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I AM PROUD
OF ALIA BHATT:
VARUN DHAWAN
14 VIVACITY

Rahul hails Didi's Opp unity bid

RaGa writes to TMC chief; Opp leaders to take part in show of strength today

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

As West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee prepared to hold a massive show of strength on Saturday, which will be attended by a galaxy of major Opposition leaders, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday wrote to her hailing the TMC chief's initiative to unite India against the BJP.

The Congress president wrote, "I extend my support to Mamata Di on this show of unity and hope that we send a powerful message of a united India together." Saying that there were "powerful forces afoot" angry with the Narendra Modi Government for peddling false promises, Rahul wrote these "forces are fanned by anger and disappointment of hundreds of millions of Indians who have seen through the false promises and lies peddled by the Modi Government."

Rahul's letter came at a time when political who's who from all over the country including former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and NCP chief Sharad Yadav had started landing in Kolkata.

On united Opposition against the BJP, the Congress president wrote, "The entire Opposition is united in our belief that true nationalism and development can only be defended on the tested pillars of democracy, social justice and secularism, ideas that the



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and other leaders at a hotel in Kolkata on Friday. Anti-BJP leaders have arrived in Kolkata to attend TMC's mega rally on Saturday. PTI

BJP and Modi are intent on destroying.

While neither Sonia Gandhi nor Rahul would be joining the rally, the Congress will be represented by the party's Leader in Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge. His presence and Rahul's letter tends to neutralise BJP's argument that Mamata's much-hyped Brigade rally lacked the backing of the second biggest party of India indicating at the schism within the much touted Opposition unity.

Rahul's support apart, Deve Gowda too praised Mamata for taking the "grand initiative to bring the entire Opposition together against the Modi

Government. She is a hard-working leader and her endeavour will bring success," Gowda said after landing in Kolkata.

Congratulating the Chief Minister for bringing the whole India to Kolkata, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said, "Mamata Didi has sent a message by bringing all leaders to Kolkata.

Every segment of the society is unhappy with the Modi Government and time has come for a new Prime Minister for the country."

Former Arunachal Chief Minister Gegong Apang who left BJP a couple of days ago said, "Mamata is a great leader and we all have come here to

support her initiative."

Meanwhile, stage is set for the expected record-breaking rally even as thousands of TMC cadres poured in from districts. Kolkata prepared for a historic Brigade rally that according to a rough ruling party estimate break the Left Front record by assembling no less than 30 lakh people sources said.

By Thursday late-noon a galaxy of politicians had landed in Kolkata led by former HD Deve Gowda, NCP chief Sharada Pawar, Gegong Apang, Akhilesh Yadav. Mamata had on Thursday said that leaders of about 20 Opposition parties would be coming to join the

- I extend my support to Mamata Di on this show of unity and hope that we send a powerful message of a united India, Rahul wrote
- While neither Sonia Gandhi nor Rahul Gandhi would be joining the rally, the Congress will be represented by Mallikarjun Kharge
- Deve Gowda too praised Mamata for taking the grand initiative to bring the entire Opposition together against the Narendra Modi Government
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PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh became the third state in India to implement 10 per cent reservation for economically poor among the general category in government jobs and state-run educational institutions. The reservation will come into effect from January 14.

A decision in this regard was taken in the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday. Government spokesman and Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma said the Centre's notification was approved by the state Cabinet in ditto.

"The UP government has decided to implement the gazette notification of the Centre about giving maximum 10 per cent reservation to economically weak among the general category with retrospective effect from January 14, 2019," Sharma said.

The Centre had issued the notification for 10 per cent reservation for upper caste poor on January 12, 2019, after the 103th constitutional amendment got the President's assent. The amendment bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Sharma said the government had also decided to adopt Centre's notification without any amendment. "If required, the state government will bring an ordinance on this matter later," he said.

UP has become the third



state after Gujarat and Jharkhand to implement 10 per cent quota for the economically weak among the general category as the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states are in a hurry to enforce this reservation to get a boost in the Lok Sabha polls.

In other decisions, the government approved the proposals to provide 7th Pay Commission wages to the employees of Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation and hand over about 1.0163 hectares of irrigation land in Maharajganj district to Seema Suraksha Bal (SSB) to set up its unit.

The government also declared the Ramayan Mela in Chitrakoot as a government fair and transferred the assets and employees of the district and referral hospitals in Ayodhya, Basti, Bahraich, Firozabad and Shahjahanpur districts to the Medical Education department as new medical colleges are coming up

in these districts.

