&K. With 60 members NC sold out power houses, brought Lkhwan, task force, POTAs," Mehbooba tweeted.

"Even earlier when NC had absolute majority and unqualified political mandate it only yielded powers, resources of state to Centre," she said.

The former Chief Minister further said the coalition led by her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in the State had established "a high bar of achievements — opening of cross LOC roads (being) the singular political achievement post-independence".

She said post-Indira Gandhi era, coalition Governments had delivered



better results than single party rule.

"Even at national level it seems post Indira Gandhi, coalition Governments have delivered better than majority party rule e.g. Vajpayee coalition, UPA-1 compared to present BJP single party rule," she said.

"Recall Narisimaraao (sic) minority Government which brought the country out of its worst economic crisis and introduced economic liberalisation," she added in the tweet.

Speaking at a function in Jammu on Monday, Abdullah had said that "experiment of coalitions" had not worked well in J&K.

"I want people of the State to elect a single party Government in Jammu & Kashmir, keeping in view the challenges and magnitude of problems faced by the people," he had said.

However, Mehbooba's Finance Minister Altaf Bukhari — who does not associate himself with the PDP anymore — supported Omar's call for the return of one party rule in the State.

"I personally believe that Kashmir has suffered a lot because of coalition politics that started since 2002. The results of coming Assembly elections shall have a huge bearing on the stability and all round development of the State," Bukhari said in a statement.

I leave it to the conscience of people to choose and vote for any political party of their choice that can safeguard the state's socio-political interests and deliver the best, the former MLA from Amirkadal said.

Bukhari further said that coalition politics results in a chaotic atmosphere and more often leads to "unstable Governments that hugely affects the policy making and decisions of Government". **PTI**

Omar launches poll campaign

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday launched his party's poll campaign from Jammu with the slogan, "HAL hi Hal hai".

The election symbol of the party, as approved by the Election Commission, is 'plough' (HAL in chaste hindi).

Addressing a day-long youth convention here at party headquarters, Omar told youth wing delegates, "gear up for the crucial polls ahead. The fight is not going to be easy. You have to work hard from now onwards to win the majority seats. We need 45 seats to form our own Government. We can win these seats by working as a team and helping each other in their constituencies".

Positioning himself as a 'mature' leader of the party he said, "I am a changed man now. I am no longer the same Omar Abdullah who ruled



the state for six long years". "Stop calling me a youth leader. I am going to celebrate my 50th birthday next year. My hair is grey now and I am also using reading glasses".

Omar also made a passionate appeal to the state electorate to give him another opportunity to rule the state. He said, you have tried various coalition Governments in the state. Give me one more chance to serve you.

Sharing his serious concern over growing inclination among Jammu & Kashmir youth towards militancy, Omar said shrinking of space has pushed them to the wall.

Rahul Gandhi to address farmers' rally in Rajasthan

Jaipur: Congress president Rahul Gandhi will on Wednesday address a farmers' rally here, a senior party leader said.

It will be the Gandhi scion's first public meeting after Congress formed the Government in the State and initiated steps to fulfil its promise of waiving off farmer loans.

The Congress-led Government in Rajasthan had on December 19, 2018 announced a waiver for short term farm loans up to ₹2 lakh and constituted a committee to

decide the eligibility criteria. The announcement was in line with the Congress chief's pre-poll announcement to waive farm loans.

"Promise of waiving off loans of farmers was a resolution of the Congress and the Government has fulfilled its promise after coming to power," the party's in-charge for political affairs in Rajasthan, Avinash Pande said.

"Congress president will be addressing a public meeting where farmers will express their gratitude," he added. **PTI**

Resign and face fresh poll, AGP dares BJP

Guwahati: A day after pulling out of the BJP-led Government in Assam over the Citizenship Amendment Bill, the AGP on Tuesday demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and dared the saffron party to face fresh polls.

The Sonowal Government has no moral right to continue and if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has the courage, it should face fresh election, senior Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) leader and former chief minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta said here.

"The BJP-led Government was formed in Assam on the basis of a pre-poll alliance with the AGP. As this alliance no longer exists now, we demand that the current Assam Government be dissolved," Mahanta told reporters.

Accusing the BJP of adopting an anti-Assam policy, Mahanta said, "Let the BJP form a new Government alone. We will welcome that".

Withdrawal of the AGP, which has 14 MLAs in the 126-member Assembly, would not have any immediate effect on the future of the Sarbananda Sonowal-led Government that



Activists take out a torch light vigil in protest against Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Guwahati on Tuesday **PTI**

still has the backing of 74 MLAs.

The BJP has 61 members and the party has support from 12 MLAs of the Bodoland People's Front and the sole independent member.

The Opposition Congress and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) have 25 and 13 members respectively.

"The BJP won many seats in the Assembly elections (in 2016) only due to the AGP. The AGP protested against the bill ever since it was proposed," the AGP founder said.

The controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill

2016 was passed in Lok Sabha on Tuesday even as an Assam and North East region bandh was called against it.

The AGP on Monday withdrew its support to the ruling BJP-led coalition Government after its "last-ditch attempt to convince" the Centre to withdraw the proposed legislation failed.

Mahanta, the leader of the Assam Agitation, a popular movement against illegal foreigners that lasted for six years between 1979 and 1985, said, "If the decision (to pull out) was taken earlier, people's anger and disappointment with the AGP would have been less." **PTI**



Kashmiri men carry laundry collected from a near by hotel as it snows in Gulmarg, Srinagar on Tuesday **PTI**

10% quota only to divert attention from Rafale: AP CM

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday said the announcement of the Centre providing for 10 per cent reservation for the economically backward people was made in view of the Lok Sabha polls and also to divert the attention from the alleged Rafale scam.

"However, we support the 10 per cent reservation for the economically backward," the Chief Minister said at a public meeting at Kosigi village in Kurnool district, as part of the Jannabhoomi programme. "At the same time, we

sought inclusion of Valmiki community in the ST list, washermen community in the SC list and extension of reservation for Kapus under the backward castes quota," he said while recalling that the state legislature had passed bills in this regard and sent them to the Centre for approval.

The Chief Minister announced a grant of ₹100 crore for the benefit of the Valmiki community.

Meanwhile, TDP politburo member and State Finance Minister Yanamala

Ramakrishnu, in a statement, questioned the sincerity of the BJP in extending the 10 per cent reservation for the economically backward as the national party was fundamentally opposed to reservations.

He said, "It was the BJP that provoked the anti-Mandal protests when V P Singh was the Prime Minister."

The national party brought the 10 per cent reservation bill only because of the defeat in the recent Assembly polls in five states, he said, adding that the party has lost its credibility among the people. **PTI**

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, R.D Amarpur Division invites single bid system e-tender against DNIT No. e-DNIT-23/EE/RD/DIV/AMP/G/2018-19, Dated- 03/01/2019 for 'Construction of Steel Foot Bridge at Chabimura over river Gomati under RD Amarpur Division (Support to support-75 Mtr. Span) With Estimated cost: Rs.1,00,44,928.00, Earnest Money Rs.1,00,449.00, Tender fee Rs. 2500.00 Time of Completion - 12 (Twelve) months., Last Date of bidding- 31-01-2019 upto 15.00Hrs. For more details can be obtained from the office of the tendering authority or may be downloaded from <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RD Amarpur Division
Amarpur, Gomati Tripura
ICA/C-2158/19

TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPRO X.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BAHADURGARH	REPLACEMENT OF OLD CFL SODIUM LIGHT TO NEW LED LIGHT IN WARD NO.18 + 5 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 17.01.2019	78.74 LACS	stenders.hry.nic.in Tender No: 829 to 834	9466279801 mcbgarh@gmail.com
2	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KALAYAT	CONST. OF STREET MAIN ROAD TO ARVIND IN WARD NO.01 + 10 OTHER WORKS	07.01.2019 12.01.2019	34.82 LACS	https://www.harvnaaprocurment.gov.in	Secretary Municipal committee
3	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION AT COMMUNITY CENTRE, OLD GIAL PAHARI, GURUGRAM + 1 OTHER WORK	03.01.2019 17.01.2019	97.03 LACS	https://mcgurgaon.harvnaaprocurment.gov.in Tender No: 110163, 110167	ees@mcg.gov.in
4	UHBVN	CONST. 08 NO. NEW 33 KV S/STNS I.E THARI IN PLACE OF FAFRANA JUNDIA, NDR1 KARNAL, MEDICAL UNIVERSITY KARNAL, SEZ FOOD PARK	04.01.2019 31.01.2019	10 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT-226/P&D/2019(B-570)	0172-2570431 cgmduhbvn@gmail.com
5	UHBVN	CONST. 07 NO. NEW 33 KV S/STN I.E BIBIPUR JATTAN, MUGAL MAJRA, GARHI BARAL, DHAKWALA, ALUPUR NAIN, ATTAWALA, SECTOR-25(PART-I)	04.01.2019 29.01.2019	10 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT-227/P&D/2019(B-571)	0172-2570431 cgmduhbvn@gmail.com
6	UHBVN	CONST. OF 07 NO. NEW 33 KV SUB STATIONS I.E GARH SARNAI, PARDHANA, BARSAT ROAD, RAJA KHRI (MOHALI), LAKHUA BUANA	04.01.2019 29.01.2019	10 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT-228/P&D/2019(B-572)	0172-2570431 cgmduhbvn@gmail.com
7	UHBVN	CONST. OF 07 NO. 33 KV S/STN. PABSAR, RASINA (REVIVAL), GONDER, GHARI JATTAN, COLLEGE ROAD ASSANDH, MALIKPUR	04.01.2019 31.01.2019	10 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT-229/P&D/2019(B-573)	0172-2570431 cgmduhbvn@gmail.com
8	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LTD	RE-TENDER FOR 33RD SURAJKUND INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS MELA FOR PLANNING & PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IN METRO NCR INNER PANEL + 1 OTHER WORK	08.01.2019 14.01.2019	EMD-0.20 LACS	harvanatourism.gov.in Tender No: HTC-2019/SKMA/Agencies	9216400446 harvanatourism@gmail.com
9	HARYANA SCHOOL SHIKSHA PARIYOJNA PARISHAD	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AT BARAHI, DISTRICT JHAJJAR + 20 OTHER WORKS	09.01.2019 30.01.2019	2008.00 LACS	www.hsspp.in Tender No: 233 to 253/CIVIL/HSSPP/2018	civilbranchssa@gmail.com
10	HARYANA SEEDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD	SUPPLY OF SEED TREATMENT DRUMS 20 KGS. CAPACITY	08.01.2019 16.01.2019	278 LACS	harvnaaseeds.org.in HSDC/Engg/2019/732-35, 08.01.2019	9417669911 hsdci@hry.nic.in
11	HVPNL	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF FLOOR TILE WORK IN EXISTING CONTROL ROOM BUILDING AT 66 KV S/STN., BARWALA	CLOSING 14.01.2019	1.37 LACS	www.harvnaaprocurment.gov.in Tender No: 43/2018-19, 02.01.2019	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
12	HVPNL	PROVIDING ADDITIONAL 12.5/16 MVA, 66/11 KV T/F T-2 WITH BAY EQUIPMENT AT 66 KV S/STN, HVPNL LAKA	CLOSING 14.01.2019	5.86 LACS	www.harvnaaprocurment.gov.in Tender No: 44/2018-19, 02.01.2019	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
13	HVPNL	PROVIDING ADDITIONAL 12.5/16 MVA, 66/11 KV T/F T-2 WITH BAY EQUIPMENT AT 66 KV S/STN, HVPNL BERKHARI	CLOSING 10.01.2019	6.77 LACS	www.harvnaaprocurment.gov.in Tender No: 42/2018-19, 02.01.2019	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
14	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF 11KV & 33KV NCTS	06.01.2019 20.02.2019	EMD-46000	www.hvpn.org.in Tender No: Qdo No 1163, Nit No 1017, 04.01.2019	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
15	HVPNL	REPAIRING AND SERVICE OF 3 PHASE, DOUBLE BLOWER INDUSTRIAL ACS OF AC KIOSKS AND ONE 1 PHASE AC OF CONTROL ROOM, INSTALLED AT 220 KV S/STN.	04.01.2019 16.01.2019	1.68 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in NIT NO: 16/TSYNR/2018-19, 110429	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
16	HVPNL	PLUGGING THE OIL SEEPAGE/LEAKAGE OF 12.5/16 MVA, 66/11 KV TECHNICAL ASSOCIATE LTD, MAKE T/F T-1 INSTALLED AT 66 KV S/STN. TALAKAUR	04.01.2019 11.01.2019	1.65 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in NIT NO: 19/TSYNR/2018-19	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
17	REDCROSS SOCIETY BHIWANI	E-TENDER FOR ORTHOPEDICS IMPLANTS	08.01.2019 22.01.2019	20,000	bhiwani.gov.in Tender No: DC/Implant/02, 2019 HRY 7317	01664-243535 ircs.bhiwani@gmail.com

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara - 390 007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., 2nd floor, Videcon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER GUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale Notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (In ₹)	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Ensol Power Pvt Ltd. (LBDEL00002007805, LBDEL00002021341)	Entire First Floor Flat, without roof rights, Plot No 07, Block D, Residential Colony Lakewood City, Suraj Kund Road, Faridabad, Admeasuring 180.39 Sq.Mtrs	Rs. 2,39,73,841/- as on Jan 2, 2019	Rs. 1,35,00,000/-	Rs. 13,50,000/-	January 21, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM	January 31, 2019, From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
2.	Sachin Mittal (Borrower), Shrutu Mittal (Co-borrower) (LBFDB00001841651, LBNOD00001601582, LBNOD00001751857, LBNOD00000728878)	DTJ 104 (FIRST FLOOR) Tower B, DLF Tower, DLF Galleria, Jasola, New Delhi 110025 Admeasuring covered Area 1317 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 2,45,55,120/- As on 19-Dec-2018.	Rs. 2,12,60,000/-	Rs. 21,26,000/-	January 21, 2019, From 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	January 31, 2019, From 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency Shriram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - https://e.auctions.samil.in). The Mortgagees/Notice are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till January 30, 2019, before 5:00 P.M failing which, these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F)) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videcon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 or our marketing agents Shriram Automall India Ltd having their office at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 on or before January 30, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised / Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. 8584874809/9650193259 of ICICI Bank Limited or 9910453434 of Shriram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any and all the bids without furnishing any reasons thereof. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at <https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties.page?>

Date: January 09, 2019
Place: Delhi/NCR

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Lukewarm response to Bharat Bandh in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the Trinamool Congress (TMC) Government taking a "strong stance against bandh culture", the first day of Left trade unions-sponsored 2-day Bharat Bandh evoked mixed response on Tuesday in Bengal.

While life remained nearly normal in Kolkata reports from districts, particularly industrial towns of Barrackpore, Howrah, Hooghly and Durgapur-Ansoul region witnessed low attendance of workers though the factories remained open, sources said.

In Kolkata buses, metro railways and ferry services functioned near-normally presenting a diametrically opposite picture than what it used to be like even a decade ago. While State Government offices saw near total presence of employees, central government offices and banks remained completely closed apparently giving people a trying time.

Railway services particularly the suburban train ser-



Left-sponsored trade union activists participate in a demonstration on the first day of a two-day general strike called by various trade unions in Kolkata on Tuesday

vices were partially affected with the strikers blocking tracks and disrupting power supply at many places in Howrah and Sealdah Division. Notwithstanding a near-normal picture in most parts of the State strikers clashed with Trinamool supporters and the police at various places even as they vandalised buses and other vehicles at Jadavpur, Sodpur, Rishra, Uttarpara, Barasat, Basirhat, Siliguri etc.

Senior CPI(M) leaders including party Legislative party Leader Sujan Chakrabarty and former State Minister Anadi Sahoo were

arrested and later released on bail, police said.

Reacting to the bandh call Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said "we have taken a stand of not supporting any bandh. Enough is enough. In the past 34 years the Left have destroyed the State calling bandhs. Not any more."

BJP State president Dilip Ghosh thanked the State Government for taking a proactive part in thwarting bandh culture and added "the CPI(M) is trying to find some oxygen before the elections by calling such bandhs but that will not sustain them."

2013 Kumbh stampede: UP Govt to table panel report in Assembly

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The State Government will table in the Assembly a report by a one-member commission which probed the stampede at Allahabad railway station during Kumbh in 2013, beside implementing its suggestions for the stampede at Allahabad junction railway station in 2013.

At least 38 people were killed and 50 others injured in the stampede at the Allahabad railway station during Mauni Amavasya on February 1, 2013, while devotees were returning home after taking a holy dip at the Sangam.

"The Government has also worked on the recommendations of the commission for the coming Kumbh Mela so that the lapses are not repeated this time," spokesperson and Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said while briefing media persons after a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

The one-member judicial commission of justice

(Retired) Omkareshwar Bhatt blamed the Railways and UP State Roadways Corporation for the stampede at Allahabad junction railway station in 2013. "This time we have asked the authorities to look into the lapses that occurred in 2013 and directed them to initiate necessary precautions," Singh said.

The commission also held the change made on the platform at the last moment and the lack of holding area of passengers as the prime reason for the stampede.

Along with the Railways, the commission also blamed UPSRTC, Allahabad district administration and police for thoroughly failing in crowd management leading to the tragedy.

The commission concluded that the Railways did not make a clear assessment of the number of passengers for which arrangement of transportation had to be made on the occasion of 'Mauni Amavasya'.

Tripura suspends SMS, mobile internet for 2 days

Agartala: The Tripura Government on Tuesday suspended mobile internet and SMS services in the entire State for two days in the apprehension of law and order problem following a clash in West Tripura district.

In a notification, the home department said, "Incidents of rioting and arsoning have occurred in some areas in Jirania police station under West Tripura district and photographs of such incidents are being uploaded in the social media which may likely to generate serious law and order situation..."

Those photos are likely to be used for transmission of fake information and to prevent this, use of SMS messages and mobile Internet/data services are being prohibited for 48 hours since 3 pm Tuesday, the notification said.

At least seven persons were injured, some with gunshot wounds, on Tuesday at Jirania, about 15 km from here, when police and paramilitary jawans resorted to lathicharge and fired in the air to disperse Citizenship Bill protesters. PTI

Filmmaker Rakesh Roshan diagnosed with cancer

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Filmmaker Rakesh Roshan has been diagnosed with an early stage cancer — squamous cell carcinoma — in the throat and will soon go under knife, his son Hrithik Roshan revealed on Tuesday.



In an emotional post, shared on Instagram with a photograph of him and his father Rakesh Roshan before a workout at their home Gym, Hrithik wrote: "Asked my dad for a picture this morning. Knew he wouldn't miss gym on surgery day. He is probably the strongest man I know. Got diagnosed with early stage squamous cell carcinoma of the throat a few weeks ago, but he is in full spirits today as he proceeds to battle it."

"As a family we are fortunate and blessed to have a leader like him," Hrithik added. Squamous cell carcinoma is a particular type of cancer that is characterised by an uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the lining of the throat.

Having featured as an actor in 84 films in the 1970s and 1980s, Rakesh took to film direction in 1987 and the titles of all the films directed by him have begun with alphabet "K".

PM to start poll campaign with projects' inauguration in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually kick off the ruling BJP's campaign for the Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra on Wednesday, after he launches several development projects, including four-lane Section of Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad stretch of a national highway and lays foundation stones for some others, at Solapur.

During his second visit to Maharashtra in less than a month, the Prime Minister will also inaugurate the ₹772.71 crore four-lane Section of Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad national highway (new NH-52) and lay foundation stone for a ₹1,183 crore project for construction of 30,000 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for beedi workers and textile workers, at Solapur in western Maharashtra.

The 98.72 km four-lane Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad

national highway — constructed in a span of 910 days — will help improve the connectivity of Solapur in western Maharashtra with Marathwada region of the State. The highway consists of two major bridges, 17 minor bridges, 87 culverts, 14 underpasses, a 3.47 km by-pass and service roads of 33.21 km length.

Modi — who during his earlier visit to Solapur in August 2014 had laid foundation stone for four laning of Solapur-Maharashtra / Karnataka Border section of NH 9 and dedicated 765 kV Solapur-Raichur power transmission line — will also dedicate to the nation of Underground Sewerage System, and three Sewage Treatment Plants in Solapur. The sewerage project will increase the sewer coverage of the town and improve sanitation in the city. It will replace the existing system and also connect to the trunk sewers

being implemented under AMRUT Mission.

The Prime Minister will also lay foundation stones for a Rs 244 crore Underground Sewerage System under AMRUT Mission and a project for improvement in Water Supply and Sewerage System, as part of Area Based Development in Solapur Smart City. This project is expected to bring significant improvement in service delivery and improve public health enabled by technology as a means to create smart outcomes for citizens.