The government also hiked the allowances of the contractual and ad hoc state pilots of the Aviation department. Now a pilot will get ₹5,000 additional special allowance for flying per hour per trip and they will be entitled for type 4 or 5 government accommodations for their residence. The pilots will also be eligible for to and fro free transportation from residence to airport and the government will pay the premium of insurance of ₹60 lakh for aviation personal accident or loss of the licence.

The government has also approved the decision to change the name of Mughalsarai tehsil in Chandauli district to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya tehsil.

Earlier, the government had changed the name of Mughalsarai railway station to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya station.

The government has also approved ₹575 crore, excluding GST, for setting up 2,000 new tube wells of one cusec capacity each under Ram Manohar Lohia Scheme. Besides, ₹283 crore has been approved for repairing and modernising 1,101 tube wells in the state.

The government has also amended the rule for approval of funds for government schemes. Now a minister can approve funds up to one crore rupees for a scheme. Earlier a minister had to take approval from the state Cabinet for funds above ₹25 lakh.

CAPSULE

SCRIBE SHOT AT

Sultanpur: The Pioneer correspondent in Sultanpur, Dinesh Pandey, was shot at on Friday evening by unidentified persons, just as he moved out of his shop. It is learnt that as Dinesh was leaving his shop in Badhiya Pir locality on Wednesday night, four unidentified men attacked him and opened fire at him. One of the bullets hit his shoulder. On hearing the gun shots, his father came out and saw Dinesh in a pool of blood and by then the miscreants had escaped. He was rushed to a local hospital, which referred him to the Trauma Centre in Lucknow. The cops launched a search for the miscreants and none of them could be apprehended till late at night. Dinesh, who had reached Trauma Centre at Lucknow later in the night, was stable and undergoing treatment.

K'TAKA: 4 CONG MLAS SKIP MEET, EXPOSE CHINKS

Bengaluru: Exposing chinks in the ruling coalition in Karnataka, four dissidents on Friday skipped the Congress Legislature Party meeting here that was called as a show of strength against an alleged bid by the BJP to dislodge the HD Kumaraswamy Government.

Cong inks poll alliance with regional players in J'khand

Of 14 LS seats, Cong to fight 6, JMM 4, RJD 1, JVM 2, CPI 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Bihar and Maharashtra, the Congress has firmed up its alliance with regional parties in neighbouring Jharkhand for Lok Sabha elections and later the State Assembly polls. The alliance to take on BJP will have five parties — Congress, JMM, RJD, CPI and Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM).

The anti-BJP alliance in the State has also agreed to project JMM working president Hemant Soren as the CM candidate for the State Assembly polls later this year.

Of the 14 seats in Jharkhand, the JMM will contest in four seats, according to sources. One seat — either Palamu or Chatra — will go to RJD. JVM will be contesting in two seats and the CPI will con-



test from Hazaribagh, a seat held by Union Minister Jayant Sinha. Congress will field its candidates on the remaining seats. The BJP won 12 of the 14 seats in Jharkhand in the last Lok Sabha elections. The remaining two were won by the JMM. The Congress which contested in nine seats in alliance with the JMM lost in all nine.

As a pre-condition for a tie-up in Lok Sabha elections, the JMM has been insisting on projection of Soren as the chief ministerial candidate for the Assembly polls. The demand seems to have been met by the alliance partners.

The ties between the JMM and the Congress had soured last month when the former supported an Independent candidate in the Kolebera bypolls to the State Assembly. The

Congress, however, managed to win the seat defeating the BJP by more than 10,000 votes.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi had earlier said we will contest the State Assembly elections under Soren's leadership and it was reiterated in the meeting. Jharkhand Congress president Ajay Kumar said after a meeting of Opposition parties in Ranchi on Thursday.

"You can see all of us here together. We will discuss contours of our alliance within our party and finalise the seat-sharing arrangement by this month-end," JVM chief Babul Marandi said after the meeting. Marandi who was in BJP became the first Chief Minister after Bihar was bifurcated and Jharkhand came into existence. Later he quit over differences and formed JVM and tied up with Congress in couple of elections.

Jharkhand is the third State where Congress has stitched an alliance with regional parties after Bihar and Maharashtra. The party, however, failed to get berth in the alliance formed by one UP rivals Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party and Mayawati's BSP.