After launching two development projects and laying foundation stones for three more major projects, Modi will in likelihood kick-start the BJP's Lok Sabha poll campaign at a public rally at Solapur, which incidentally is the home town of senior Congress leader and former Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde.

Re-Tender Corrigendum. Tender Title: Procurement of Under Water Diving set with BA set. Tender Ref. No: NIT-04/TFS/2018. Tender ID: 2018_Fire2_2267_1. Due to the poor response received to the tender referred above in e-procurement Portal https://tripuratenders.gov.in it has been decided to extend the date of receipt of bids till 24th January 2019, at 15.00 hrs. The pre-qualification cum technical bid would be opened on 25th January 2019, at 11.00 hrs. All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged. For more details please visit: https://tripuratenders.gov.in/www.tripuraindia.com/www.tripuratoday.com/www.indigenousearid.com/www.tripurachronicle.in/www.neindia.com. For and on behalf of Governor of Tripura, Sd/ (Uttam Kr Bhaumik, IPS) Joint Director, Fire Service Nodal Officer (E-Tender) ICAC-2141/19

Appeal For Identification. General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 60 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 8 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing : Lining Shirt, Blue Colour Jacket, Grey Colour Pant and Bare Footed, has been found dead on 29.12.2018 at Footpath, Near Faridabad Bus Stand, Under Yudhishtir Setu, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 13-A Dated 29.12.2018 has been lodged at PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO DP/9542/N/19. PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23968730, 8750870123

SEARCH FOR MISSING. General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), Name: Ashok Kumar S/o R. Murgam R/o E-339, J.J. Colony, Khyala, New Delhi has been missing from his home since 10.12.2018. In this regard a case vide DD No. 15A dated 17.12.2018 has been lodged at PS New Khyala, Delhi. His physical description is as under: Age : 40 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion : Shallow, Build : Thin, Face : Oval, Wearing : Blue colour pant & red colour shirt and chapal in feet. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Khyala, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in SHO Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Khyala, Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 West Distt., Delhi DP/8050/WD/18 Ph. No. 011-28335696, 28335686

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Name: Ram Dass S/o Puran R/o Unknown Age : 50 years, Height : 5'5", Complexion : Shallow, Wearing: Dirty clothes & bare footed has been admitted in Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital from the jurisdiction of PS Timarpur, Delhi. During the Treatment the Doctors declared him dead. In this regard a case vide DD No. 65-A dated 25.12.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this dead person may kindly inform to the following: SHO : P.S. Timarpur, Delhi North Distt., Delhi DP/9537/N/19 Tel. No. 011-23814421, 23812734

Information Technology Development Agency (I.T.D.A.) (Department of IT, Government of Uttarakhand) Ref: 1236/ITDA-630/2019 Dated 08.01.2019 Tender Notice No: 10/ITDA-630/2019 dated 08/01/2019 e-Tender Selection of Service Provider for Providing Project Management Cell (PMC) for Uttarakhand State Data Centre RFP (Request for Proposal) is being issued by ITDA, Department of IT, Uttarakhand to the reputed IT companies meeting the qualification criteria, for Selection of Service Provider for Providing Project Management Cell (PMC) for Uttarakhand State Data Centre. The RFP document can be downloaded from www.uktenders.gov.in from 09/01/2019. The tender document fee of Rs 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) (non-refundable) through demand draft/Banker's Cheque favouring "Director, ITDA" payable at Dehradun should be submitted along with the bid. The parties willing to participate in the bidding will have to apply through the Electronic Tendering Procedure (e-Tendering) as per the guidelines issued by Government of Uttarakhand available on the above mentioned web site under the link "Bidders Manual Kit". Director ITDA reserves the right to cancel the tender at any point of time, without assigning any reason thereof. DIRECTOR

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT STORE-I DIVISION, VIDYUT BHAWAN DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM ROAD, NEW DELHI-110011 E-procurement Tender Notice (Third Call) Name of work : Purchase of Energy Efficient LED post top light fittings having ratings of 30-35W (Warm light & rustic design) as per drawing & specifications attached. Estimated Cost : Rs. 6,38,400/- Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 07.01.2019 at 04.00 PM Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 14.01.2019 at 3.00 PM Further details can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (e-Tendering System, Government of NCT of Delhi). Note :- To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with e-Tendering System, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory. Sd/ Tender ID No. : 2019_NDMC_165249_1 Executive Engineer (E-S)

HSBC THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD. K-14, Sector 18, NOIDA - 201301. NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 We, the HSBC Bank, has issued Demand Notice U/S 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002, through our NOIDA branches/me the Authorized Officer. The contents of the same are the defaults committed by you in the payment of instalments of principal, interest, etc. The outstanding amount is as mentioned below: Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower, Loan A/c No., Date of 13(2) Notice, Limit, NPA Date, Rate of Interest, Demand Amount as per Sec. Act Notice, Mailing Address, Mortgaged Property. Further with reasons, we believe that you are evading the service of Demand Notice. Hence this publication of demand notice. You are hereby called upon to pay HSBC BANK within a period of 60 days of date of publication of this Demand Notice the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc., failing which HSBC BANK will take necessary action under all or any of the provision of Sec 13 (4) of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of this secured assets of the borrower/s. Further you are prohibited U/S 13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale/lease or in any other way the aforesaid secured assets. Please note that no further demand notice will be issued. Place: NOIDA Dated: 9th January, 2019 Sd/ The Authorised Officer For The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE No.12/FO/EZ/2018-19(Pt-III) Online Percentage rate tenders are invited/re-invited through e-tendering mode for the following works on behalf of DDA by EE/ED-2 & 5, Opp. Pkt.I Dilshad Garden, EE/8, 9, 14 and Elect Divn. No.1, Seed Bed Park, Shakarpur, Delhi from approved and eligible contractors of DDA, CPWD, MES, BSNL and Railway. For works costing upto ₹60.00 lacs, registered & approved Contractor of DDA will only be eligible. Last date and time of submission of tender for works at Sr. no.1 to 12 are 18.01.2019 at 3.00 p.m. 1. NIT No. 21/EE/ELD-1/DDA/2018-19. Name of work: M/O Various Scheme under NA-II (East Zone). SH: Re-connection of electric connection for street lighting at Gausihala Road, Gazipur, Garg Hospital, Railway Road, Karkardooma, I.P. Extension and Pankaj Plaza Kondli. Estimated Cost: ₹5,27,322/-, Earnest Money: ₹10,546/-, Period of Completion : Two Months. 2. NIT No. 26/EE/ED-2/DDA/2018-19.(Short Notice) Name of work: Protection of DDA Vacant land under East Zone SH: Providing/fencing with RCC post at vacant land Usmanpur Village. Estimated Cost: ₹21,32,813/-, Earnest Money: ₹42,656/-, Period of Completion: 30 days. 3. NIT No. 27/EE/ED-2/DDA/2018-19. Name of work: M/O Various Scheme under Nazul A/C-II (E.Z.): Repair and construction of boundary wall of Green land near A Pocket GTB Enclave and along with Rajeev Gandhi Hospital. Estimated Cost: ₹20,50,716/-, Earnest Money: ₹41,014/-, Period of Completion: 90 days. 4. NIT No. 28 /EE/ED-2/DDA/2018-19. Name of work: M/O Various Scheme under Nazul A/C-II (E.Z.). SH: Repair of boundry wall at F1-Block, Sunder Nagri. Estimated Cost: ₹18,59,633/-, Earnest Money: ₹37,193/-, Period of Completion : 90 days. 5. NIT No. 29/EE/ED-2/DDA/2018-19 Name of work: M/O Various Scheme under Nazul A/C.II (EZ). SH: Repair of boundary wall of vacant plot at Dilshad Garden. Estimated Cost: ₹20,55,245/-, Earnest Money: ₹41,105/-, Period of Completion : 90 days. 6. NIT No. 22/EE/ED-5/DDA/2018-19. Name of work: Land Protection work in Trans Yamuna Area (EZ). SH: Providing barbed wire fencing in vacant land in the jurisdictions of ED-5. Estimated cost: ₹16,05,830/-, Earnest Money: ₹32,117/-, Period of Completion: 60 days. 7. NIT No. 23/EE/ED-5/DDA/2018-19. Name of work: Land Protection work in Trans Yamuna Area (EZ). SH: Repair of boundary wall in vacant plot in the jurisdiction of ED-5. Estimated Cost: ₹18,75,073/-, Earnest Money: ₹37,501/-, Period of Completion: 365 days. 8. NIT No.02/EE/ED-8/DDA/2018-19. Name of work: M/O Various Scheme under Nazul A/C.II (EZ) SH: Supply of drinking water through water Tanker at J.J. Colony Madanpur Khadar, Phase-II. Estimated Cost: ₹17,63,867/-, Earnest Money: ₹35,277/-, Period of Completion : (9) Nine Months. 9. NIT No. 26/EE/ED-9/DDA/2018-19. Name of work: M/O Various Scheme under Nazul A/C.II (EZ) SH: Repair of damaged road & footpath of Manglam road at institutional area Karkardooma (FC-18) Estimated Cost: ₹20,58,604/-, Earnest Money: ₹41,172/-, Period of Completion: 90 days. 10. NIT No. 28/EE/ED-9/DDA/2018-19. Name of work: M/O Various Scheme under NA-II (EZ) SH: Day to day cleaning, Sweeping, Maintenance of Community Halls at Shastri Nagar, Kanti Nagar and Shankar Nagar. Estimated Cost: ₹5,91,193/-, Earnest Money: ₹11,824/-, Period of Completion: 365 days. 11. NIT No. 10/EE/ED14/DDA/18-19. Name of work: D/O Sanjay Lake (Ph-II) /c Eco-restoration plan at Mayur Vihar Phase-II. SH: Covering of Eco-Restoration Plan Tank & P/L inter-locking paver block around the tank for passage. Estimated Cost: ₹20,31,530/-, Earnest Money: ₹40,631/-, Period of Completion: Two Months. 12. NIT No. 13/EE/ED14/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: Land Protection work in Trans Yamuna Area. SH: Construction of boundary wall, P/F MS Sign board & steel gates in DDA vacant land under the jurisdiction of ED-14. Estimated Cost: ₹18,34,479/-, Earnest Money: ₹36,690/-, Period of Completion: Six Months. For terms and conditions, eligibility criteria and other any technical related queries please call at 24X7 Help Desk Number-0120-4200462,0120-4001002, 0120-4001005, 120-6277787 and e-mail ID support-eproc@nic.in. please visit the Website- https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at Google play. Visit DDA's website -www.dda.org.in or dial Toll Free No. 1800110332

Quota politics

Unexpected announcement of a 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections is not a political masterstroke



The aftermath of the Mandal Commission report recommendations being implemented in India was to transform society in this country, and while it could never reverse the millennia of caste discrimination, it was believed at that time that the correct thing to do is to make India's growth more inclusive. And while that has, to an extent worked, it has like many other solutions to long-festering problems, turned into a case of opening a Pandora's Box of new problems. There is nowadays, for example, a perverse demand by caste leaders, once considered on the upper-end of the spectrum, to be declared backward so as to take advantage of reservations. Other castes that have benefited from reservations have zealously tried to protect their 'turf' and have actively prevented other castes from getting a piece of the action, whether it is in Government jobs or educational institutions. Also, as evidenced by the demand for quotas by land-owning upper castes such as Jats and Gujjars in a belt near the capital to the Marathas in Maharashtra, upper castes are finding it increasingly difficult to compete in this environment and are being left behind. And this is a delicate balancing act for Governments both at the State and Central level because in large swathes of India, castes still tend to vote *en masse*.

So on the face of it, a reservation for economically weaker sections of society should be a political masterstroke. However, coming so late in the day, the cynic will obviously view it through politically-tinted glasses and believe that this is a way of keeping upper-caste votes within the Bharatiya Janata Party for Narendra Modi, who appears increasingly fretful of the general election coming up in three months. But there are a few issues here, the first is the need to pass a Constitutional amendment. While some caste-based parties might oppose it, smarter members of the Opposition could ensure it gets stalled in Parliament. And then there is the Supreme Court, which has previously ruled that breaching the 50 per cent reservation mark is unconstitutional, save in Tamil Nadu where prior reservations of 69 per cent were grandfathered in. Will the Supreme Court allow this amendment to pass? That is something for the justices to consider, which they almost certainly will have to. And if previous attempts at reservations for upper castes by State Governments is any indication, the shaky foundations of the Bills will be demolished by the highest court of the land.

But then comes the biggest problem of all: Where are the jobs? The Government of India and its public sector units still remain India's largest employer but over the years it is hiring fewer and fewer people and one could rightly think that this move is a cop out for Modi as his Government has failed to create enough jobs over the past few years, in no small part thanks to his own policies such as demonetisation. So all said and done, this is not a done deal as yet and Modi, faced with his facade crumbling, is trying to go all out to ensure a second term despite squandering the immense political capital he had back in 2014. But this could be a case of 'too little, too late.'

Ahom identity

AGP may have stood out as a champion but its real intention is to dent BJP's LS tally



In the end it is all about seizing the pre-poll narrative for the general election and whoever does that better, may just get some customers or force a self-serving discussion. That is why the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)'s withdrawal of support to the BJP-led Government in Assam is more about finding a politically opportune moment than real dissatisfaction. Yes, the AGP is right in arguing that the new citizenship amendment Bill as proposed by the BJP, granting citizenship to Hindu refugees from across the border till the cutoff year of 2014, is detrimental to

Ahom identity and the right of indigenous people over their land, indeed the wherewithal of its politics. However, it was not that the AGP didn't know that this was coming though, it can be reasonably argued, it found itself in a box in launching a counter campaign. It knew that the ruling Sarbananda Sonowal government would not fall if it withdrew support as it had overwhelming numbers (74 to AGP's 14) and was unsure about its standing as an independent party that had the faith of the people. The panchayat polls of December restored its confidence as did the Assembly election results that got the Congress back in reckoning in some states. But it was when other NDA allies became restive, demanding a pound of flesh or two from a dented BJP, that the AGP decided to get into the ring. Sensing the national sentiment at the moment, the AGP has realised that while the state government could run without it, it could threaten the BJP's winning prospects in the Lok Sabha with its pullout. The BJP, not exactly riding the wave pre-2014, may not get the monolithic heartland verdict and would need every extra seat from the Northeast, which it has been nurturing and betting on. In about four seats, the BJP needs the AGP to effect a swing or defeat an entrenched Congress vote. Pundits predict if the Congress woos AGP and other parties to form a state level alliance and ensures a convergence of vote shares, then they could halt the BJP juggernaut in the general election and push its tally back from the seven seats it won in 2014.

The AGP's main contention is a refugee influx, irrespective of religion, would change the demographic contours of the border districts that would forever be a prey base for the larger national parties and ensure the local parties are squeezed out. The BJP is clearly following a me-too model that has worked for the Congress and other Opposition parties at one time. As waves of Bangladeshi migrants crossed the borders, each Opposition party is equally guilty of legalising their stay and shoring up its respective votebank. If it was Muslims before, it is Hindus now. So the AGP has little choice now but to stand out as a strong regional voice. Meanwhile, the BJP is losing the tide of opinion as far as its allies are concerned. First, it was the TDP, then it was the PDP in Kashmir, followed by the Upendra Kushwaha-led Rashtriya Lok Samta Party. The Shiv Sena still likes to trouble it now and then while the latest withdrawal missive from Apna Dal (Sonelal) has revived the perception of the BJP as an arrogant big brother feeding off the smaller parties and then grinding them to dust. As we said, it is all about the visual narrative. Depending on trade winds, all allies jump ships.

opinion

What Imran Khan forgot

It is ironical that the Pakistan Prime Minister should want to teach India how to treat its minorities when the country has created a new minority with the passing of every decade



PRAFULL GORADIA

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has offered to teach India how it should treat its minorities. Is it not likely that when he said this, he was experiencing a flashback to his cricketing days, when our fast bowlers were not comparable to his country's pace attack? Traditionally, in the undivided India, it was Punjab that produced pacemen. The one outstanding name that comes to this writer's mind is that of Mohammad Nissar, the fastest opening bowler the sub-continent had produced. Certainly, even now, the pack of speed merchants may have something to teach our players.

An Oxonian had once said: Imran is cricket and cricket is Imran. Similarly, Zubin Mehta is music and cannot be imagined in terms of cricket. It is also difficult to reconcile Imran Khan's image with prime ministership. It is not possible that while he was talking of minorities, he was thinking about how to teach India play cricket and to play in India at the Eden Gardens? It goes without saying that Imran Khan has not seen the holocaust of Hindus and Sikhs, starting with Rawalpindi in 1947, nor would he know how his Christian compatriots had rejoiced at the birth of Pakistan only to subsequently regret it, plus, of course, being frequently accused of blasphemy. The Communist Party had wholeheartedly sponsored Partition, only to later beat its breast — it was simply eliminated by the torrent of Islam.

The Ahmediyas, whose hero, Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, had drafted the Pakistan Resolution of March 1940, also had their taste of 'glory' of the state they helped birth. Imran Khan was certainly not born then to witness the magnificent work done by Zafarullah Khan. Nor perhaps in 1953, when the latter's house in Lahore was set on fire, which induced him to flee to Pakistan to not return until his dying days. The rest of the years he spent at The Hague in the Netherlands to bring majesty to the glittering Benches of the International Court of Justice. In the meantime, the charismatic Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, expelled the Ahmediyas from the sanctified garden of Islam.

Another Ahmediya hero who brought glory to Imran Khan's country was Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, whose thuggish doings in the Netherlands enabled him to obtain the secrets of atomic bomb — all, of course, in the cause of Khidmat-e-Allah, the first Islamic nuclear bomb. He too was rewarded by his faith being expelled.

This writer was educated by two men. The first was his grandfather, one of whose friends was Ahmed Ali Jinnah. He relished Parsi humour and claimed to culturally be a Parsi. Although he was not a practicing Muslim, he acquainted my grandfather with his insights into Islam. That when a Muslim wishes to convert someone, it is with the best intention of opening a possible chance of the convert entering *jannat*. No other god can



enable a non-believer to cross the gateway of heaven.

The second gentleman who taught this writer was his spoken Urdu teacher who did not overtly suggest a conversion, but did say that the future lay with Islam. Just extrapolate the progress of a number of religions. The Yehudis (Jews) have reduced in number and shrunk to a fraction of what they were. The Christians have scattered into many denominations. Many a worshipper in Europe has given up worship. Christianity's priests have come to Asia, where according to the late Pope John Paul-II, there are innumerable souls to harvest. Contrast these performances with the progress of Islam, whose tide is continually rising.

It is ironical that Prime Minister Imran Khan should want to teach India how to treat its minorities. He has held out Pakistan as an example of good treatment. He is probably unaware that Dr Rafiq Zakaria, in his widely read book, *The Man Who Divided India*, clearly stated that but for the Muslims of Uttar Pradesh (especially Aligarh), Bihar and Mumbai (then Bombay), Pakistan might not have been. Young men from Aligarh went all the way to Punjab to campaign for the 1945-46 general election, which proved decisive for Partition. They propagated Pakistan as the new Medina. Moreover, if India should seriously follow the Pakistani example, it should

reduce its minority population to three per cent from the 22 per cent in Pakistan of 1947. Does the cricketing legend expect his country, with its vast land space, to absorb up to 25 crore Muslims now in India? He could not have forgotten his cricket and probably believes that greater the population, higher are the chances of throwing up more players. If not, the new Prime Minister has forgotten that his country has created a new minority with the passing of every decade.

The saga of creating ever new minorities began with the Sikhs at Rawalpindi; then thereafter, the Hindus. Then came the turn of the Ahmediyas at Lahore. Pakistan's Christians, who had backed Partition, in due course became unpopular enough to be frequently accused of blasphemy and awarded the death sentence by being stoned. The Balochs, of course, were never fully trusted but gradually became suspected if not also positively distrusted. The latest is the turn of the Shias, who are routinely killed by bombs while praying. There is also a proposal to expel Shias from the fraternity of Islam. They are followers of Imam Hussein, who was the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. A distinguished Shia was Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah without whom Pakistan might not have been.

Even since his college days, this writer has been told that all Sunni Muslims of the world belong to a single community,

which is their first loyalty. It is, therefore, a mystery why most Pakistanis are callous about the safety, security and welfare of their brethren in India. Regimes in Islamabad pursue their own interests without caring for any repercussion in India. Earlier, their great *guru* was the US. Now, they look to China for direction; ostensibly, others be damned. This is as old a syndrome as 1947. Within two months, Pakistan had no compunction in invading the Kashmir Valley.