India's another cricketing history in Oz



Australia's Glenn Maxwell drives as India's Yuzvendra Chahal dives to stop a run during their ODI cricket match in Melbourne, Australia, on Friday. Mahendra Singh Dhoni rekindled his love affair with final flourishes, anchoring India to their maiden bilateral ODI series triumph in Australia for a perfect finish to a historic trip Down Under here on Friday. Virat Kohli's men became the first country to return from Australia without losing a single series having won the Test series 2-1 and drawn the T20 Internationals 1-1. From a dasher, to a finisher to finally the anchor in the last leg of his career, Dhoni 3.0 was in full flow during India's successful chase of 231 in the third and final ODI on a sluggish Melbourne pitch after Yuzvendra Chahal set it up with a career-best 6 for 42. PTI

LS polls likely in April, May; EC to announce date in middle of March

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) may announce the schedule of the parliamentary elections sometime in the middle of March, while the polls are likely to take place in April and May. The polling is likely to be conducted in several phases across the country and the EC is keen to ensure that the poll dates do not clash with the school examinations as well as festivals in the States. The term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 3.

An EC spokesperson, however, said, "No decision has been taken as yet on the date when the elections would be announced."

According to sources, the

Commission is in the process of deciding the number of phases and the months in which polling would be held. The charting of the phases would also depend on the availability of security forces and other requirements, the sources said, adding the announcement of the mega exercise is likely to be made in first week of March.

The polling to elect the new Assemblies in Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim are likely to take place along with the parliamentary elections. The State Assembly polls in J&K, which is now under President's rule may also be held with Lok Sabha polls in April-May.

Continued on Page 7

PC: Rafale jets number cut for French windfall

Ex-FM says Govt paid ₹186 cr/jet, Defence Ministry denies charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NDA Government's decision to buy 36 Rafale jets instead of 126 as was decided by the UPA regime led to escalation of the price of each aircraft by 41 per cent and came as a windfall for French aircraft-maker Dassault, said Congress leader P Chidambaram citing an exhaustive report published by The Hindu newspaper.

The Defence Ministry has denied the charges in detailed statement. Claiming that the



Congress senior leader P Chidambaram addresses a Press conference in relation to the alleged scam in the Rafale deal in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Government paid Euro 25 million more per aircraft compared to the price negotiated by the Congress-led UPA, Chidambaram said the Government did not buy 90 more aircraft needed by the Air

Force and paid ₹186 crore more to French firm Dassault, maker of Rafale, for 13 India-specific enhancements in the medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA). The former Finance

Minister reiterated his party's demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the Rafale jet deal, saying the decision is not amenable to court but to a parliamentary panel. The Congress has alleged earlier that the Prime Minister increased the 'Benchmark Price' of Rafale deal from 5.2 billion Euros to 8.2 billion Euros and that the NDA Government paid over ₹1,600 crore per aircraft against the UPA's negotiated price of ₹527 crore per aircraft, demanding answers as to who is responsible for the loss to the State exchequer.

Chidambaram's Press conference came in the backdrop of a media report claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to buy 36 aircraft instead of the 126 asked for by the Indian Air Force pushed the price of each jet up

by 41.42 per cent.

"The Government has wronged the country in two ways — firstly, it has compromised national security by denying to the Air Force 90 fighter aircraft that they desperately need. Secondly, it has purchased two squadrons that will cost about Euro 25 million more per aircraft. At the 2016 exchange rate, Euro 25 million is equal to ₹186 crore. India will pay ₹186 crore more per aircraft," Chidambaram said.

"There is no doubt any longer that Rafale aircraft deal deserves to be examined thoroughly by a Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Congress reiterates its demand for constitution of a JPC," he said.

The Rajya Sabha member said he feels that Dassault "is laughing all the way to the bank", as the NDA Government gave a "gift" to the French

firm over amortisation or recovery on the cost of 13 India-specific enhancements sought in the aircraft that cost 1,300 million Euros.

He said the cost of these enhancements has been recovered by Dassault in 36 aircraft and the same should have been recovered by it for 126 aircraft instead.

"That is a windfall for Dassault. That is the gift that the NDA Government has given to Dassault and that is why I said Dassault is laughing all the way to the bank...The windfall to Dassault was a deliberate decision of NDA government and is highly questionable," he said.

"The increased price per aircraft is a gift to Dassault that the NDA Government gave between April 2015 and August 2016," he also said.