As long ago as in 1951, Dr Zakir Husain, the then vice chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University and later Rashtrapati, took the lead along with 13 other Muslim eminences to submit a memorandum to Dr Frank P. Graham, the United Nations representative in Kashmir on August 14, 1951 said:

"It is indeed a pity that India has never thought of taking the help of its Muslim citizens, most of whom can be the country's useful allies against Pakistani misdeemeanour. There is no doubt a problem. The only viable Muslim leadership in the country is ecclesiastical. The luminaries, who are not *maulvis*, do not have sufficient following. Addressing Muslim citizens through the *ulema* has its limitations. The substantive interest of the masses lies in a peaceful life where the individual and his family can try and prosper, to educate the children and so on. Whereas the thrust of the *ulema*

would be to protect and promote the influence of Islam, leaders in India should, therefore, find a channel of informing and seeking cooperation of our Muslim brethren directly."

The memorandum was also signed by Sir Sultan Ahmed, Sir Mohammed Usman, both former members of the Viceroy's Council. The signatories included the Nawab of Chhatari, Chief Justice of Allahabad, Sir Iqbal Ahmed, Sir Fazal Rahimtoola, AK Khwaja, TM Zarif, BH Zaidi and Hafi-ur-Rehman; the last two were MPs. Their submission also said: "If the Hindus are not welcomed in Pakistan, how can we, in all fairness, expect Muslims to be welcomed in India? Such a policy must inevitably, as the past has already shown, result in the uprooting of Muslims in this country and their migration to Pakistan, where as it became clear last year, they are no longer welcome, lest their influx should destroy Pakistan's economy."

There was also a background to this fear. Several Muslim League leaders had repeatedly emphasised in the years preceding Partition that when the country was divided, there must be an exchange of population. Sir Feroz Khan Noon had gone to the extent of threatening the re-enactment of the violent orgies of Chengiz Khan and Hulagu Khan. (The writer is a well-known columnist and an author)

SOUNDBITE

We will not hesitate in imposing the NSA on those who run gangs that aid the use of unfair means during board exams and mass-copying antics.



UP Deputy CM —Dinesh Sharma

We (Norway) will intensify cooperation on issues relating to the sea, including a new joint task force on the blue economy focussing on integrated ocean management.



Norway Prime Minister —Erna Solberg

Actors get paid a lot while technicians don't get paid enough. This should change because a good film needs every single member of that team.



Filmmaker —Zoya Akhtar

The decision to allow private FM channels to broadcast AIR news empowers me as a citizen. What else does a democracy need?



I&B Minister —Rajyavardhan Rathore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election propaganda

Sir — The West Bengal Government has been denying permission to the Bharatiya Janata Party's proposed *rath yatra* in all the 42 parliamentary constituencies as it may lead to law and order problems. The Calcutta High Court has gauged the agenda of the organisers of the *yatra* and has rightly refused permission for the same. One only hopes that the Supreme Court will also appreciate the concerns of the State Government and deny permission for the *rath yatra*. The Union Government has failed to deliver on its promises to the masses and this is a last-ditch effort by the RSS-BJP combine to woo the people by playing the Ayodhya card yet again.

Shalini Gerald
Chennai

Careful decision

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Behind the scenes" (January 8). Emboldened by its tremendous wins in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, the Congress should have acted

A path to elections with no holds barred

This refers to the editorial, "Behind the scenes" (January 8). We all know that apart from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) are the two main protagonists in Uttar Pradesh, the largest State of India in terms of population. What started during last year's by-polls, where most opposition parties united against the ruling party, this pre-election alliance between the SP and BSP is only a natural progression. But unlike various Opposition combinations that exist only in the air, the SP-BSP combine seems to be a real possibility. It was sensible on the part of BSP supremo Mayawati and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav to leave aside the Congress because the grand old party remains only a fringe player in Uttar Pradesh. Second, more the number of seats these two parties get, better will be their bargaining power to form a Government.



Besides, the alliance between the two parties has sent across a message that the next general election will witness more State-specific alliances than a broad nation-wide arrangement against the ruling BJP. But one thing is certain that the 2019 general election is going to be a no-holds-barred battle.

Bal Govind
Noida

Taking lessons

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Real lionheart" (January 7). The English phrase, "A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal", best suits the lion-leopard story. Such compassion and affection between inter-species holds lessons for humanity. Every

individual must be more compassionate and be more than ready to assist others in their bad times. Humanity is far greater than exploiting the enemies.

Dimple Wadhawan
Kanpur

Real empowerment

Sir — It is not the State Government's business to interfere in the rituals of a religion. In doing so, it will only be hurting the sentiments of the people because traditions are one that are followed since ages. As long as the rituals are harmless and are respected by one and all, including the women, one cannot understand why the State Government must interfere at all. As a matter of fact real empowerment for women will not come when they break old traditions by entering the gates of a temple, where their entry has been banned. Our society will be enlightened only when it protects its women.

Suruchi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Smelling trouble in Uttar Pradesh

The collaboration of SP-BSP and troubles with its own allies have made matters worse for the BJP. But the party remains hopeful



KALYANI SHANKAR

It is often said that 'Uttar Pradesh is India and India is Uttar Pradesh.' A win in India's most populous State can prove to be a game-changer for any party, nationally, as it accounts for 80 out of the 545 parliamentary seats. Besides, Uttar Pradesh has gifted many Prime Ministers to our country. As the two foetured-friends — Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Samajwadi Party (SP) — inch closer towards a grand alliance in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, minus the Congress, the poll scene is becoming interesting. The Congress could still become a coalition partner if there is any breakthrough in alliance talks. But as of now, the two regional satraps want to keep the Congress out as it does not have a place in their scheme of things as yet. They want to win the maximum number of seats in their stronghold and take matters from there to a post-poll scenario to do the final bidding for the top job.

First, the SP and the BSP do not need the Congress which is a lightweight in that crucial State. Second, the Congress' votes are not transferable. Third, the SP feels that its experience of aligning with the Congress during the 2017 Assembly election did not work. Also, the Congress did not include the lone SP legislator in the recent Madhya Pradesh Cabinet. Though it was the Congress that had been stressing on the need to bring regional parties together to take on the BJP after its recent wins in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, it failed to honour the demands of smaller parties. Fourth, BSP supremo Mayawati is worried about some Dalit votes moving to the Congress' camp. She has made her political calculations keeping her party's interests in mind. Fifth, both parties feel that a three-cornered contest would benefit the alliance as it can stop the Congress' votes from going to the BJP in protest against the grand old party joining the alliance as the former's core voters are from Dalits, Other Backward Classes and minorities.

The grand alliance might include Aji Singh's Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and some smaller parties. The RLD, once strong amid sugarcane farmers of western Uttar Pradesh, has just begun to re-organise itself. The alliance is also trying to get Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party and the Krishna Patel faction of Apna Dal. Not only does the tie-up has arithmetic but also chemistry as the once bitter enemies — Mayawati and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav — are now on 'aunt and nephew' terms. In 2014, the BJP had a vote share of 42.63 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, while the SP-BSP combine got 42.19 per cent — its almost the same. With Mayawati winning 22.23 per cent of the votes even in 2017 and the SP securing 28.32 per cent, together, they polled over half of the total votes. If the Congress also joins the alliance, the combined vote share of the three parties will be more than that of the BJP's. There is a divided opinion in the Congress about it joining the alliance. This is in sharp contrast to 2017, when the party, in one voice, favoured a tie-up with the SP. One section feels that making the contest triangular is bound to hurt the BJP. The grand alliance might have a strategic understanding with the Congress to help each other.

But where does all of this leave the BJP? Experts say that it means the alliance might pick up about 50 seats. Then the BJP and the Congress would be left with 30 seats. The Congress could pick up two seats — that of the Gandhis and perhaps one or two more. The BJP can at best hope to get 24 or 25 seats. After the recent loss of three Hindi heartland States — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — it might lose another 30 seats. In other States, it might shed 20 seats. So, expectation is that the BJP could lose as many as 100 seats. The party would have to cover up the gap from other regions to reach the 282 mark that it won in the 2014 Lok Sabha poll. But how much can they make up in West Bengal, south and Odisha? Moreover, the BJP does not have any big alliance partner. The Telugu Desam Party has quit and the Shiv Sena is threatening to break alliance. The Peoples Democratic Party has left and the Akali Dal is disgruntled. About 18 smaller parties have left the NDA fold since 2014. However, the BJP does not agree with this analysis. They believe that the people will vote for Modi. The party is hopeful that with a strong leadership, effective communication, disciplined organisation, unlimited funds and a divided Opposition, it can make a comeback.

However, one can sense a certain degree of worry within the party. BJP chief Amit Shah is subdued and the top leadership is already on a course-correction mode. It will be looking for a new narrative in its national council meeting next week. But Modi can spring surprises. One week is said to be long in politics and three months is quite long to make any prediction. One thing is certain that the BJP will emerge as the single largest party with or without forming the Government.

(The writer is a senior political commentator)

I APPEAL TO THE EDUCATED YOUTH TO JOIN PDP AND HELP IN BRINGING THE PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR MISERY. ALL THE GARBAGE IN THE PARTY HAS GONE NOW. —PDP LEADER MEHBOOBA MUFTI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE PEOPLE, WHO WERE HONEST, DECENT AND HARDWORKING TILL THEY WORKED WITH HER (MUFTI) ARE DUBBED GARBAGE NOW. —NC LEADER OMAR ABDULLAH

Rabies threatens our lion

Progressive control pathways and procedures for international certification of rabies-free status should be established to save our wild cats from the madness syndrome



HARI SHANKER SINGH

If you thought that rabies concerned only dogs, then one must look back to the records at the King Edward Memorial Pasteur Institute and Medical Research Institute, Shillong. It had published a scientific article in 1950 recording two instances of a positive microscopic finding in the brain — evidence of rabies — of the Bengal tiger in Assam, the first in 1943 and the second in 1950. In the first case, the tiger severely mauled 18 people in just over 24 hours before it was killed but made no attempt to eat any of the victims. In the second case, the tiger terrorised the inhabitants of five or six villages and attacked 14 people, at least five heads of cattle and a dog, of whom one person and the dog were killed on the spot and two others died in hospital the following day. Subsequently, the animal was killed.

The rabies virus was found in both cases. And though these two cases were examined following complaints of unseemly behaviour, several others were ignored. A few cases of leopards dying ostensibly due to rabies were also reported in south India during the British period. The rabies-inflicted stray dogs, living on the boundaries of Kruger National Park in South Africa and other reserves, are threats to predators such as lions, leopards, hyena and wild dogs. Perhaps deaths of predators by rabies do not get the exposure they deserve. The veterinary advisor for the Siberian Tiger recommended the vaccination protocol for use in all wild tigers to save them from viral disease.

Four years ago, a similar behaviour was observed in two lions — first was a male lion in Gir on May 31, 2011, and the second was a young lioness in the Khamba range of the Gir forest on December 15, 2015. In both cases, the frenzied felines chased people and attacked a few of them, including the forest staff. The injured people were vaccinated and saved but both lions died within a few days. Symptoms like biting of tyres and frequent roaring in the daytime indicated the presence of rabies but cases were never examined to know the truth. The extent of damage by the fatal Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) attack, ostensibly a mutation or aggravation caused by the rabies virus, was taken seriously only when 23 lions died in September 2018 in the Gir forests.

In the past, deaths of the lion by virus attacks were detected but ignored because the number was not high. Unlike the lion, tigers or leopards do not live in groups. Thus, death of one or two of them at a site by the fatal disease was ignored. It was recorded as a natural disease but facts prove otherwise. Almost every other day, news reports cite the recovery of dead leopards, tigers, lions and several other carnivores from their habitats but the cases have never been examined by virologists to confirm the cause of deaths.

In a study, four concomitant incidents of rabies related deaths were recorded in Gujarat during 2012-2014. Brain samples were collected from two buffaloes, nilgai and mongoose and rabies virus was found in all of them. Further, the genetic relationship of these isolated specimens was determined and the rabies virus transmission among the wild and domestic mammals was established. In Deva village in Allahabad district, two cows and a young buffalo cub were bitten by a rabies-infected dog. All



“DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK, INCLUDING DOGS, CONSTITUTE MAJOR FOOD FOR WILD ANIMALS. CASES OF TIGER AND LEOPARD DEATHS ARE REPORTED FROM TIME-TO-TIME, BUT THE INSTITUTE ENGAGED IN THE FIELD OF WILDLIFE RESEARCH DOES NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO SUCH AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM”

died within two weeks. Finally, the dog was killed and the carcass was disposed off in a remote area of the village. What had happened to carnivores such as jackals and foxes, which consumed the carcass, is not known but the villagers confirmed that the carnivores had not been spotted. Why is it that the jackals are fast disappearing from the villages? Why are the hyenas becoming rare in the countryside? Why is it that the population of the wild dog (dhole) declined drastically in its habitats such as the Satpura Tiger Reserve and then recovered in a few years and again declined drastically? Is it due to the spread of rabies or any other virus? Has rabies' presence in the domestic dog caused the loss of wildlife in an unbelievable scale? Perhaps yes. Casualties of the major wild carnivores in India due to transmission of rabies, CDV, FIV or other viruses are high but it is impossible to provide facts about the scale of the crisis. After the lion deaths due to a CDV attack in the Gir forests, investigations indicated that like the African lions, the CDV and other viruses are present in some wild lions in the Gir forest. All of these become fatal when other diseases such as Babesia protozoa are transmitted from an unhealthy prey.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that rabies is a vaccine-preventable viral disease which occurs in more than 150 countries. Dogs are the source of a vast majority of human rabies deaths, contributing up to 99 per cent of all rabies transmis-

sions to humans. Human deaths due to rabies are known and have been well-documented but it is also primarily a disease of terrestrial mammals, including dogs, wolves, foxes, jackals, big cats (lions, leopards and tigers), mongooses, badgers, bats and monkeys. Rabies is endemic to India and accounts for 36 per cent of the world's human deaths due to this disease. The true burden of rabies in our country is not fully known; although as per a WHO report, it causes 18,000-20,000 deaths every year. Nobody knows how many wild carnivores die due to this disease. India had over 19.1 million domestic dogs in 2007 and a majority of them belonged to the category of feral or stray dogs. A substantial number of this forms the prey base for carnivores, especially for leopards, tigers, lions, hyenas, wolves and jackals.

In India, dogs play an important role in rabies transmission to wildlife. However, little is known about the role of wild animals in rabies transmission. As per a study in the US, the rabies disease unexpectedly re-emerged in wildlife. Rabies is a viral zoonosis associated with many species of carnivores, including cats, jackal, hyena and bats, which are the primary hosts of the Rabies virus. Although sporadic cases of rabies in wildlife have been documented across the African continent, convincing evidence for the circulation of rabies in populations of wild carnivores has been found only in south Africa, where wild canids, such as jackals and bat-eared foxes, are assumed to be primary hosts of the virus. Although

wolves, wild dogs, jackals and foxes are susceptible and readily succumb to the disease, they can disseminate the disease in other wildlife.

The carnivores — lion, tiger, leopard, hyena, wolf, and jackal — are susceptible to diseases as they largely prey upon domestic animals, including dogs and pigs which are a carrier of pathogens. Domestic livestock, including dogs, constitute major food for these wild animals. Cases of tiger and leopard deaths are reported from time-to-time, but the institute engaged in the field of wildlife research does not give priority to such an important problem. In the absence of adequate studies, it is difficult to assess deaths of wild carnivores due to rabies but it seems a major hurdle, although not accepted till date of wildlife conservation in India.

To eliminate rabies in wildlife, 'progressive control pathways' and procedures for international certification of rabies-free status should be established. To achieve this, wildlife managers should know the extent of the problem. The sample of every dead animal should be examined scientifically in institutes that deal with wildlife or virology. Institutes, too, need to focus on the scale of natural deaths rather than just concern themselves with environment impact assessment (EIA). It has taken us long to maintain a healthy population of the big cat. Let us not lose them to another threat.

(The writer is Member, National Board for Wildlife)

A diversified investment strategy

Dynamic asset allocation is the ideal way to invest. It helps one to strike a balance between associated risks and rewards. This strategy holds the potential to outshine all other forms of investments when market conditions remain volatile



HIMA BINDU KOTA

When it comes to investments, the adage, 'Don't put all your eggs in one basket', comes to mind. Diversification essentially means the strategic allocation of investments among different assets and their categories to spread the money around so that exposure to any one type of asset is limited. This helps manage risk and reduce volatility of portfolio over a period of time. One of the keys to successful investing is to learn the art of maintaining fine balance between comfort level and time horizon.

If one invests conservatively for retirement at a young age, he/she may run the risk of investment growth not keeping pace with inflation. Conversely, if one invests too aggres-

sively, when one is older, they may face a situation where their savings are exposed to market volatility. This can erode the value of their assets at an age when one has fewer opportunities to recoup losses.

One way to balance risk and reward in an investment portfolio is to diversify assets. Although diversification does not ensure profit or guarantee no losses, it may help mitigate risk. It does help in reducing the number and severity of ups and downs. Diversification does not aim to maximise returns but limits the impact of volatility on a portfolio. To better understand this concept let us look at the table along with this article which contains hypothetical portfolios with different asset allocations from 1926 to 2017.

The most aggressive portfolio shown in the table comprises 60 per cent domestic stocks, 25 per cent international stocks and 15 per cent bonds. It has an average annual return of 10.02 per cent. The best 12-month return stood at 134 per cent, while its worst 12-month

ASSET ALLOCATION OF DIFFERENT PORTFOLIOS

	Aggressive Growth	Balanced	Conservative
Average Annual Return	10.02%	8.05%	6.34%
Best 12-month return	134.46%	74.29%	30.76%
Worst 12-month return	-61.26%	-39.53%	-16.65%
Best 20-year return (annualised)	15.49%	13.65%	11.01%
Worst 20-year return (annualised)	2.54%	3.02%	2.95%

return lost nearly by 61 per cent. This is too much of volatility for investors to endure.

However, as we can see, a slight change in the asset allocation tightened the range of those swings. It is also clear that additional fixed income investments to a portfolio slightly reduces one's expectations for long-term returns. But this may significantly reduce the impact of market volatility. This is a trade-off many investors feel is worthwhile, particularly as they get older and more risk-averse.

Factoring time into diversification strategy: People are generally

accustomed to thinking about their savings in terms of goals —retirement, college, a down payment or a vacation. But as one builds and manages his/her asset allocation, regardless of which goal he/she is pursuing, there are two important things that must be considered: First, the time horizon ie the number of years when one would need the money back and second, attitude toward risk.

To take an example, a young adult may think of a goal that is 25 years away, like when he/she retires. Since the time horizon is fairly long, he/she may be willing to take addi-

tional risk in pursuit of long-term growth. The investor may be under the assumption that there's enough time in hand to regain lost ground in an event of short-term market decline. In that case, higher exposure to domestic stocks may be appropriate.

However, risk tolerance plays a crucial role here as well. Regardless of the time horizon, one should undertake risk with which he/she is comfortable. So even if one is saving for a long-term goal, or is more risk-averse, he/she may want to consider a more balanced portfolio with some fixed income investments. Regardless of the time horizon and risk tolerance, even if one is pursuing the most aggressive asset allocation model, he/she may want to consider including a fixed income component to help reduce overall volatility of the portfolio.

The other thing to remember about time horizon is that it keeps changing constantly. So, let's say one's retirement is 10 years away, he/she may want to re-allocate their asset to

help reduce exposure to higher-risk investments in favour of more conservative ones like bond or money market funds. This can help mitigate the impact of extreme market swings on portfolio, which is important when one needs the money relatively soon. Once they enter retirement, a large portion of the portfolio should be more stable. Lower-risk investments can potentially generate income. But even in retirement, diversification is key to help manage risks. So just as one should never be 100 per cent invested in stocks, it's probably a good idea to never be 100 per cent allocated in short-term investments if time horizon is greater than one year.

After all, even in retirement one needs exposure to growth-oriented investments to combat inflation and help ensure that the assets last for what could be a decades-long retirement. Regardless of the goal — time horizon or risk tolerance — a diversified portfolio is the foundation of any smart investment strategy.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)



BASTARDISATION OF THE OVERALL POLITY

Education was the immediate victim of the buffoonery and opportunism of the Sri Lankan leaders. The gradual deterioration of education also had predictable outcomes: It crowned the nincompoops as masters of universal knowledge. What hides the magnitude of the real problem is the reliance on tradition indicators like adult literacy rate, percentage of children of school age who attend primary and secondary school, et al.

(Daily Mirror editorial)

Sensex jumps 130 pts; banking stocks rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices ended higher for the third straight session on Tuesday on widespread buying in banking stocks towards the end of the day amid fresh inflows by foreign funds and positive global cues.

The BSE Sensex spurred 130.00 points to end at 35,980.93, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 30.35 points to 10,802.15.

Both indices traded in the negative zone through most part of the session as investors booked profits in recent gainers amid weakness in the rupee due to rise in global crude prices.

However, with the emergence of buying towards the close of the session, Sensex wiped off losses and hit a high of 36,037.35 before settling 0.36 per cent higher.

The index had rallied 336.45 points in the previous two straight sessions.

The 50-share NSE Nifty settled 0.28 per cent higher. Intra-day, it touched a low of 10,733.25 and a high of 10,818.45.

According to Hemang Jani, Head - Advisory, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, banking stocks remained in focus after the RBI governor Monday expressed satisfaction over the performance of the banking sector by saying bad loans have declined, particularly that of state-owned banks.

Also the sharp moderation in bond yields should significantly boost the treasury performance of the banking sec-

tor," he pointed out.

Market traded on a range-bound with a positive bias in which PSU banks led the gains on account of improving non-performing asset (NPA) resolution along with capital infusion and depressed valuation, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Investors have some caution ahead of corporate earnings and a hope over ongoing US and China trade meeting, he added.

Earlier in the session, investors logged gains ahead of Q3 earnings of bluechip companies such as TCS and Infosys later this week amid fresh weakness in the rupee which again breached the ₹70-mark against a dollar, traders said.

However, losses were capped on Central Statistics Office's positive advanced estimates of national income for 2018-19.

The domestic economy is expected to grow at 7.2 per cent in 2018-19 against 6.7 per cent in the previous fiscal mainly due to improvement in the performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors, the CSO had said on Monday.

In the Sensex kitty, Sun Pharma was the top gainer, surging 3.98 per cent; followed by private lender ICICI Bank 3.46 per cent ahead of earnings.

Shares of Tata Motors surged 2.34 per cent largely on reports of strong JLR UK sales. Other gainers include SBI, Yes Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj

Auto and IndusInd Bank, rising up to 3.18 per cent.

While losers include Kotak Bank, NTPC, HDFC, HUL, Bajaj Finance and M&M, falling up to 1.41 per cent.

Shares of Gruh Finance and Bandhan Bank tumbled Tuesday, with the former plunging 16.39 per cent following announcement of merger plans.

Fresh spell of buying by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) also buoyed trading sentiments, traders said.

Meanwhile, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought shares worth a net ₹736.18 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares to the tune of ₹141.97 crore, while on Monday, provisional data showed.

Among Sectoral indices, banktech took the top position by climbing 1.31 per cent, followed by healthcare 0.98 per cent, PSU 0.65 per cent, metal 0.58 per cent, auto 0.39 per cent, Infrastructure 0.19 per cent, FMCG 0.13 per cent and tech 0.02 per cent.

While, capital goods, power, consumer durables, IT and oil & gas indices ended lower up to 0.35 per cent.

The broader markets depicted a mixed trend with the small-cap index rising 0.17 per cent while mid-cap index fell 0.16 per cent.

Globally, Asian shares rose as investors were optimistic about trade talks between Washington and Beijing amid dovish remarks from the US Federal Reserve.

Undisclosed assets of ₹6K cr detected under foreign black money law

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Undisclosed assets totalling ₹6,000 crore have been detected under the foreign black money law enacted by the Government in 2015, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Further, as on October 31, 2018, 34 prosecution complaints have been filed under the foreign black money law.

"As an outcome of the actions taken by the Income Tax Department under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015' (The Black Money Act), as on October 31, 2018, undisclosed foreign assets and income valued at over ₹6,000 crore have been detected," Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Under the Act, a one-time compliance opportunity for a limited period was provided to those persons who have any foreign assets which have hitherto not been disclosed for the purposes of Income-tax.

In this compliance window, which closed on September 30, 2015, 648 declarations involving undisclosed foreign assets worth over ₹4,100 crore were made. An amount of over ₹2,470 crore has been collected by way of tax and penalty in such cases.

₹ tumbles 53 paise to 70.21 against USD on crude woes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Tuesday plunged by 53 paise to close at 70.21 against the US dollar amid renewed concerns over widening of current account deficit following constant rise in global crude oil prices.

Besides, strong demand for the American currency from importers also weakened the rupee performance. The US dollar's gains against major rival currencies yen, pound and euro too impacted the domestic currency market sentiments.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex) Tuesday, the rupee opened on a sluggish note at 69.83. It weakened further to hit a low of 70.23 (intra-day), before finally closing at 70.21, showing a loss of 53 paise.

This was the first loss for the Indian currency unit in three sessions. It had risen by 52 paise in the previous two trading days.

On Monday, the rupee had gained 4 paise to end at 69.68 against the US dollar.

The Brent crude, a global benchmark, was trading at 58.07 per barrel, up 1.29 per cent.



Business Corner



As part of National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-VII) a workshop titled "Marine Environment Protection" was inaugurated by Director General Rajendra Singh, PTM, TM, DGICG. This workshop is part of a three-day exercise that will consist of presentations by delegates from Bangladesh Coast Guard, Japanese Coast Guard, Korean Coast Guard, Sri Lankan Coast Guard, NIO, DG Shipping, ONGC, and Indian Coast Guard



Union MoS (IC) for Power, New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, released a book titled Smart Grid: Fundamentals & Applications co-authored by IS Jha, CMD, POWERGRID, Subir Sen, COO (CTU Ptg. and Smart Grid), Rajesh Kumar, Sr. DGM (Smart Grid), POWERGRID and renowned academician, Prof. DP Kothari

MSME loan NPAs improve to 8.5% in the yr to Sept '18: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

There has been a marginal improvement in bad loans among micro-small and medium enterprises (MSME) segment in the year to September 2018, a report said Tuesday.

The non-performing assets (NPAs) for both banks as well as the non-bank finance companies (NBFCs) from the 'micro' enterprises segment have improved to 8.5 per cent in September 2018 from the 8.7 per cent last year.

The report by state-run lender Sidbi and credit information company Transunion Cibil comes days after the Reserve Bank announced a special dispensation to restructure MSME loans because of heightened stress due to events such as the note ban and implementation of GST.

The same for the small and medium enterprises has improved to 11.3 per cent from the earlier 11.4 per cent.

Credit to the MSME segment as a whole grew 13.5 per cent, the quarterly report said.

The RBI had announced a forbearance for MSME loans up to ₹25 crore following pressure from the Government.

In a January 2 comment, domestic brokerage Kotak Securities had wondered about the timing of the MSME dispensation at a time when the banks are growing the portfolios rapidly, while other analysts had termed it regressive.

"We are quite surprised at the timing of the notification by the central bank. Lenders usually step back lending when the early warning indicators suggest rising trends of deterioration," the report said.

Meanwhile, the Cibil report said lenders may be erring on fresh borrower acquisition in the segment going by the stress in asset quality and need to be more attentive on this aspect.

Mistry was removed from Tata Sons without any intimation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cyrus Mistry was removed as chairman of Tata Sons without any prior intimation, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was told on Tuesday by two investment firms promoted by the Mistry family.

Senior advocate C A Sundaram representing the two firms said that removal of the chairman was not even on the agenda item of the board meeting of Tata Sons on October 24, 2016, when he was sacked.

"The agenda did not contain anything about removal of chairman," said Sundaram adding the proposal to remove him was brought "under any other item" of the meeting.

Questioning the order of the Mumbai bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in this, he said that it



treated removal of Cyrus Mistry as "nature of employment dispute".

Later Mistry was removed as director of all Tata group companies as the trustees had "written to all companies that if you do not remove him, we would take Tata brand name from you."

Concluding his arguments for the investment firms, Sundaram said: "In our opinion, he (Mistry) is the best man for us (to protect minority shareholders)." Janak Dwardkadas, who is representing Cyrus Mistry, in the matter has started his arguments and would continue on

Wednesday. Cyrus P Mistry has also moved NCLAT in his personal capacity against his removal. The Tata side was represented by senior advocates, including Harish Salve, Abhishek Manu Singhvi and others during the hearing. The Mistry camp had chal-

lenged the July 9 order of the Mumbai bench of the NCLT which dismissed the pleas against his removal as Tata Sons chairman, as also the allegations of rampant misconduct on part of Ratan Tata and the company's board.

A special bench of the tribunal had held that the board of directors at Tata Sons was "competent" to remove the executive chairperson of the company. The NCLT bench had also said that Mistry was ousted as chairman because the Tata Sons' Board and its majority shareholders had "lost confidence in him".

Under the Companies Act 2013, an order of NCLT can be challenged before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Mistry, who was the sixth chairman of Tata Sons, was ousted from the position in

October 2016. He had taken over as the chairman in 2012 after Ratan Tata announced his retirement.

Two months after his removal, Mistry's family-run firms approached the NCLT as minority shareholders, against Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, and some other board members.

Mistry in his pleas primarily argued that his removal was not in accordance with the Companies Act and that there was rampant mismanagement of affairs across Tata Sons.

He also alleged that Tata Trust chairperson Ratan Tata and trustee N Sonaalaya interfered with the day-to-day operations of the group companies, they acted as shadow directors, and all of the above caused massive revenue loss for the group.

US, China hold more trade talks overshadowed by Kim visit

AFP ■ BEIJING

US officials held a second day of trade talks with Chinese counterparts in Beijing on Tuesday, overshadowed by an unannounced visit from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

This is the first time the two sides have met face-to-face since President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed to a tariff truce during a meeting in Argentina on December 1.

The talks between the US delegation — led by Deputy US Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish and including officials from the Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture and Energy departments — and the Chinese side were still ongoing late Tuesday, a source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Negotiators are seeking to resolve a number of thorny issues that have threatened an all-out trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

These include more Chinese purchases of US goods and services to reduce a yawning trade gap, increased access to China's markets, stronger protection of intellectual property and a reduction in Beijing's subsidies.

Neither side has provided any details about the talks.

The temporary ceasefire came after the two sides imposed import duties on more than \$300 billion of each other's goods.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Monday that China's economy was more vulnerable to the fallout from the trade war.

Iran seeks Indian investments in fertilisers, petrochemicals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to boost ties with India, Iran welcomed investment proposals from the country in urea and petrochemicals and is willing to provide fertilisers at reasonable rates, an Iranian minister said Tuesday.

After meeting Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said India can look at investments in sectors like petrochemicals and fertilisers in the Chabahar area.

"We have offered discus-

sions in that area (urea) and we welcome proposals from India...India has been a customer for Iranian urea fertilisers for a long time.

"Because of the illegal US sanctions, the Indian consumer, the Indian farmers are paying 38 per cent more for the fertilisers and we have possibilities of providing that to India at a reasonable rate," Zarif said.

He said trade arrangement with the European Union (EU) was moving slower and Iran was working with its traditional partners like India, China and Russia to protect its interests.

"While we continue to work with Europeans on their special purpose vehicle, we are working with our traditional partners like India, China, Russia so that we continue to work in the interest of our people.

"Europeans have been trying...But they have not been able to do it as rapidly as we had expected them to do...We are in touch with Europe but we are not waiting for Europe..." Zarif said. In November last year, Iran said the EU must be given more time to set up a trade mechanism meant to circumvent imposed US sanctions on Tehran, but warned it could not "wait forever".

The EU is working on a payment system to continue trade and business ties with Iran after the US ditched a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran in 2018 and reintroduced a raft of sanctions on the country.

Corrigendum No.06 to E-tender No. 12/XEN/TS/SRS/ 2018-19 dated 10-09-2018

HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Shakti Bhawan, Sector-6, Panchkula.
CIN: U4010HR1997SGC033683

Online tenders are invited for: Creation of 2 Nos. 33kV line bay (Moju Ki Dhani & Kariwala approval Code: 3B30207 & 3B23467) at 132 KV Sub-Station Kariwala.

The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 25-01-2019 (13:00 Hrs.). Detailed NIT and tender document is available at website <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>, <https://www.hvnpn.org.in> (Sd) Executive Engineer TS Division HVPNL, Sirsa RO NO. 74692 Dt. 08-01-2019

NIFT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006)
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110016

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NIFT-DEL/Building/7513/2018 dated: 04.01.2019
NIFT invites Sealed Tenders for SITC of VRP Precision PWM Line conditioners in the electrical substation at NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-16 from reputed & eligible manufacturers/agencies. Detailed tender document can be downloaded from NIFT's website E-portal - <https://nift.eproc.in>

Earliest Money Deposit - ₹ 20000/-
Last Date of submission of tender - 24.01.2019 at 03:00 PM
Scheduled date of opening of tender - 24.01.2019 at 03:30 PM
Assistant Director (Bldg)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Chanchal**, D/o Raj Pal Sharma, R/o E-3/253, Shiv Ram Park, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped since Dated 16.12.2018. In this regard a FIR No. 817/18, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 17.12.2018 has been registered at Police Station - Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 16 years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 4'5", Face: Round, Clothing: Wearing grey colour Suit-Salwar, white colour Sweater and Chappeli in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cibi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cibi.gov.in
Ph.No.: 011-24368639
Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
DP/1748/OD/18 Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra - 390 007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See provision to rule 8 (6)]
Notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (in ₹)	Reserve Price (in ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (in ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Subhash Chandra Dhyani (Borrower), Meena Dhyani (Co-Borrower) (LBDEL00002004672)	Flat No 2103, Tower C, AVJ Heights, Plot No GH 12/2, Sector Zeta-1, Greater Noida, State-UP, Admeasuring Area 2400 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 90,81,269/- as on Dec. 27, 2018.	Rs. 58,00,000/-	Rs. 5,80,000/-	January 22, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM	January 31, 2019, From 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
2.	Seema Tyagi (Borrower), Deepak Tyagi (Co-Borrower) (LBGUR00001983799)	Flat No E 1803, AVJ Heights, Plot No Gh-12/2, Sector Zeta-1, Greater Noida, Admeasuring Area 1250 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 52,01,142/- As On 27-Dec-2018	Rs. 33,00,000/-	Rs. 3,30,000/-	January 22, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM	January 31, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM
3.	Jitendra Kumar Jaiswal (Borrower), Sangeeta (Co-Borrower) (LBDEL00001946929, LBDEL00001970023)	Flat No 1801, 18th floor, Tower1, AVJ Heights, Plot No GH 12/2, Sector Zeta-1, Greater Noida, State-UP, Admeasuring Area 1050 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 33,77,047/- as on 26-Dec-2018.	Rs. 22,80,000/-	Rs. 2,28,000/-	January 22, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM	January 31, 2019, From 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency **Shriram Automall India Ltd.** (URL Link - <https://eauctions.samil.in>). The Mortgagees/ Noticee are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **January 30, 2019**, before 5:00 P.M. failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F)) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at **ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055** or our marketing agents **Shriram Automall India Ltd** having their office at **2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034** on or before **January 30, 2019** before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised /Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile No. **8584874809/9650193259** of ICICI Bank Limited or **9910453434** of **Shriram Automall India Ltd.** The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons thereof. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at <https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties.page?>

Date : January 09, 2019
Place : Delhi

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

The Executive Engineer, Dharmanagar Division, PWD(R&B), Dharmanagar, North Tripura, invites e-tender against Press NIT No 23/EE/DD/2018-19 Dated: 28-12-2018.

For "Improvement of road from Nutanbazar to Gobindapur road via Pretyekroy H.S School road (L-4.00 KM)/SH: Patch soling, widening, metalling carpeting, including construction of toe walls (Job No.-TP/COM/112/2016-17) (2nd call)."

With Estimated cost : Rs.1,79,24,624.00
Earnest Money : Rs.1,79,246.00

Time of Completion - 06 (six) months .Last Date of bidding for bids:24-01-2019 upto 15.00Hrs.

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Dharmanagar Division, PWD(R&B)
ICA/C-2138/19 Dharmanagar, North Tripura

Jalan panel examines reserve size of RBI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level panel led by former RBI governor Bimal Jalan Tuesday held its first meeting to decide on an appropriate size of reserves that the central bank should maintain and the dividend it should give to the government.

The six-member panel is likely to submit its report in April, sources said.

The panel has been entrusted with the task of reviewing the best practices followed by central banks worldwide in making assessment and provisions for risks which a central bank balance sheets are subject to.

The panel having former economic affairs secretary Rakesh Mohan as its vice chairman will propose a suitable profit distribution policy taking into account all the

likely situations of RBI, including the situation of holding more provisions than required.

The government and RBI under previous governor Urjit Patel had been at loggerheads over the Rs 9.6 lakh crore surplus capital with the central bank.

The finance ministry was of the view that the buffer of 28 per cent of gross assets maintained by RBI is well above the global norm of around 14 per cent.

Following this, the RBI board in its meeting on November 19, 2018 decided to constitute a panel to examine Economic Capital Framework.

The committee also includes Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg and two members of RBI central board - Bharat Doshi and Sudhir Mankad. RBI Deputy Governor NS

Vishwanathan is the sixth member of the committee.

In the past, the issue of the ideal size of RBI's reserves has been examined by three committees - V Subrahmanyam (1997), Usha Thorat (2004) and YH Malegam (2013).

While the Subrahmanyam committee recommended that contingency reserve should be built up to 12 per cent, the Thorat committee said the reserve adequacy should be maintained at 18 per cent of the total assets. While the RBI board did not accept the views of the Thorat committee, it decided to go ahead with the recommendation of the Subrahmanyam panel. The Malegam committee recommended that adequate amount of profits should continue to be transferred each year to contingency reserves.

Housing sales rises 6% in 8 major cities in 2018: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales rose six per cent in 2018 in eight major cities as developers reduced prices and offered indirect discounts to lure customers, property consultant Knight Frank India said in its report released on Monday.

Sale of residential units increased in six cities - Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad; but declined in two cities - Kolkata and Pune.

Higher sales volumes resulted in drop in the number of unsold units by 11 per cent to nearly 4.7 lakh units. Compared with other property consultants, Knight Frank has reported lowest rise in housing sales during 2018 at 6 per cent.

JLL India said housing sales rose 47 per cent in seven cities, ANAROCK data suggested 16 per cent rise in seven cities, and PropTiger showed 25 per cent rise in nine big cities.

The difference in the figures is an account of variation in locations in the respective reports.

"An improving regulatory environment, reducing prices, indirect discounts and an increasing infusion of residential products that are more in tune with the homebuyers' preferences have culminated in a six per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in sales during 2018," Knight Frank India said. Sales volumes in 2018 were estimated to be 2,42,328 units as against 2,28,072 units in the previous year. Bengaluru saw the highest annual increase in sales of 27 per cent YoY in 2018, riding on the back of economic stability and job security, the report said. The NCR market saw sales improve by 8 per cent YoY in 2018, on the back of stronger sales traction in Noida and Greater Noida.

Sales declined in Kolkata (-10 per cent) and Pune (-1 per cent) in 2018, against 2017.

Nilekani panel to boost digital payments

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India Tuesday constituted a high-level committee under Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani to suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments in the country.

The five-member panel on deepening of digital payments has been constituted with a view to encourage digitalisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion through digitisation, the RBI said in a statement.

"The committee shall submit its report within a period of 90 days from the date of its first meeting," it added.

The panel has been tasked with reviewing the existing status of digitisation of payments in the country, identifying the current gaps in the ecosystem and suggesting ways to bridge them and assessing the current levels of digital payments in financial inclusion.

It will also "suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments... (and) a road map for increasing customer confidence and trust while accessing financial services through digital modes".

It has also been asked to undertake cross country analyses with a view to identify best practices that can be adopted in our country to accelerate

Royal Enfield chief quits

New Delhi: Royal Enfield, the two-wheeler arm of Eicher Motors, Tuesday announced a top management change following the resignation of its President Rudrathe Singh.

Eicher Motors CFO Lalit Malik will take on the additional interim responsibility of the Chief Commercial Officer with immediate effect, Royal Enfield said in a statement. Singh, who had joined the company in January 2015 to lead the commercial organisation, has decided to pursue opportunities outside of Royal Enfield owing to personal commitments, it added.

NIFTY 50

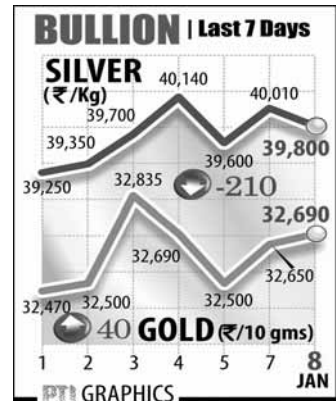
SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10786.25	10818.45	10733.25	10802.15
SUNPHARMA	433.80	449.00	432.35	448.75
ICICIBANK	367.80	381.80	366.60	379.30
SBIN	295.80	306.00	294.75	305.50
TATAMOTORS	176.10	180.50	176.10	179.95
YESBANK	188.00	193.20	185.00	191.80
AXISBANK	636.00	653.75	630.60	652.15
IBULHSGFIN	788.55	819.00	780.50	809.50
GRASIM	820.00	839.45	811.30	835.70
BAJAJ-AUTO	2667.00	2700.00	2655.50	2694.85
JSWSTEEL	290.10	295.85	288.10	293.45
INFRAEEL	292.70	300.40	290.00	297.15
INDUSINDOBK	1563.15	1588.00	1551.00	1577.00
VEDL	194.50	197.00	191.90	195.60
TATASTEEL	485.65	493.35	483.80	490.80
MARUTI	7380.00	7454.80	7322.10	7440.00
BHARTIARTL	323.75	331.75	323.25	328.00
ITC	282.00	285.50	281.35	283.90
BAJAJFINSV	2007.00	2007.00	2007.00	2007.00
DREDDY	2561.00	2586.85	2551.00	2571.30
IOC	133.60	134.20	132.70	133.95
ASIANPAINT	1401.00	1412.70	1395.50	1400.00
HCLTECH	948.00	948.00	933.10	944.10
TIHAN	942.00	950.00	938.55	946.50
TECHM	688.00	692.40	685.25	686.05
CIPLA	516.00	517.20	511.25	514.00
HERMOTOCO	2974.00	2995.00	2930.25	2957.20
EICHERMOT	1855.00	1865.00	1875.00	1880.00
WIPRO	325.00	327.50	323.65	326.60
IT	1387.50	1393.85	1375.00	1381.00
INFY	674.95	677.45	668.55	670.00
RELIANCE	1105.10	1109.95	1096.00	1101.00
TCS	1905.40	1906.40	1883.30	1891.00
ONGC	149.10	149.10	146.30	147.10
POWERGRID	197.90	198.50	195.80	197.35
COALINDIA	234.50	235.15	232.15	233.10
ADANIPT	383.00	383.00	375.75	379.10
HDFCBANK	2122.00	2123.50	2096.65	2102.90
HINDUNILVR	1792.00	1793.50	1761.10	1769.95
HDFC	1983.00	1983.00	1948.00	1955.15
ULTRACEMCO	3915.00	3943.45	3840.00	3893.35
BAJFINANCE	2560.00	2582.00	2525.05	2531.20
M&M	720.00	733.20	717.50	723.00
HINDALCO	208.50	209.55	205.30	206.40
GAIL	355.60	359.15	352.80	353.35
NTPC	148.00	149.50	146.00	147.60
HINDPETRO	249.50	249.70	246.40	247.60
BPL	35.10	35.90	35.00	35.65
KOTAKBANK	1243.00	1244.20	1225.95	1228.00
UPL	763.50	765.00	748.00	751.00
ZEE	462.50	463.80	448.75	449.10

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	2726.75	2779.50	2762.80	2768.10
AUROPHARMA	732.05	751.85	730.00	748.80
LUPIN	823.80	843.75	821.15	840.30
PGHL	9804.00	10250.00	9788.95	10000.00
LATHE	146.40	148.80	144.80	148.55
SAIL	600.00	626.90	600.00	612.90
SBILIFE	53.75	54.50	53.25	54.30
KRISFRANS	1177.00	1196.80	1165.80	1165.00
BIOCEN	621.05	634.00	618.35	628.00
ICICIPLR	322.70	325.30	320.00	324.45
PETRONET	215.00	220.50	215.00	219.80
PEL	2275.00	2334.95	2259.80	2305.45
DLF	179.80	182.80	178.55	181.35
MOTHERSUMI	157.00	159.50	155.15	155.25
OIL	176.75	177.65	174.00	175.85
IDEA	36.50	37.30	36.25	36.90
BANKBARODA	122.90	124.15	121.70	123.50
COLPAL	1385.40	1377.55	1325.00	1311.00
SUNTV	597.25	602.80	590.75	598.70
GICRE	263.60	265.00	261.80	265.00
LICHSGFIN	381.00	383.90	379.00	384.00
HDFCLIFE	26.10	26.10	25.85	26.00
CADILAHG	349.20	352.95	347.10	349.50
DMART	1573.30	1578.70	1563.05	1575.00
ABB	2107.00	2109.05	2092.00	2100.00
AMBUJACEM	137.10	219.65	215.20	216.40
NMDC	95.10	95.85	94.20	94.75
CONCOR	684.00	694.00	677.25	679.50
PIDILITIND	1103.00	1108.00	1092.60	1099.90
ACC	1484.00	1487.50	1468.40	1474.00
ICICI	809.00	877.90	861.00	863.10
INDIGO	1189.00	1128.35	1101.00	1110.35
NIACL	179.45	180.20	178.05	178.90
ARCAPITAL	97.70	98.60	97.15	97.20
ASHOKLEY	93.20	94.15	92.45	93.05
HINDZINC	273.05	275.85	272.10	273.10
BEL	91.50	91.85	90.05	90.80
OFSS	3599.00	3617.00	3566.10	3571.00
DABUR	422.35	422.50	414.00	417.40
MRF	6670.00	6697.00	6626.00	6649.00
BOSCHLTD	1952.00	1954.40	1925.30	1930.90
SIEMENS	1062.00	1067.00	1050.00	1057.00
SHERCEM	1841.20	1888.80	1861.00	1870.00
IRIDIUM	365.15	391.40	380.25	381.85
BHEL	62.70	72.25	71.00	71.30
MCDOWELL-N	70.90	610.45	598.20	599.50
BRITANNIA	3155.00	3155.00	3080.00	3098.00
GODREJCP	801.00	804.90	775.20	780.15
HAVELLS	694.00	696.90	667.05	668.85
BANDHANBNK	482.00	501.00	471.00	479.70

BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP
RCOM	13.78	14.15	13.67	14.01
GRUH	276.00	283.00	253.05	256.00
BANDHANBNK	482.00	500.70	470.85	477.05
YESBANK	188.00	194.20	185.00	192.30
SUZLON	5.36	5.44	5.32	5.39
SBIN	295.00	305.80	294.70	305.10
ICICIBANK	367.90	381.60	366.75	380.20
SUNPHARMA	431.95	448.20	431.95	447.15
IBULHSGFIN	789.50	817.85	780.00	812.70
AXISBANK	635.50	653.90	630.70	650.90
VEDL	194.00	197.10	192.05	195.70
TATAMOTORS	176.30	180.50	176.10	179.35
TATAELXSI	974.00	990.50	960.10	973.35
HINDALCO	208.00	209.50	205.30	206.40
NBCC	62.70	63.25	61.85	62.45
DHFL	230.30	232.30	226.65	231.10
ASHOKLEY	93.50	94.15	92.30	93.10
RELIANCE	1106.35	1109.90	1096.10	1103.95
HDFC	2007.00	2007.00	1948.20	1955.00
PCJEWELLER	81.20	83.50	78.65	82.65
IOC	133.60	134.20	132.70	133.95
EICHERMOT	1956.00	2059.90	1978.65	2009.15
HCLTECH	948.00	948.00	933.10	944.10
HFLCL	21.30	24.15	21.30	23.90
LT	1384.25	1394.60	1371.10	1381.90
TATASTEEL	486.00	493.40	484.10	491.35
PAGEIND	21997.85	23095.00	21649.95	22396.85
MARUTI	7385.00	7456.25	7320.00	7421.35
JINDALSTEEL	152.85	158.10	150.70	157.60
BAJFINANCE	2545.05	2581.95	2526.50	2535.05
BELM	912.00	926.00	905.55	916.55
RELCAPITAL	217.00	222.45	215.80	221.60
AUROPHARMA	730.00	750.00	730.00	746.35
CGPOWER	44.65	47.25	44.20	46.45
M&M	721.65	733.00	718.25	724.55
VGUARD	208.55	209.40	198.00	208.10



SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP
PNB	80.60	81.95	79.70	81.50
UNIONBANK	90.65	95.25	90.00	94.45
ADANIPAPER	50.15	52.60	49.75	51.50
JPASSOCIAT	7.55	7.66	7.46	7.61
INDIACEM	89.60	91.5		

UN examining Saudi woman's asylum bid

AFP ■ BANGKOK

The asylum claim of a Saudi woman who resisted deportation from Thailand will take several days to assess, the UN said on Tuesday, as the 18-year-old's family, who she accuses of abusing her, was due to arrive in Bangkok.

Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun arrived at Bangkok's main airport on a flight from Kuwait after running away from her family, who she alleges subjected her to physical and psychological abuse.

Qunun said she planned to seek asylum in Australia, fearing she would be killed if sent back by Thai immigration officials who stopped her at the airport on Sunday. Saudi Arabia's human rights record has been under heavy scrutiny since the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi last year.

Initially, Thai authorities said Qunun would be sent back to Saudi Arabia. But as her plight pinballed across social media — including tweets about how she had barricaded herself in a hotel room — they abruptly changed course and allowed her to leave the airport Monday in the care of the UN's refugee agency.

The UNHCR said it was "very grateful" officials did not send Qunun back against her

Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun arrived at Bangkok's main airport on a flight from Kuwait after running away from her family, who she alleges subjected her to physical and psychological abuse

"It could take several days to process the case and determine next steps," the UNHCR representative in Thailand, Giuseppe de Vicentiis, said in a statement.

Thailand is not a signatory to a UN convention on refugees, and asylum seekers are typically deported or wait years to be resettled in third countries.

The UNHCR insists anyone with an asylum claim should not be sent back to the country they fled under the principle of non-refoulement.

In a short press release distributed to media outside their embassy in Bangkok on Tuesday, the Saudi Government said it had not demanded her deportation, adding the case is a "family affair", but under the "care and attention" of the embassy.

In an earlier and separate explanation released on Twitter, the embassy also denied sending officials to Suvarnabhumi airport to meet Qunun as she arrived via Kuwait or

impounding her passport - as she alleged.

It also said the embassy had made contact with her father, a senior regional government official in the kingdom, "to inform him on her situation".

Thai immigration chief Surachate Hakparn told reporters that Qunun's father and brother were due in Thailand later on Tuesday.

He said he would talk to the UN refugee agency about the potential of a meeting between the family members.

"Rahaf is not a political asylum case," he insisted. "It is not political at all." Ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia has some of the world's toughest restrictions on women, including a guardianship system that allows male family members to make decisions on behalf of female relatives.

Qunun has said she believes she will be imprisoned or killed if sent back, and that her family is so strict it once locked her in a room for six months for cutting her hair.

Under the hashtag #SaveRahaf, the young woman's desperate pleas became a social media sensation, and she was able to post live updates and videos from the Bangkok airport in both Arabic and English, racking up more than 80,000 followers.

Australia to 'carefully consider' Saudi woman's plea

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Australia on Tuesday vowed to consider an 18-year-old Saudi woman's plea for asylum, further easing fears she could be forcibly returned home.

Rahaf Mohammed Al-Qunun's desperate bid to reach Australia will be "carefully considered" if the United Nations deems she is at risk, an official told AFP. Qunun, fleeing alleged abuse by her conservative family, says she tried to reach Australia on a tourist visa.

But she was stopped en route by authorities in Thailand at the request of the Saudi government, which demanded the woman return to her family.

Qunun barricaded herself in a Bangkok airport hotel room, refusing to leave and posting determined calls for asylum on social media to draw attention to her plight.

She is currently being assessed by the UN's refugee agency.

Human rights activists had expressed concerns that Australia's government — which takes a hard line on immigration — may revoke her tourist visa.

The official did not confirm or deny if the visa had been revoked, but said it would make no difference to her bid



to reach Australia.

"Any application by Ms Al-Qunun for a humanitarian visa will be carefully considered once the UNHCR process has concluded," the official said.

"Whether someone holds a visitor visa does not have a bearing on this process." Australia had quietly pressed authorities in Thailand to grant the UN access to Qunun, and now wants the matter dealt with quickly.

"The Government has made representations to the Thai government and the Bangkok office of the UNHCR about its serious concerns on this matter and the need for Ms Al-Qunun's claim to be assessed expeditiously," the official said.

UK rules out Brexit extension as May seeks EU help on deal

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The British government on Tuesday ruled out seeking an extension to the two-year period taking the country out of the European Union as Prime Minister Theresa May continued to seek further concessions from the EU ahead of a crucial parliamentary vote next week on her Brexit deal.

In a move that has massive trade, business and political implications, Britain will leave the EU on March 29 when the two-year period that governs the process by which a country can leave the bloc times out, the so-called Article 50 of the EU's governing treaty.

Without a withdrawal agreement, Britain faces the prospect of crashing out of the bloc on that date with no deal, a development that could see tariffs slapped on British exports to the EU, widespread disruption at ports and shortages of food and pharmaceuticals.

As things stand May does not appear to have the numbers to win the support of enough lawmakers for the Brexit deal that she forged with the EU last November. And that's raised concerns of a "no-deal" Brexit and prompted talk of an extension to the two-year process or even another referendum on Britain's membership of the EU.

"Article 50 will not be extended. We are leaving the EU on the 29th of March this year, because that's what Article



Britain's Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt arrives for a cabinet meeting in Downing street in London on Tuesday

50 says, that's what Parliament voted for, and that's now what domestic British legislation says as well," Britain's minister of state for exiting the EU, Martin Callanan, told reporters in Brussels.

Britain can request an extension to the Brexit procedure, but all 27 other EU countries must agree, and the bloc's leaders said last month that they would need good reasons to prolong it. Officials have said a second Brexit referendum could be one good reason to do so.

May is set to put the deal to lawmakers next week, and has been in talks with several EU leaders about fresh guarantees. She postponed a scheduled vote on the deal in December after it became clear she would lose.

France insisted Tuesday that the EU can only offer political reassurances to help May persuade reluctant lawmakers to accept the Brexit deal.

French European affairs minister Nathalie Loiseau urged reluctant British lawmakers to back the deal, which lays out things like Britain's future financial obligations, the rights of citizens hit by Brexit and steps to keep goods flowing freely across the Irish border.

"We really need to have a ratification of the withdrawal agreement. This is the best solution for both parties," Loiseau told reporters.

Any help for May to convince parliament, Loiseau said, would amount to "political assurances, but there is nothing more that we can do."

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a male (depicted in the photo) namely **Lalit Raghav S/o Chander Pal R/o C-22/23, JJ Colony, Khyala, New Delhi** Age - 60 Years has been reported missing since 19.12.2018 at 07:30 pm vide **DD No. 36A dated 20.12.2018** lodged at Police Station- Khyala, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Pink Colour Pant and Grey Colour Jacket. Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing male, kindly inform **SHO : Khyala at E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in** **Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641** **Fax No. : 11-24368639**

SHO: Khyala, New Delhi
011-28335696
28335686

DP/8051WD/18

Govt. of Punjab

EOI Notice No. PAU/SPO/IGA/2019/6040 Dated: 07-01-2019
The Department of Store Purchase Organisation, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana invites online e-tender for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Dynamic Balancing Machine (Rotor Balancer)	1 No.
2	Rice Dehusker	1 No.

Closing date and time: 29-01-2019 upto 11:00 A.M.
For details login to: www.eproc.punjab.gov.in and www.pnu.edu.
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the EOI Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Admn-cum- Accounts Officer,
Store Purchase Organisation,
P.A.U. Ludhiana.

DPR/1JAN19C-3874 Dt. 07-01-2019

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY

(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006)
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110016

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NIFT-DEL/Building/7245/2018 dated : 04.01.2019
NIFT invites Sealed Tenders for UPS supply work at NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi -16 from reputed & eligible manufacturers/agencies. Detailed tender document can be downloaded from NIFT's website E-portal - <https://nift.eproc.in>

Earnest Money Deposit - ₹ 15000/-
Last Date of submission of tender - 23.01.2019 at 03:00 PM
Scheduled date of opening of tender - 23.01.2019 at 03:30 PM

Assistant Director (Bldg)

AXIS BANK

Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001. Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, L-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida(UPI-201301) Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad: BF-1A, 2/3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Nili Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201012. Retail Asset Centre Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec.16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002. Retail Asset Centre Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. ASG, Gurgaon, SO-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009. Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(1)(f) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates:

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
1. Mr. Rajnish Singh Karki S/o. Johar Karki Proprietor of M/S Rajnish Karki Associates Plot No. 13, Block No. L-1/13 Hauz Khas Enclave New Delhi (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagee)	Immovable Asset - A Residential House admeasuring 625 Sq. yds. (52.57 Sq. Mts.) bearing Property No. 13, Block-L-1, Entire Ground Floor, Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi and bounded as under: East: PLOT No. L-1/14, 15 & 16, West: L-1/5 & 6, North: Road, South: L-1/4	29-Aug-18	5-Jan-19
2. Mrs. Manisha Rajnish Karki R/O-Plot No - 13, L-1/13, Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi-110016			
Also At: Mrs. Manisha Rajnish Karki B-102, Glen Gate, Hiranandani Gardens Powai, Mumbai-400076			
Amount	Rs.1075257/- SME OD & In Rs.26,109,068/- Home Loan Total		
Demand	Amount Due - Rs.71,84,325/- till 29-Aug-2018. Plus Future Interest, incidental expenses and cost		
Notice	(Rs.)		

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 09-Jan-2019, Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Place: Delhi, Axis Bank Ltd.

GLOBE TROTTER

20 INJURED IN BEIJING SCHOOL ATTACK

Beijing: A disgruntled maintenance worker at a primary school here attacked and injured 20 students with a hammer on Tuesday, according to authorities. The attack took place at the Beijing No.1 Affiliated Elementary School of Xuanwu Normal School in Xicheng district just after 11.15 a.m., the police said on their official Weibo account.

1 DEAD AFTER OIL TANKER BLAZE OFF HONG KONG

Hong Kong: One man was killed and two others declared missing after an oil tanker caught fire while it was being refuelled off Hong Kong on Tuesday.

STRONG QUAKE HITS NEAR SOUTHERN JAPAN

Tokyo: A strong earthquake has hit near southern Japan, shaking buildings, but there are no immediate reports of injuries or damage. No tsunami is expected. The US Geological Survey said the quake struck Tuesday evening and had a preliminary magnitude of 6.3.

EU in talks with US over embassy 'downgrade'

Brussels: The European Union said Tuesday it is in talks with US officials after President Donald Trump's administration reportedly "downgraded" the bloc's embassy in Washington, in the latest blow to transatlantic relations.

The US State Department lowered the EU mission's diplomatic status from member state to international organisation late last year, according to a report by German broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

The move apparently only came to light when the EU ambassador in Washington did not receive an invitation to the funeral of former US president George H.W. Bush in December, DW reported.

"We understand that there was a recent change in the way the diplomatic precedence list is implemented by the United States' Protocol," Maja Kocijancic, spokeswoman for the European Commission's diplomatic service.

Kim Jong-un arrives in China for talks

PTI ■ BEIJING

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un arrived in China on Tuesday on an unannounced visit, in an apparent effort to co-ordinate with his major ally ahead of a possible second summit with US President Donald Trump over denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Kim, accompanied by his wife Ri Sol-ju and senior officials including Kim Yong-chol - his right-hand man in diplomatic negotiations with the US and South Korea, arrived in Beijing on his private train.

He is visiting China from January 7 to 10 at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

While official media gave few details, Beijing witnessed familiar traffic snarls like during Kim's previous visits during which traffic on the main thoroughfares were blocked for his convoy to pass.

The reclusive North Korean leader visited China thrice last year to meet with Xi before and after his first summit with Trump in Singapore in June last.

He came again, this time on his 36th birthday, in an apparent effort to co-ordinate with his only major ally ahead of a possible second summit with Trump over denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Erdogan not to meet Trump aide in apparent snub

AP ■ ANKARA

US National Security Adviser John Bolton is set to depart Turkey without meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in an apparent snub over disagreements about Kurdish fighters in Syria.

A US official had said over the weekend that the two were expected to have consultations on Tuesday about the fate of Kurds allied with the United States in Syria as part of discussions about President Donald Trump's troop draw-down from the country.

National Security Council spokesman Garrett Marquis said US Officials were told Erdogan cited local election season and a speech to parliament for not meeting with Bolton.

In the speech to parliament Tuesday, Erdogan criticized the U.S. Position that the Kurds must be protected, reiterating his government's position that they are a terrorist group.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Turkey's preparations for a new military offensive against terror groups in Syria are "to a large extent" complete.

Govt. of Bihar

BMSICL Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
4th floor State Building Construction Corporation Limited
Hospital Road, Shastrri Nagar, Patna 800023,
Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287, + 91612 2283288
Mo. No- 8544402312, 9971559020

Re-Tender (Notice Inviting E-Bids)

Re-Tender for the Procurement, Rate Contract and Supply of Medical Equipment for different Govt. Health Institution of Bihar.
Notice Inviting Re-Tender No.-BMSICL/2018-19/ME-112 Dated: January 2019
(Only through E-Tender on website: www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites e-bids from interested parties for Procurement, Rate Contract and supply of Medical Equipment for different Government Health Institution of Bihar.

Sl. no.	Name of Equipment	Sl. no.	Name of Equipment
1	Oxygen Concentrator	6	Food Trolley
2	Suction Machine	7	Autoclave
3	Nebulizer	8	Foetal Doppler
4	Needle Cutter & Destroyer	9	Phototherapy
5	ETO Sterilizer	10	Transport Incubator

Tender Schedule

Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2018-19/ME-112
Date and time for downloading of bid document	11 th January 2019 from 10:00 Hrs. to 01 st February 2019 till 17:00 Hrs.
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	18 th January 2019 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL, 4 th Floor State Building Construction Corporation Limited, Hospital Road, Shastrri Nagar.
Last date and time of submission of online bids	06 th February 2019 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original documents of EMD, Document Fee and technical bid.	06 th February 2019 till 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	08 th February 2019 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of www.eproc.bihar.gov.in in the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of financial Bids	To be announced later on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Rupees only) Non-refundable.
Bid Processing Fee	Rs 1180/-

- To participate in E-Tendering the tenderer will have to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this help desk first floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road no.- 25, Sri Krishna Nagar Patna-800020, Tele Phone no.-0612-2523006, Mobile No.-7542028164 can be approached.
- Any queries and questions regarding the tender should be addressed to MD BMSICL (either through letter or through e-mail:- md-bmsicl-bih@nic.in and/or bmsicl.equipment@gmail.com or contact no. 0612-2219634/35) up to 7 days before of closing of online bid registration.

Note- Changes suggested by prospective bidder in Pre-Bid meeting may be incorporated in the tender document at the sole discretion of the tender inviting authority and for which corrigendum will be issued separately and uploaded on the website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in as well as on the official website of BMSICL. For further details please visit website www.prbihar.gov.in

GM (Procurement)
BMSICL, Patna

PR. No. 14561 (NI NI) 2018-19
आओ मिलकर बढ़ाएँ कदम, दहेज न लेंगे, ठान लें हम!

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara - 390 007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kuria Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., 2nd floor Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Notice for sale of immovable property

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (In ₹)	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Mr. Gurinder Singh Sahni, (Borrower) Rajinder Kaur, Jot Impex Pvt Ltd (Co-Borrower) (LBDEL0000 2352381/ LBGUR0000 2380237)	DPT 632 6th Floor, Prime Tower Plot 79 And 80, Okhla Phase I, New Delhi, Delhi 110020 and measuring area 801 Sq Ft. Carpet Area is 485 sq feet	Rs. 10,256,466/- (As on December 28, 2018)	Rs. 85,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Five Lacs)	Rs. 8,50,000	January 15, 2019 From 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM	January 31, 2019 From 12:00 PM onwards
2.	Mr. Gurinder Singh Sahni Rajinder Kaur, Jot Impex Pvt Ltd (Co-borrower) (LBDEL0000 2352373/ LBGUR0000 2380239)	DPT 633 6th Floor, Prime Tower Plot 79 And 80, Okhla Phase I, New Delhi, Delhi 110020 and measuring area 759 Sq Ft. Carpet Area is 475 Sq feet	Rs. 10734730/- (As on December 28, 2018)	Rs. 83,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty three lacs)	Rs. 8,30,000	January 15, 2019 From 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM	January 31, 2019 From 12:00 PM onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency **Shriram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - "https://eauctions.samil.in")**. The Mortgagee/ Noticee are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **January 30, 2019 before 5:00 P.M** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F)) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at **ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055** or our marketing agents **Shriram Automall India Ltd** having their office at **2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034** on or before **January 30, 2019 before 5:00 P.M.** The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised / Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. **8584874809/9650193259** of ICICI Bank Limited or **9910453434** of Shriram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons therefor.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at <https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties.page?>

Date : January 09, 2019
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



2019 will be the year of data science, Internet of things, skill development, innovation based technologies, talent analytics, automation, block chain technologies, advanced IT & smart courses, says DR TP SETHUMADHAVAN

In the era of digitalisation, skill will be the deciding factor to improve the employability of educated/ unemployed youths. Without appropriate skill, it will be difficult to sustain in the career market.

Digitalisation, E commerce, food processing, health services, ayurveda, yoga, accounting, banking, financial and insurance services will show robust growth in the country. Umpteen opportunities will be created in accounting, logistics, supply chain management, retail management, network media, digital marketing, e-banking and mobile banking in the country. For productive employment and decent work, we need to work for opportunities for new skills and new sectors.

Technical, supervisory, managerial and customised skill development programmes will attain popularity. National level skill universities may emerge which will facilitate lots of transformations in the job market.

During 2018, Make in India, Digital India and Skill India can't create envisaged employment opportunities in manufacturing, information and communication technology and skill development in the country. Realising the shortfall, Government of India may facilitate to create more employment opportunities as part of pre-election home work.

INDIA'S ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

India has been ranked as the 58th most competitive economy in the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018. Its competitive advantage includes market size (rank third), innovation capability (rank 31) and business dynamism with ranking of 58.

More investments will be necessary to spur innovation beyond hubs of excellence and diffuse economic growth more broadly. Indian companies can access the third largest market in the world and would benefit from increased trade openness to drive productivity growth.

Separation of EU from UK as a sequel to Brexit will become reality during 2019 even though a lot of apprehensions exist in this sector. Indians top the list of overstayers in UK according to Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth office. Globally, Britain and India are looking at opportunities for co-operation with India beyond Brexit.

According to the report by the Centre for Sustainable Employment of Azim Premji University, 10 per cent increase in GDP results in less than one per cent increase in employment. The rate of unemployment among the youth and higher educated has touched 16 per cent. Indian economy will overtake Britain's economy during 2019. Half of the world's population will become online during 2019. India's GDP growth will attain 7.6 per cent.

McKinsey studies reveal that there will be increased participation of women in the economy which would increase the GDP. India Skills 2019 report suggests that hiring

REPORT CARD 2019

of women is expected to go up by 15 to 20 per cent especially in the banking, financial services, insurance, automotive, IT, software, hospitality, travel and tourism sectors.

CAREER & JOB PROSPECTS

Agribusiness, veterinary science, fisheries technology, food processing, dairy technology, food technology, poultry product technology, post harvest technology, high value agriculture, environmental science, logistics, supply chain management, courses related to packaging, nanoscience, organic/natural farming will be the focus areas during 2019.

Services sector will create more than 67 per cent employment opportunities in the country. New Year will exhibit spectacular growth employee recruitment and 11-15 per cent increase in salary hike. Net employment outlook will be reduced during the first two quarters in India. There will be stagnation in 2019 first two quarters in India due to general election. But gradually it will increase to three percentage points higher than the previous quarter.

Retail sector in rural, tier two and tier three cities will exhibit double digit growth in sales and employment. Healthcare, textile and IT sectors exhibit only single digit growth in sales and employment. Packaging industry will generate more employment.

Hospitality, tourism, retail, supply chain, logistics and agri business management sectors will exhibit higher growth rate similar to 2018 in 2019. There will be more takers for retail management, hospitality management, hotel management, airline and airport management and transport management courses.

Aviation and Cyber security will generate more employment opportunities. Automation, machine learning and block chain technology will decide the future of work as suggested by ILO which will start replacing the traditional sectors. By 2022, nine per cent workforce would be in new jobs which do not exist today.

Around 37 per cent would be in jobs which will radically change the skill sets. About 21 per cent of workforce will face existential threat. Around 20-25 per cent jobs will be in organised sector and the share of organised sector will reach 10 per cent from the current 8 per cent level. Thus, organised

workforce will be around 46 to 48 million by 2022.

Courses like English, economics, social sciences, customised psychology programmes, foreign languages, developmental studies, embryology, public administration, media studies, paramedical courses like physiotherapy, optometry, nursing, audiology and speech language pathology, nutrition and dietetics will attract more students.

ADVANCE IT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will become the motive force for the fourth industrial revolution. AI, big data, automation and quantum computing could fundamentally alter the economic progress. Data science and machine learning are some of the emerging sectors which can create lot of employment opportunities. Skills in cloud services, big data analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence are going to be critical for the data science professional.

Data scientist, data analyst, data architect, data statistician, ML engineer, ML Specialist, technical architect and data engineer are some of the most popular roles in which they can work. Digital services sector will show robust growth in the year to come.

Gartner studies suggest that 75 per cent of the 10 lakhs registered companies' jobs in India are going to invest in machine learning and data science. Traditional companies started acquiring digital companies in India. Banking and financial services are in the forefront with almost 44 per cent of jobs falling in the domain commerce has also emerged as the largest market for data science professionals which account for 12 per cent of the analytics jobs in 2019. Other sectors where data science professionals are in demand are healthcare (12 per cent), energy (eight per cent), telecom (six per cent) and media (six per cent).

AUTOMOBILE & ENGINEERING

By 2030 more number of electric or hybrid vehicles will be commercially available across the world. Integrated courses like mechatronics, embedded computing, system design, automobile engineering, biomedical sciences, bio informatics, developmental sciences, humanities and social sciences will acquire more importance.

Global move to reduce the use of fossil fuels like petrol and diesel will pave way for electric, solar or hybrid vehicles which in turn facilitate spectacular growth in automobile design and engineering. There will be more takers for students aspiring for integrated post graduate courses and interdisciplinary research in the country.

Manufacturing sector, which is providing only 14 per cent employment opportunities, can create up to 25 per cent employment opportunities in 2019. Construction and infrastructure sectors will create more employment opportunities which can facilitate architecture, civil, mechanical, electrical and electronics, elec-

tronics and communication, computer, IT and biomedical engineering. Core engineering graduates require skill development programmes as part of value addition to get appropriate job positions. Green technology will emerge as one of the potential sectors in India giving due initiatives to improve quality of air we breathe and clean, affordable & reliable sources of energy.

POWER & ENERGY

Decentralisation, digitisation and decarbonisation will emerge as new technologies in the energy sector. The industry will see proliferation of solar and wind sector. The energy companies will be increasingly concerned with the sources and quality of services it provides with innovations in tune with the technological interventions. A digital network is beginning to connect distributed systems of energy.

Water, sanitation, waste management, energy, roof top electricity systems, prefab technology and infrastructure are emerging as the prospective areas. Next generation infrastructure revolution will improve efficiencies, drive growth, offer citizens homes, work places, transport systems and utilities.

Government of India is aiming to commercially introduce 5G services in the country by the end of 2020 in line with the world. Internet connectivity would become much faster and would form the backbone of the emerging era of Internet of things. The transition from 4G to 5G will serve both consumers and multiple industries.

Ericsson report reveals that it will enable 27 \$ billion revenue opportunity for Indian telecom operators by 2026. Education, healthcare, innovation in design and engineering including development of high tech metro rail systems will generate more employment opportunities in 2019.

Legal framework set for use of drones will create more opportunities in mapping like GIS, GPS, GST, surveying and photography. Government has approved full digital ecosystem for granting permission to use drones. This will facilitate opportunities in precision agriculture, aviation sector and start-up industry.

FOOD INDUSTRY

At a time when prospects for ready to eat and ready to cook products are emerging across the world, food processing sector will exhibit annual growth rate of 20-25 per cent in the country. Food outsourcing will improve and food market will emerge as 55 per cent of retail market during 2019.

LOGISTICS

Air cargo business will exhibit a growth of 12.9 per cent in the coming year to achieve National Civil Aviation Policy vision of reaching 10 million tons cargo volume by 2027. According to the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) studies, it will generate more employment in tier two and tier three

cities where domestic cargo terminals are on the verge of expansion. The ASSOCHAM suggested to implement a rating system for cargo terminals in line with Airport Service Quality ratings which will create lot of opportunities in infrastructure, facilities and logistics.

HEALTHCARE

As part of AYUSH, Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Sidha and Homeopathy courses will attract more number of students. Ayurveda will globally emerge as one of the most wanted courses in the years to come.

Telemedicine will be one of the growing sectors in the coming year and will create employment opportunities in rural areas. Through 2.5 lakh service centers it will train 80 crores of people in the rural areas of 32 countries. Government of India has identified Singapore start-up RING as the nodal agency for Telemedicine.

ART & DESIGN

Fashion industry will exhibit spectacular growth during 2019. Online shops will attain more than 50 per cent of the market. Moreover, AI will help online shoppers to assess fit and shape more accurately. Amazon, Flipkart will add 80000 jobs in e-commerce sector.

Art and design will create a lot of employment opportunities globally. There will be a rise in the number of students aspiring for footwear design, fashion technology, apparel design, fashion design, furniture design, fashion communication, knitwear design, jewellery design and bachelor of design programmes of Footwear Institute of India, National Institute of Design, National Institute of Fashion technology and Indian Institute of Technologies will increase during the year 2019.

BANKING, FINANCE, MANAGEMENT

Banking recruitment will increase during 2019. The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) had already called for probationary officer/ clerical or specialist officer cadre.

Advertising will show an additional annual growth of two per cent during 2019. Chartered accountant, ICWAI, chartered institute of Management accountant programme, Chartered management accountant, CIMA global, Asset management, Risk assessment, financial analyst, actuarial science, project management and ACCA programme will attract more students. Combined accounting course with GST compliant courses will emerge from ISDC, UK which can create more employment opportunities.

Prospects for commerce, business studies, management programmes, international business, trade related courses, intellectual property rights and patent law will attain more importance at post graduate and doctoral level studies. Courses related to performing arts, visual communication, business economics, business communication and android development, will create more job opportunities.

Start-up: In tune with the growth in 2018, India will continue to emerge as the third largest start-up ecosystem in the World. Barriers to start business will come down but entrepreneurship will regain.

Entrepreneurs will also include new mothers who want more time at home and 75 per cent more females than males prefer working from home. Students will try to become employers after establishing start-ups in ICT, agri-allied, food processing, education and other services sectors.

FOREIGN EDUCATION

Substantial changes will be witnessed in the trends in overseas education during 2019. The United States will give priority to advanced degree holders from the US Universities for H1B visa will benefit Indian students. This will facilitate more students to pursue for graduate programmes in the US.

Brexit will be implemented during first half of 2019 and will promote overseas education opportunities for EU and UK. Career opportunity in UK will be improved further. UK may relax ban on post study work visa ban as a sequel to National skill and education policy.

Germany and France may witness economic recession and will affect international students. But Macron's reforms will try to correct some of the challenges faced as a sequel to recession. Overseas students will prefer India for higher education.

China will implement novel programmes in AI, Robotics, IOT and Analytics. Technology, Entrepreneurship, start-ups and skill development are some of the areas where India is exhibiting spectacular growth. The US, Canada, Australia and Singapore will again emerge as the potential destinations for Indian students. The US's pay structure for employees working under H1B visa and the recent sops will attract more Indian students. But US may witness economic recession during second half of 2019. Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, France, Germany and Ireland will continue to give post study work visa up to two years.

The writer is an educational and career consultant and director, UL Education

A Bachelor of Architecture graduate from Hyderabad secured 98.97 percentile. In the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2018, results of which were released on Saturday (January 5, 2019). VNS Juhi Vallabh, who took a gap year after graduation to prepare for the test, said she concentrated more on basics to crack the test.

"I joined a coaching institute and gave my 100 per cent during the preparation. I took about 20 mock tests and used the results of these exams to make changes in my preparation. Google was another tool which I used to clear the doubts that I had," said Juhi adding that she was strong in English, but had to concentrate more on Maths as the subject was missing in Bachelor of Architecture.

Juhi, a resident of Nallakunta,

Hyderabad girl bells the CAT



I joined a coaching institute and gave my 100 per cent during the prep. I took about 20 mock tests and used the results of these exams to make changes in my preparation. Google was another tool which I used to clear the doubts

said she wants to specialise in marketing in MBA (Master of Business Administration) and is no more interested in architecture.

"While studying BArch, I realised that I'm more interested in the management side of marketing. Also, during the summer vacation, I started helping my dad who is into media marketing and really liked what he is doing. That's when I decided that I want to pursue MBA," Juhi added.

Till Class XII, Juhi studied in Hyderabad and then moved to Madhya Pradesh to pursue graduation from School of Planning and Architecture in Bhopal and graduated in May 2018.

In total, 11 candidates secured 100 percentile this year from across the country. All the students belong to engineering or technology stream.

Atal Tinkering labs

With a vision to 'Cultivate one million children in India as Neoteric Innovators', Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), housed at NITI Aayog, is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India. The objective of this scheme is to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, physical computing etc.

Leadership Foundation, has created the Ethical Leadership in Tinkering and Innovation (ELTI) module to inculcate the ethics and values that form the bedrock of innovation for social good in young minds of the ATL network. The module makes use of activities to provide students a framework to promote hands-on learning and tinkering with students in India. The ELTI module is rolled out to ATLs and can be accessed online at http://aim.gov.in/pdf/ATL_ELTI_Module.pdf

This experiential programme includes hands-on activities that are both challenging and thought-provoking, aiming at reigniting conversations on the code of conduct and ethics in innovation, and taking decisive action to combat challenges in a sustained manner. The module is aimed at ATL-in-charges/ teachers/mentors who would follow it to teach the students about ethical leadership skills. The module has been created in Do-It-Yourself mode so that students can themselves conduct the activities and self-learn.

One are the days when Indian students either opted for engineering or medical after the completing high school. Today's generation is not shying away from taking the road less travelled. Unlike yesteryears, they now have a pool of options to choose from depending upon their personal interests and skill sets.

This trend has also caught on with individuals studying overseas. The 2018 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange reveals that Indian and other international students in the US are turning to off-beat courses.

While traditional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses continue to be their top preferences, some specialised courses like Robotics, Automation and Mechatronics are witnessing an increasing demand and will gain popularity this year.

ROBOTICS

Thanks to the rapid progress of AI (Artificial Intelligence), robots are no longer considered dumb-machines that are only capable of doing simple, repetitive tasks. With the arrival of humanoids like Sophia and SoftBank's Pepper, robots have made huge leaps in recent years. Simultaneously, the career options for students who specialise in robotics has expanded.

From doing research work to designing industrial robots, they can get the opportunity to work in a variety of industries. Therefore, the number of students opting for courses related to robotics is likely to go up in 2019.

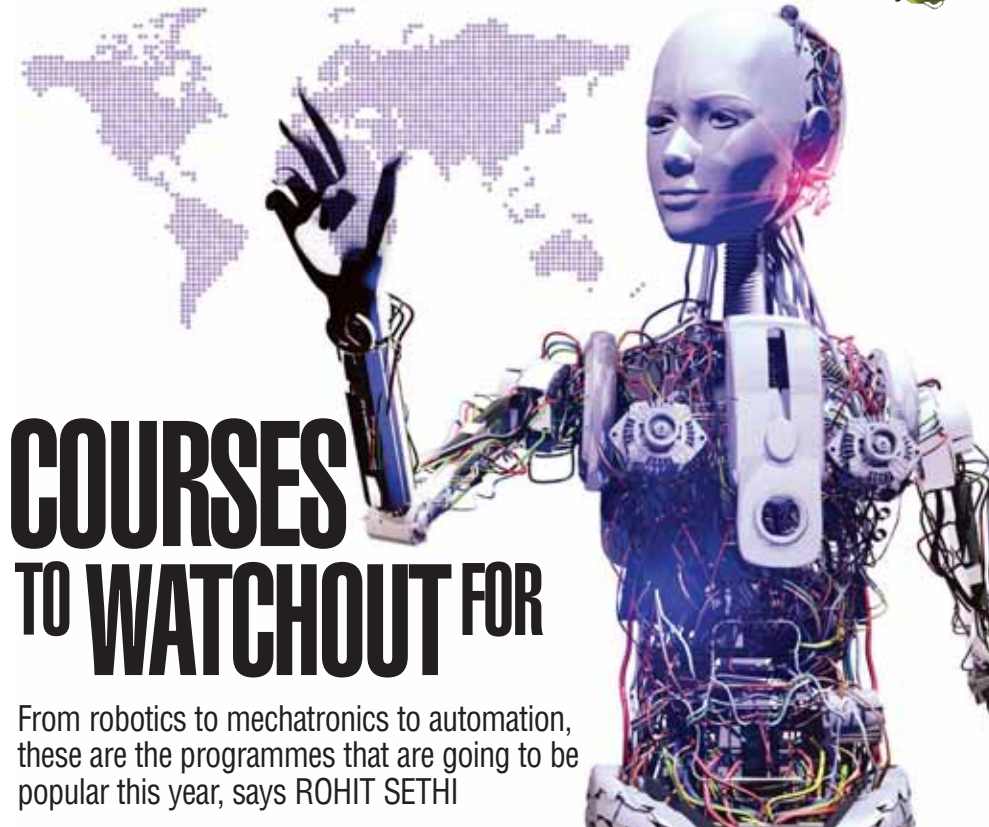
AUTOMATION

With the fourth industry revolution upon us, automation has already started making profound impacts on the business world. Be it manufacturing, automotive or retail, nearly every sector is now investing heavily on automating tasks that are tedious, repetitive and dangerous.

As traditional job roles are evolving, the demand for automation experts is growing by the day. This explains why a large number of international students are now inclining towards automation courses. Other than automation engineering, certification courses in industrial automation are also expected to take off next year.

MECHATRONICS

Mechatronics is a fairly new branch of engineering that has caught the attention of students off late. As described on Stanford University's online portal, it is at the intersection of mechanical engineering, electronic engineering and software engineering. Mechatronics engineering focuses on technologies involved in building intelligent electro-mechanical systems. After completion of their course, graduates can look for work opportunities in various areas including automation and robotics, AI and expert systems, sensing and control systems, computer integrated manufacturing systems, and transportation and vehicular systems. Since it's a specialised field, only a few universities at pre-



COURSES TO WATCHOUT FOR

From robotics to mechatronics to automation, these are the programmes that are going to be popular this year, says ROHIT SETHI



WHILE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH COURSES CONTINUE TO BE TOP PREFERENCES, SOME SPECIALISED & OFF-BEAT COURSES WILL SEE A RISE

sent, offer this course in undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

DISABILITY PROGRAMMES

According to a World Bank report, a billion people across the world live some form of disability. At a time, when people of disabilities make for the 15 per cent of the global population, the demand for disability support workers is on a rapid rise in many countries. In Australia, for example, the Healthcare and Social Assistance sector is speculated to grow by 16.1% by 2025, creating as many as 2,50,500 new jobs. Students with a degree in disability programmes can find a wide range of jobs.

Be it a speech therapist or a full-time caregiver, the options are plenty. Students can also decide to work for Government bodies after graduation. Most medical schools in popular study destinations offer specialised courses in disability care.

INFECTION CONTROL

Another course that is tipped to gain popularity in 2019 is infection control. This specialised field of study prepares students to work in an array of settings such as hospitals, healthcare facilities, Government departments, private labs among others. While only a handful of universities offer regular courses in infection control, students can go for certificate courses or part-time programmes. In most countries, however, they need to get a license before they start their professional life.

Students are also getting lured by other interdisciplinary programmes like Geophysics, Marine Engineering, Game Design and Development, says the 2018 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange.

When it comes to Indians, the scenario is not much different. Although the majority of them still prefer to choose a safe career path, popularity for unconventional courses are slowly growing.

The writer is the director at ESS Global

HR trends 2019

The HR trends that will take centrestage this year are personalised employed engagement among others, says ANCHAL KHANNA

It's New Year and there will be HR practices that will be trending in 2019. Some of the projections for 2018 like as personalised employee engagement and more intense use of AI will continue to gain momentum next year, but some new trends are likely to take centerstage because of defining events that took place in the past year.

Recognise and reduce unconscious Bias: As the call for equal opportunity and equal pay for equal work done gains steam, Indian companies and MNCs alike are trying to put in place policies that are more inclusive. Diversity and inclusion is no longer a catch phrase but very much an important agenda for the Indian corporate world. This includes using technology for blind hiring, sensitising all employees and more inclusive onboarding processes. Much more effort will be directed towards improving diversity in the workplace, maybe even setting diversity goals as part of their talent acquisition process.

Employee wellness made more comprehensive: Corporates have begun to realise how much employee wellness contributes towards the bottom line. When employees are stress free and happy they are much more productive. Companies will need to put in place creative strategies to ensure that the well-being of their workforce is holistic.

The definition of wellness needs to expand to include not just physical well-being, but also mental, financial and spiritual wellness. Tracking wellness on phones, wearable devices, customising wellness experiences, introducing stress regulation training, mindfulness and meditation, offering programmes that help employees with investments to reduce debt or maintain a certain lifestyle post retirement will become some of the focus areas of employee wellness.

A relook at implementing PoSH in the workplace: In the light of the #MeToo movement companies will want to sensitize and train employees to be fully compliant with the requirements of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act of 2013. Organisations will want to have their PoSH policy in place — from creating awareness about the meaning of sexual harassment, to forming the internal complaints committee, and promoting a safe working environment.



Anchal Khanna
CEO, SHRM India

Greater emphasis on Employee Development: As India continues to be among the fastest growing economies in the world, attracting and retaining talent will become crucial. Indian companies recognise that and are putting more and more emphasis on upskilling and developing their employees.

They are using unique approaches to arrive at this goal — providing portals that enable self-learning and development, including development in their performance management systems, partnering with well-known academic institutions to build skills and develop leaders, etc.

Homegrown HR solutions providers: There's been a spike in companies that provide locally developed HR solutions specific for the Indian economy. While SAP and Oracle have a significant presence, smaller vendors with indigenously developed software are finding their place in the burgeoning HR technology market. If the data protection legislation comes into force in India, it will only fuel this growth more.

The field is experiencing a wave of innovations which will transform the way we practice it from now on.

The good news for job-seekers, there will be an increase in average hiring volume from 25% in 2018 to 31% in 2019.

Hiring will be a trend in all the key sectors like Technology, BFSI, Healthcare, Manufacturing and Retail.

However, as per the survey results, the top 3 sectors that will do high-volume hiring (more than 500+ employees annually) would be BFSI, IT & Retail. In BFSI sector around 42% of companies will hire more than 500+ employees in 2019. And in IT sector 33% of organizations will hire around 500+ employees this year.

The top three functions that will see maximum hiring in 2019 would be:

- Sales
- Technology

Organisations, globally, are widening up to this fact and increasingly looking for talent that is learning agile and can continue to perform and keep with the changing job role demands in the present and future. Learning agility will be the second most in-demand skill for organisations during Hiring in 2019," Ketan Kapoor, CEO, Mercer-Mettl says.

In 2019, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses will remain on the top of popular courses choice among the students in every country, as it has rapidly evolved from just being popular in the United States. Furthermore, STEM courses do provide numerous technological

MINDIT

advancements in the world, the reason many students opt for them.

"We are expecting to see a rise in specialised courses such as Robotics, Automation, Mechatronics, Disability programmes, and Infection control courses. All countries will be favoured in 2019, but it depends upon the need of the students," says Rohit Sethi, director, ESS Global.

For instance: The UK is getting quite popular for one year Master's programme among international students. Whereas, Germany has seen a rise in Engineering

graduates. Talking about countries like Australia and Canada, they will be the leading countries among the study abroad aspirants due to a huge range of programmes and stay back opportunities.

With cutting-edge technologies like AI and machine learning becoming more and more integral to business operations in the IT/ITES sector, the demand for professionals with evolved, tech-led skillsets will only increase further in 2019.

Expertise in areas such as data compliance and cybersecurity will also be



much sought-after, given how critical data privacy and information security have become in the global business discourse. I also foresee organisations collaborating with reputed online learning platforms such as

ShineLearning.com to undertake large-scale upskilling and reskilling of their in-house talent.

"This skills-centric approach will benefit both the employers and the employees; while recruiters will be able to seamlessly address the growing demand for skills within their organisations, professionals can access significantly better career opportunities by upgrading their existing skillsets. With rapid technological advancement paving the way for a high-growth, high-value jobs ecosystem, we can expect continuous learning, unlearning, and relearning to become the motto of the new-age workforce," Zairus Master, CEO, Shine.com opines.



The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is offering Indian students the opportunity of a scholarship award up to £4,000 towards the cost of their tuition fees for each year of the undergraduate and postgraduate courses in International Relations and Diplomacy.

This is applicable to the full-time programmes beginning in September 2019. Courses: MSc Diplomacy & International Security, MSc European Politics, MSc International Relations, MSc International Relations, Law & Security, MSc Public Policy, MSc Politics, MSc Political Research.

Eligibility: To be eligible, applicants must: Be a resident in India, Be available to commence their academic studies by the start of the academic year in September 2019, Be applying for a full-time undergraduate or post-graduate programme, Some scholarships have restrictions on other funding you can accept. This means you have to decide which scholarship to accept. For any University of Strathclyde award you are successful in applying for, you will receive the higher award only. For more information:

Hass-pg-enquiries@strath.ac.uk. Application deadline: August 30, 2019.

The Dalarna University is offering up to 20 international student scholarships. Scholarships are available for UG or Master's programme.

Eligibility: Scholarships are only available for students admitted to a degree program taught at Dalarna University. Priority is given to applicants for a full-degree program (on-campus) who have been selected in the first selection round at university admissions.se. There is no age limit; however, you are not eligible for the scholarships if you are already a student in the programme in question. Scholarships are available to applicants who are required to pay tuition fees for full-time temporary studies at Dalarna University. **English language requirements:** English B/6 (IELTS – 6.5, no test below 5.5, TOEFL Internet: 90, TWE 20) at the Swedish upper-secondary school is the minimum requirement.

How to apply: Visit university website: Log in to your account there and upload the following documents: CV and One reference letter (written by a current/former teacher or employer).

Application deadline: March 1, 2019 for Autumn and September 30, 2019 for Spring.

STUDY CENTRES

With more and more people looking for alternative medicine treatment, the options are growing by leap and bounds in this field. One such field is magnetic therapy — a natural and painless treatment with no side effects. It involves knowledge about the human body, various diseases and their treatment by using magnets. A magnetic therapist can find employment in private/public hospitals, naturopathy hospitals or alternative treatment therapy centres. The minimum qualification for getting admission to certificate, degree and diploma courses in magnet therapy is 10+2 and graduation for PG courses. A few colleges where one can study are:

- **Bihar Acupressure Yoga College, Patna.** Course: Bachelor of Magneto Therapy
- **Holy Angels College of Alternative Medicines, Mumbai.** Course: Bachelor of Magneto Therapy
- **All India Alternative Medical Council, Nainital.** Course: Bachelor of Magneto Therapy
- **All India Paramedical Technology and Alternative Medicine Council, Ludhiana.** Course: Bachelor of Magneto Therapy
- **Acupressure Health Mart, New Delhi, Kolkata, Raipur.** Course: Master Diploma in Magnet Therapy



OPERATIONS AT MANKIND PHARMA

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/17269
Application deadline: January 17, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT FUTURE GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/17270
Application deadline: January 17, 2019

MARKETING AT TREE AND YOU

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3,000-₹5,000 /Month
Link: internshala.com/i/17271
Application deadline: January 17, 2019

CREATIVE DESIGN AT SCRAPLABS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/17272
Application deadline: January 18, 2019

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT ASPEN ADVENTURES

Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹3,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/17273
Application deadline: January 20, 2019

DATA ANALYSIS AT NARVAR

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹30,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/17274
Application deadline: January 17, 2019

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT PROACE INTERNATIONAL

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹9,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/17275
Application deadline: January 18, 2019

IN BRIEF

AMRITA SINGS MOU WITH INDIAN NAVY

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy for academic and research collaboration in the field of aerospace, anti-submarine warfare, cyber security, management, and medical research. The MoU would encompass collaborative research and development in all possible areas of mutual interest and

strength, including M.Tech and PhD programmes for naval officers. Speaking at the occasion C Parameswaran, Director, Corporate and Industry Relations, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore said: "This is a historic moment. This is the first time that the Indian Navy has signed an MOU with a private university. Our scientists and researchers eagerly look forward to doing cutting-edge research with the officers to help strengthen the country's defenses."

ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME

The Indian School of Public Policy invites applications for the first round of admissions for its flagship programme in Policy, Design and Management. Designed for aspiring public policy

managers, practitioners and administrators, the programme will ground students in a strong policy foundation, and arm them with core skills in policy design, implementation, management and

assessment. The last date to submit application (first round) is January 15, 2019.

The first session will commence from August 2019 at the programme campus in Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Internshala, in collaboration with Aniket Singh, the author of 'Intern Abroad This Summer' series of books, has launched the 'Aniket Singh Summer Internship Program'. Through this program, students can avail once in a lifetime summer internship opportunities at three top academic institutes - University of Southampton, UK, IISc Bangalore, and IIT Gandhinagar with full scholarship of up to ₹2 lakhs. Any engineering student, across disciplines, can apply to the internships from January 5-11,

2019. Aniket Singh is an IIT Madras alumnus and is working at Apple Inc in California, US. He has been working towards making top research internships in the world more accessible for Indian students. He is also the author of 'Intern Abroad This Summer' series, which outlines how to find and score top research internships in the world. For details, visit: <https://internshala.com/aniket-singh-summer-internship-program>

IELTS CHANGES

The Nursing and Midwifery Council in the UK has announced changes to its English language proficiency requirements for overseas nurses and midwives wishing to work in the UK. Under the change, nurses and midwives wishing to work in the UK will still be required to achieve a minimum overall score of 7.0 in IELTS. However, a 6.5 score in the writing section of the test will be accepted alongside a 7.0 score in each of the Reading, Listening and Speaking sections of the test.

Commenting on the announcement, Michael King, Managing Director, BC Examinations and English Services India, Pvt Ltd said: "The British Council is committed to creating opportunities for people to succeed in India and across the world. We look forward to continue providing support and guidance to those nurses and midwives looking to work in the UK."

CAT'S CALL PREDICTOR

Shiksha has launched one of the first ever IIM & non-IIM Call Predictor featuring 250-plus colleges across India at its portal for MBA aspirants. The CAT 2018 results are already out. There are about 1.5 lakh CAT takers, who will start filling application for the colleges based on their performance.

The newly launched tool will help students to shortlist which colleges they may get based on the CAT score and focus on the preparation for their qualitative round. There are numerous factors that influence the college selection. With the Call Predictor, candidates can take a quick decision.

Wolves throw Liverpool out of FA Cup

Goals from Raul Jimenez and Neves sent the hosts into fourth round



Wolverhampton's Ruben Neves, left, celebrates after scoring his sides second goal during the English FA Cup third round match against Liverpool at the Molineux Stadium

AFP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp believes an early injury to defender Dejan Lovren highlighted why he chose to name a second-string side in bowing out of the FA Cup 2-1 to Wolves on Monday.

Klopp made nine changes to the side that lost narrowly for the first time in the Premier League this season to Manchester City on Thursday, with Lovren one of only two players to retain their place.

However, the Croatian pulled up with a hamstring injury after just six minutes and was replaced by 16-year-old Ki-Jana Hoever.

"Hamstring, is what I heard - without any signs before," said

Klopp on what forced Lovren off. "I asked everybody, no signs, nothing, just out of the blue, so that's the decision you have to make."

"I am not sure what you all would have said if immediately from the beginning if our centre-half situation was Fabinho and Ki-Jana; then probably a few very smart people would tell me that I don't respect the competition or whatever."

Goals from Raul Jimenez and Ruben Neves either side of half-time sent the hosts into round four, where they will face Shrewsbury or Stoke City, despite Divock Origi's fine strike briefly bringing Liverpool level after the break.

Arsenal to host Man Utd in 4th round

LONDON: The FA Cup's two most successful ever sides will meet in the fourth round as Arsenal host Manchester United in the last 32, Monday's draw confirmed. Premier League champions Manchester City are at home to

Burnley, while Tottenham face a tough trip to Crystal Palace. Chelsea have an easier task with Sheffield Wednesday or Luton to travel to Stamford Bridge. Wolves' reward for beating L'pool is a trip to either Shrewsbury or Stoke. AFP

Hoever's introduction meant Liverpool fielded three teenagers for the majority of the match with Rafael Camacho and Curtis Jones also handed debuts.

However it was the visitors' most experienced player, Milner, who was at fault for the opening goal when Diogo Jota caught the former England international in

possession in midfield and put Jimenez clean through for the Mexican to score his seventh goal of the season.

Without Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, Liverpool were struggling to get any momentum going forward.

But the visitors were level out

of nothing when Origi collected a loose ball on the edge of the area six minutes into the second period and smashed the ball high past John Ruddy.

Wolves, though, have made a habit of upsetting the Premier League's established top six in their first season back in the top flight.

After beating Chelsea and Tottenham and holding City, Manchester United and Arsenal in the Premier League, Liverpool can now be added to the list of scalps for Nuno Espirito Santo's side thanks to a wonder strike from Neves.

"He has talent, he has done it before and we encourage him to shoot from range," said Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo. "It was a good strike." Only a brilliant save from Ruddy denied Xherdan Shaqiri a stunning equaliser and Liverpool a replay as the Swiss's free-kick was touched onto the inside of the post by the Wolves goalkeeper. Klopp had a final roll of the dice by throwing on Salah and Firmino for the final 20 minutes, but even their firepower failed to spark a fightback and Klopp's team selection will now be seriously questioned as he is still to deliver a trophy in his four seasons in charge.

However, with Liverpool still in pole position to deliver a first league title in 29 years, the German coach defended his selection to minimise the chance of his stars suffering injuries.

"We played a similar line-up and had three tough games in the last couple of weeks, so it was clear we had to change," Klopp added after a run of four Premier League games in 13 days over the festive period.

"The intensity of the last few games gave me the information it was not possible to start with these three up front. Only Dejan played a lot of games in the last three or four weeks, pretty much all the games...He played today and was injured."



Stephens, Kvitova advance in Sydney

AFP ■ SYDNEY

World number five Sloane Stephens battled back from the brink of a shock defeat to a qualifier on Tuesday to join two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova in round two of the Sydney International.

Less than a week before the Australian Open — the season's first Grand Slam — the American was twice two points away from losing to 72nd-ranked Ekaterina Alexandrova, who had the former US Open champion on the ropes.

Alexandrova won the first set to love and was serving for the match and two points away from victory in the second set. But Stephens somehow rallied to win 0-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/3).

"I was, like, it's not going to get any worse than this," Stephens said of the first set.

"So it was like I might as well just play."

"Obviously she was playing well. Sometimes when you play a player that's just playing like that, there is not much you can do."

Earlier, Kvitova avenged her US Open defeat to in-form Aryna Sabalenka.

The Czech, who slumped to 29 in the world after being attacked in her home by a knife-wielding man

in 2016, has battled back to number eight and was encouraged by her 6-1, 7-5 win over the Belarusian.

Sabalenka is a form player, racing to number 11 in the world after a stellar 2018 and starting the year by winning the Shenzhen Open.

There was no such joy for 2017 French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko, whose poor form continued in a 6-3, 6-3 defeat to Australia's Ash Barty, who is rewarded with a second-round clash against world number one Simona Halep.

After picking up a thigh injury at the Hopman Cup, Garbine Muguruza — another major winner — safely negotiated her first-round encounter with fellow Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro 6-3, 6-4.

Last year Muguruza was the top seed and world No 2, but 12 months on she is unseeded and down to 18.

In the men's draw Australian teenager Alex De Minaur, a finalist last year, continued his preparations for the Australian Open with a 6-4 6-3 win over Dusan Lajovic.

Towering Americans Sam Querrey and Reilly Opelka are also through to the next round.

SINGLES

PAK RESCHEDULES KABBADI SERIES

KARACHI: The Tri-nation Kabbadi International series involving India, Pakistan and Iran was rescheduled after the organisers on Tuesday failed to get security clearance for the inaugural matches in Jhang. The organizers said that the series was scheduled to start from Tuesday with a clash between Pakistan and Indian teams at Jhang but the tournament will now be held from January 10 to 14. "We didn't get security clearance from the interior ministry and now the event will start from January 10th from Bahawalpur and continue in Sahawal and end in Lahore on the 14th," the organisers said.

EGYPT TO HOST AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

DAKAR: Egypt will host the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations between June 15 and July 13, Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Ahmad Ahmad announced on Tuesday. The CAF executive committee preferred Egypt to South Africa as replacements for original hosts Cameroon, who were dropped due to delays in preparations and concerns over security. It will be the fifth time Egypt stage the biennial showpiece of African football after 1959, when the country was called the United Arab Republic, 1974, 1986 and 2006. Egypt only entered the running to host the Cup of Nations when fellow north African country Morocco announced they would not bid to do so.

WEAH JOINS CELTIC ON LOAN FROM PSG

PARIS: Scottish champions Celtic reinforced their striking options on Monday with the signing of USA international Timothy Weah on loan from Paris Saint-Germain for the rest of the season. Son of 1995 Ballon d'Or winner and Liberian president George Weah, the 18-year-old has scored two goals in three appearances for PSG this season but saw his opportunities limited by a star front three of Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani. "He has a long career ahead of him but he has those natural attributes in terms of his pace and technique. He's hungry too," Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers told the club's website.

KROOS FACING 3-WEEK INJURY LAYOFF

MADRID: Spanish football giants Real Madrid have announced that their German midfielder Toni Kroos faces three weeks on the sidelines after tearing his left hamstring. Kroos will miss both legs of the club's Copa del Rey tie against Leganes as well as La Liga matches against Real Betis and Sevilla. The 2014 World Cup winner, who celebrated his 29th birthday last Friday, has played 14 league matches so far this season, contributing one assist. Real Madrid have been beset with injuries since the beginning of the 2018-19 season, and are currently languishing in 5th place in La Liga.

RAMKUMAR, ANKITA MAKE WINNING START

MELBOURNE: India's Ramkumar Ramanathan and Ankita Raina recorded straight sets victories to make a promising start at the Australian Open qualifiers but Karman Kaur Thandi went down fighting in the first round here on Tuesday. Seeded 21st, Ramkumar knocked out Spain's Sergio Guterrez-Ferrol 6-3, 6-2 in his men's singles opening round. Appearing in her third Grand Slam Qualifiers, Ankita (ranked 205) got the better of Myrtille Georges (ranked 238) from France 6-2, 6-2 in her opening round.

Mumbai on brink of maiden win

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Hosts Mumbai, who are already out of contention for a quarter-final berth, are on the cusp of registering their first win of the season against Chhattisgarh in their Elite Group A game.

At the end of day two of the four-day game at the Wankhede Stadium, the 41-time champions needed 14 runs more to notch a consolation victory.

Mumbai ended the second day at 77 for 0 in their second innings, chasing a target of 91, with their openers Jay Bista (36 not out) and Vikrant Auti (32 not out) at the crease.

Mumbai, who had bundled out the opposition for 129 in the first



innings on Monday, replied with 188 after starting day two on 118 for three.

The hosts then shot out the visitors for 149 in the second innings to place themselves on the cusp of their maiden outright win of the season.

First innings wreckers-in-chief, pacers Shardul Thakur (4-47) and Tushar Deshpande (4-53) were again the main destroyers in the visitors second innings.

At Rajkot, Saurashtra posted 356 in their first innings with some vital contributions from the lower-order against reigning champions Vidarbha.

At close of play, Vidarbha were 63 for 2, having lost their openers Aharva Taide and Faiz Fazal, and adrift by 293 runs.

In another inconsequential Elite Group A tie, hosts Railways thrashed Maharashtra by an innings and 58 runs in New Delhi.

Railways bundled out Maharashtra for 131 in the second to record the win and grabbed seven points.

Rajasthan rout Tripura to enter Ranji quarters

PTI ■ AGARTALA

Rajasthan trounced Tripura by an innings and 77 runs to book a berth in the quarter-finals from Elite Group C on Tuesday.

Led by pace spearhead Deepak Chahar, the Rajasthan bowlers bundled out Tripura for 106 in the second innings to guide their team to a massive victory and enable it to storm into the last eight of the national championship.

With this emphatic win, Rajasthan became the first team from the group to qualify for the knockout rounds by topping the pool with 51 points, having won 7 of their 9 matches.

After bowling out Tripura for a paltry 35 in their first innings, Rajasthan took a dominant 183-run lead by scoring 218 in their first essay. Chahar wreaked havoc as he returned with figures of 5-17 in just eight overs and was well supported by pacers Aniket Choudhary (2-18) and T M Haq (2-21).

Meanwhile, at Rohtak, hosts Haryana needed 98 runs to win against Services, with nine wickets in hand.

Haryana conceded the first innings lead, but fought back and dismissed Services for just 79 in their second essay to tilt the match in their favour.

At Bhubaneswar, Odisha secured the crucial first innings lead against Goa.

The hosts, who decided not to enforce the follow-on, ended the second day at 37 for 1 as the overall lead swelled to 273 runs.

At Kanpur, hosts Uttar Pradesh, who secured the crucial first innings lead, ended the second day at 377 for 5 in the second essay, with middle-order batsman Rinku Singh unbeaten on 96.

At Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, who chose to bat, were shot out for 151 with Ajay Yadav (5-16) being the wrecker-in-chief for the visitors.

TN SEIZE ADVANTAGE AGAINST DELHI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Two late strikes helped Tamil Nadu seize the advantage against Delhi at stumps on the second day of the Elite Group 'B' match at the M A Chidambaram stadium.

Delhi ended the day at 35 for 2 in reply to Tamil Nadu's massive first innings score of 422 built on Abhinav Mukund's superb 134 (319 balls, 13X4) and half-centuries by captain Baba Indrajith (86) and debutant

For Delhi, Vikas Mishra was the best bowler, picking up 5 for 142 from 45.4 overs while Shivam Sharma took 4 for 105 from 44 overs

Pradosh Ranjan Paul (78, 129 balls, 12X4, 1X6) and M Shahrulkhan 55 (139 balls, 4X4, 1X6).

For Delhi, Vikas Mishra was the best bowler, picking up 5 for 142 from 45.4 overs while Shivam Sharma took 4 for 105 from 44 overs.

R Sai Kishore struck the first blow for the host, dismissing opener Shivam Sharma (7) before Vijay Shankar effected a superb run-out to send back the other opener Kunal Chandela for 27 in the 13th over.

UK inch closer to quarters

PTI ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand enforced follow-on against Mizoram after bowling out the visitors for 198 to inch closer to grabbing the solitary quarterfinal berth from Plate Group.

Taruwar Kohli remained unbeaten on 96 on day two after Mizoram were bowled out for 198 in their first innings in

reply to Uttarakhand's first innings total of 377 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium.

Asked to bat again, Mizoram were 32/1 at stumps, still needing 147 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Earlier the visitors were 31 for no loss but they slipped to 67/4 with Sunny Rana (2/46) striking twice.

Dhanraj Sharma was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3/49.

Taruwar found some support at the other end from Lalruai Ralte (30) as the duo added 57 runs to repair the damage.

But Mayank Mishra dismissed Ralte to break the partnership before they folded in 75.2 overs.

Baroda prevail over Karnataka

PTI ■ VADODRA

Deepak Hooda and Bhargav Bhatt claimed five wickets each to help Baroda register a nail-biting win against Karnataka in a Group A match and keep their quarterfinals hopes alive.

On a day when as many as 16 wickets fell, Baroda almost lost the match, but ultimately won by two wickets, chasing down a 110-run target in their second innings.

After this win, Baroda are now placed third with 26 points from eight matches. They had won three matches, lost one and drew the remaining matches. On the other hand, Karnataka retained their second place with 27 points from eight matches. They have won three matches and lost two.

Yet, both Baroda and Karnataka's fortunes of qualifying for the quarterfinal depend on other match results.

Batting first, Baroda dismissed Karnataka for 112 before the hosts scored 223 runs, riding on Sonalki's 69 and a 60-ball 51 by Hooda, to take a crucial lead.

In the second innings, Karnataka were bowled out for 220, leaving Baroda to get 110 runs to win the match. Yusuf Pathan's 41 off 30 balls with seven boundaries and a six played a crucial role in achieving the target.

Bhatt produced an impressive performance as he bagged eight wickets in the match. He ended the first innings with figures of 3 for 27 and 5 for 116 in the second innings. Bhatt was ably assisted by Hooda who also claimed five wickets while conceding 31 runs in 14.4 overs.

PUJJARA, PANT RISE IN RANKINGS

PTI ■ DUBAI

Cheteshwar Pujara has gained a spot to be third in the latest ICC batsmen rankings, following his man of the series performance in India's maiden Test series win in Australia.

Wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant has jumped as many as 21 places to be 17th, the joint-highest by a specialist India wicketkeeper along with Farokh Engineer, who did so in January 1973. M S Dhoni's highest Test ranking was 19th.

India captain Virat Kohli has maintained his number one position in the batsmen rankings.

Pant, a star at the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in 2016 when he scored an 18-ball half-century against Nepal, has moved into the top-20 after only his ninth Test with an unbeaten 159. Pant had started the Australia tour in 59th place and made rapid progress, scoring 350 runs in a series that also saw him take 20 catches.

Pujara, who scored 521 runs to help beat Australia 2-1, is another batsman to gain in the latest rankings update, which also takes into account performances in the second Test between South Africa and Pakistan in Cape Town.

Pujara has gained one slot to reach third position while all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja (up six places to 57th) and rookie opener Mayank Agarwal (up five places to 62nd) are the others from his team to advance at the end of a historic series win.

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav has gained seven slots to reach a career-best 45th position after his figures of five for 99 in Australia's first innings even as Jasprit Bumrah has held on to 16th position and Mohammed Shami has gained one place to take the 22nd slot. Jadeja has gained one place to reach fifth among bowlers and has also leapfrogged Windies captain Jason Holder into sec-



BCCI announces cash awards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Tuesday announced cash awards of ₹15 lakhs per match for each of the playing eleven that featured in India's maiden Test series win on Australian soil.

Virat Kohli and Co defeated Australia 2-1 in the four-match Test series Down Under, ending India's 71-year-old wait for the rare achievement.

Congratulating the team, the BCCI also announced cash awards

for all the reserve players, as well as the members of the support staff.

"The bonuses will be equivalent to the actual match-fee payable: which is ₹15 Lakhs per match for Playing XI and ₹7.5 Lakhs per match for the reserve players," the BCCI said in a release.

The coaches will be awarded with ₹25 lakhs each, while the non-coaching support staff will receive bonuses which will be equivalent to the pro-rata salary/professional fee.

ond place among all-rounders.

South Africa's Aiden Markram has moved back into the top 10 after his knock of 78 at Cape Town, gaining seven slots to reach 10th position. Temba Bavuma has moved into the top 30 for the first time (up five places to 26th) after his score of 75 while captain Faf du Plessis's first-innings century has lifted him six places to 16th position.

Among their bowlers, Vernon Philander has gained one slot to reach third position while Duanne Olivier has continued his surge to move up to 32nd place from 36th.

There has been no change in position or points for leaders India in the team rankings, while Australia have lost one point but remain in fifth position.



Bumrah rested from Aus ODIs, NZ tour

PTI ■ SYDNEY

In-form Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday rested from the upcoming ODI series against Australia and the subsequent tour of New Zealand with Mohammad Siraj replacing the hero of the team's maiden Test series triumph Down Under.

With 21 scalps, Bumrah ended the four-Test series as the joint-leading wicket-taker alongside Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon.

"Keeping in mind the workload of the bowler, it was best felt to give him adequate rest ahead of the home series against Australia. Mohammed Siraj will replace Bumrah in the squad for the Australia and New Zealand tour," said the BCCI in a statement.

"Punjab pacer Siddarth Kaul has also been drafted into the squad for the three-match T20I series against New Zealand," it added.

Bumrah, who made his Test debut just 12 months ago, has become India's go to pacer in all three formats.

India play three ODIs against Australia starting here on Saturday before travelling to New Zealand for a five-ODI and three-T20I assignment starting January 23.



IPL to stay in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) will stay in the country despite a speculated clash of dates with the general elections but the glitzy T20 extravaganza will start earlier than usual, from March 23, the Committee of Administrators announced on Tuesday.

The two-member CoA, comprising chairman Vinod Rai and former women's captain Diana Edulji, met on Tuesday to discuss the venues and window for the league.

"We will have all the primary venues backed up by alternate venues in case there is a need to shift matches. This will be done in consultation with central and state government authorities as well as security agencies," Rai said.

"The specific reason for having a back-up venue is to ensure that we don't have any issue if there is polling or recounting or PM's rally in any of the states once the election dates are announced," he added.

The last time the IPL started in March was back in 2010. After that, the league has always kicked off in the first half of April and ended in late May.

The early start this year is because of the ODI World Cup in England which will get underway from May 30.

Rai said the specific venues and match dates will worked out later after due consultation with government agencies.

"Once we chalk out the itinerary, we will get the dates and venues cleared by various govt agencies," he said.

Tuesday's decision ended months of speculation about the league's venue this year given the possibility of a clash of dates with the Lok Sabha elections, the schedule of which is not yet out.

It is learnt that the cash-rich tournament has been kept in the country keeping in view the fact that the elections will be held in phases and it wouldn't be too much of a logistical issue to schedule the games accordingly.

"The CoA will have detailed discussion with all the Stakeholders before releasing the IPL 2019 Schedule," a BCCI statement read.

As per the new BCCI constitution, there has to be a 15-day gap between the end of the IPL and India's international engagements.

The IPL has been played outside India twice due to general elections. In 2009, the edition was moved to South Africa, while in 2014, some games were played in the UAE.

That the IPL will stay in the country was first hinted by BCCI officials during the players' auction in Jaipur last month.



Australian team members stand by as India's Virat Kohli accepts the winners trophy AP

Smith, Warner return no cure-all for Aus: Vaughan

Former English skipper feels Aussies are kidding themselves thinking all will be rosy when Smith, Warner return

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former England captain Michael Vaughan feels Australia, beaten for the first time in a home Test series against India, are "kidding themselves if they think everything will be rosy when Steve Smith and David Warner come back".

In his column for *The Daily Telegraph* following India's maiden Test series triumph Down Under, Vaughan wrote that Australia's issues run far deeper than the absence of suspended Smith and Warner.

"If you think Australia's problems will be solved the moment Steve Smith and David Warner are available for selection again then you are wrong... Batting, bowling, selection and tactics were poor against India, and Australia has to admit they were just not good enough," wrote Vaughan.

"Clearly, if you take the two best players out of any team they will struggle. But losing Smith and Warner is an easy excuse to hide behind. India was beaten 4-1 in English conditions last summer, although the matches were closer than the final score suggests, but would have beaten Australia 3-1 had it not rained in Sydney for the last two days."

Considering the current scenario, Vaughan can't see Australia beating England in the away Ashes to be held after the 2019 World Cup.

"...Unless they assess themselves brutally. Batting techniques have to be better and they need to be more consistent with the ball. Every facet of their Test team has to improve. They are kidding themselves if they think everything

will be rosy when Smith and Warner come back.

"For the Ashes this summer, Australia have to look at breaking up Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins. They need a more skilful bowler, such as a Peter Siddle or Trent Copeland. They need someone who can match England's consistency and skill with the Duke ball and bowl the fuller length," he said.

Vaughan's column sparked a debate with former Australian batsman and selector Mark Waugh disagreeing with the Englishman.

"I'm not so sure about that Mr Vaughan. Assuming Warner and Smith get back to somewhere near their best I'm suggesting they will make a huge difference," Waugh tweeted.

Waugh suggested that any team would struggle if they were to lose two of the best batsmen in the squad.

"You take the 2 best batsmen out of any cricket team in the world and see what happens or even 1. Kohli, Root, Williamson etc," he added.

However, Australian spin legend Shane Warne, who had earlier criticised the Australian selectors for their "ridiculous and senseless selections" agreed with Vaughan.

"Unfortunately, I have to agree with @MichaelVaughan here Jnr. Yes Warner & Smith will help, but Aust cricket needs a complete overhaul re the following. Coaching at all levels, the ridiculous under 23 programme, academy etc. As we are not producing quality smart cricketers-why?" Warne tweeted.

Kohli leads India's best pace, fielding team: Chappell

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Australia captain Ian Chappell feels the Virat Kohli-led side is India's best in pace bowling and fielding but it is nowhere close to being the best in batting.

The historic victory in Australia has garnered widespread praise for Kohli's men with several former players lauding the gritty performance.

Asked if this was the best Indian team of all time on *'ESPNcricinfo'*, Chappell said, "This Indian side is the best fast bowling contingent I have seen from India and the best fielding side that I have seen from India."

"But it's not the best batting side. I have seen better batting combinations from India than this team," he added, but did not dwell on which batting line-up he considered the best.

Although Cheteshwar Pujara was adjudged man of the series for being the series' top-scorer, India's traditionally



The Indian cricket team and support staff pose for a photo AP

much-vaunted batting was, for once, overshadowed by the team's pacers.

The Indian pacers accounted for 50 of the 70 Australian wickets during the engagement.

The visiting pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami combined for an average of 21.62 in the four-match series, while Australia's pace battery, comprising Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, averaged over 30.

Chappell said the Indian bowlers did well to exploit the conditions.

"I thought the Indian bowlers did really well and overall they out-bowled the Australians. They got more swing than the Australian bowlers."

"I think the seam position of the Indian fast bowlers was very good. They kept it up the whole time and perhaps that's why they swung the ball more than the Australians," he explained.

'Aussie batsmen were needlessly aggressive'

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former Australia international Simon Katich on Tuesday said the Indian pacers' ability to maintain "scoreboard pressure" on impatient and needlessly aggressive home batsmen proved to be decisive in visitors' maiden Test series triumph.

India won the four-Test series 2-1 with the fourth Test ending in a draw. Katich said that Australian batsmen couldn't manage period of pressure well enough.

"On previous tours they (pacers) haven't been doing well in these conditions. But in this series, this pace attack was magnificent and they built scoreboard pressure. They have got pace and variety, and they were also able to move the ball. Perhaps that has been the big difference in the two teams," Katich said.

"India's bowlers were really patient and Australia's batsmen haven't been patient enough to withstand that pressure. And very good spinners backed up the pacers, whether it was Ashwin, Kuldeep or Jadeja," he said.

Katich said Australian batsmen did not apply themselves after getting starts.

"At times the Australian batsmen showed they could apply themselves well but they couldn't do it for long periods of time. You need to do it day-after-day in Test cricket. Marcus Harris had a good series — he has got time and a good technique. But he



got a lot of starts and didn't go on to make a big one, much like the other batsmen.

"When Australia look back at series, they will see they have got out trying to be too aggressive. They didn't show the right shot selection or right temperament at the right time in any game. There was too much on-tempo batting, rather than going with ebbs while respecting the opposition bowling."

Black Caps sweep ODI series



Ross Taylor celebrates after scoring hundred in the final game of ODI series in Nelson ICC

AFP ■ NELSON

Veteran Ross Taylor and rising star Henry Nicholls both smashed centuries as New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by 115 runs in the third one-day international in Nelson on Tuesday to complete a 3-0 series whitewash.

Taylor top-scored with 137, and Nicholls was unbeaten on 124 off just 80 balls, lifting the hosts to 364 for four

after they lost the toss and were sent in to bat.

It was a record ODI score at Nelson's Saxton Oval, where the average is just 275, and Sri Lanka never looked like reaching the mammoth total.

They were all out for 249 in the 42nd over, throwing away their final four wickets without scoring a run as the series ended with a whimper.

Thisara Perera, who scored a blis-

tering 140 in the second ODI, was again the tourists' standout performer, racing to 80 in 63 balls.

With the series already decided, Nicholls and Taylor used the dead rubber to send a message to New Zealand selectors ahead of this year's World Cup.

It was Nicholls' maiden ODI ton and the 27-year-old will hope his strong Test form is finally transferring to the limited overs format.

Taylor's 20th ODI century tightened the 34-year-old's grip on the New Zealand record he already holds for one-day centuries.

"I'm getting old and hopefully I've got a few more left in me," he said.

TAIL-END COLLAPSE

In his last 11 ODI innings Taylor has scored three centuries and six half centuries. He came to the crease with New Zealand struggling at 31 for two but combined with skipper Kane Williamson for a 116-run partnership to steady the innings.

When Williamson departed on 55, Taylor and Nicholls plundered the Sri Lanka attack with an aggressive 154-run stand.

Sri Lanka's senior bowlers were all wayward, particularly at the death, as the tourists conceded 57 runs in the final three overs.

Magnificent performance by Virat and his team: Richards



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congratulatory messages continued to pour in a day after India's historic Test series victory on Australian soil with legendary batsman Sir Vivian Richards labelling the visitors' performance as "magnificent".

"Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Virat and his team for such a magnificent performance Down Under. It was always going to be tough, but you guys came out smelling sweet," Richards said in a video

message.

The 66-year-old West Indian also lavished praise on Player of the Series, Cheteshwar Pujara, who scored 521 runs at an average of 74 with the help of three hundreds.

"And to Pujara just magnificent batsmanship... I just felt real gold stuff. Well done to everyone. Magnificent performance again. Congratulations to the Indian team and to my good mate Ravi well done again."

IMRAN CONGRATULATES ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister and former cricket captain, Imran Khan on Tuesday congratulated India on becoming the first Asian team to win a Test series in Australia. "Congratulations to Virat Kohli and the Indian cricket team for the first ever win by a subcontinent team in a test series in Australia," Khan tweeted.

Considered an inspirational former captain, Khan led Pakistan to their sole World Cup title till date, in Australia in 1992.