Continued on Page 7

Special fee on IMFL, beer for 'gaushalas'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Facing the heat over stray cattle menace, the Uttar Pradesh government has imposed a special fee on Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and beer for funding 'gaushalas' (cow shelters) for the stray cattle in the state.

This decision was taken in the state Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Friday.

Briefing media persons here, state government spokesperson and Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma said the government would collect an additional revenue of ₹165 crore annually by imposing special fee on excise.

"While an additional fee of ₹0.50 to ₹2 will be imposed per bottle on purchase of beer and IMFL, the special fee will be ₹10 per bottle for liquor consumed in bars. The money generated will be used to fund construction of shelters for stray cows in the state," he said.

Earlier, the government had imposed 2 per cent cess on liquor. The new tax would be over and above the cess, the



(Left to right) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma going to attend the Cabinet meeting held on Friday

spokesman said.

In order to promote artisans under the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme, the state government announced a distribution and promotion policy. The policy aims at funding the artisans for participating in national and international handicraft fairs.

As per the policy, an artisan will get ₹50,000 or 75 per cent of the stall booking amount, whichever is less, for participating in artisans' fair organised within the state. They will also get freight charge of ₹7,500 for transporting their

goods. "If the artisan wishes to attend a fair outside Uttar Pradesh, he will get 75 per cent of the stall charge or ₹50,000, but the freight charge will be ₹15,000. They will also get reimbursement for 3AC rail fare or AC bus fare," the spokesman said.

For participating in international trade fairs, the artisans will get ₹2 lakh or 75 per cent of the stall booking amount besides 75 per cent of the transportation cost and ₹75,000 or 75 per cent of the air fare, whichever is less.

Alliance with BSP, RLD final, says Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said his party's alliance with Bahujan Samaj Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal was final and there would be no issues regarding seat-sharing in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

"Our alliance with the BSP, the RLD and smaller parties like Nishad Party is final and seat-sharing will not be a problem. It will be worked out soon. We have emerged as a strong force in the state and this has changed the tone and tenor of the Bharatiya Janata Party, whose leaders have started using foul language against us," the SP president said.

He added, "Our alliance with the RLD is final. In Kairana, we had fielded RLD leader Tabassum Hasan on SP ticket. We will give Mathura and Baghat seats to them and they want these seats. There is no problem in the alliance now."

Yadav maintained that the SP would only "concentrate" in Uttar Pradesh.

The SP chief ruled out the possibility of any understanding with the Congress.

"How can we have an understanding with it



(Congress)? It is a national party. We have given them two seats (Amethi and Rae Bareilly), which the SP has been leaving for them. At present, my focus is on Uttar Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand also, the SP will field one or two candidates who are strong and we will explore (the possibility of an) alliance with others," he said.

On his friendship with Congress president Rahul Gandhi (48), with whom he had given the "UP ke ladke" (boys from UP) slogan in the 2017 state assembly polls, Yadav, who is three years younger to Gandhi, said, "I will not like to talk about the Congress as of now."

On the BJP, Yadav said, "It had promised many things but those promises were never

fulfilled. The common man is fed up with it and is looking for an alternative. People have only hope, which is the SP-BSP alliance."

Attacking the saffron party, Yadav said it had changed its Uttar Pradesh in-charge only to save one seat (of Prime Minister Narendra Modi).

"The BJP MPs did not work on the ground level. They never visited their areas. Now it is being said that they (BJP) are going to change 60 per cent of their candidates. But such tricks will not work now," Yadav said.

In a lighter vein, he added, "If only they can manage to control the stray cattle, they can get some votes of farmers."

On the claim of JP Nadda, the BJP's poll in-charge for Uttar Pradesh, that the saffron party would win 74 Lok Sabha seats in the state, Yadav said, "They can claim of winning even 82 seats, despite the fact that UP has only 80 seats." Nadda, the Union Health Minister, during his visit to the state capital this week, had asserted that the BJP and its allies would bag at least 74 Lok Sabha seats — one more than the NDA tally in Uttar Pradesh in 2014.

Yogi holds meeting with junior ministers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held an important meeting with the ministers of state here on Friday and asked them to concentrate on their constituencies and tell people about the achievements of the Uttar Pradesh and Central governments.

The meeting, which lasted for about 45 minutes at the Chief Minister's office, also discussed in detail the state government's ongoing schemes and progress of their implementation. This is the second such meeting with the junior ministers in the last month-and-a-half.

Later, talking to media, Minister of State for Information, Neelkanth Tiwari, said the meeting was very fruitful and the Chief Minister discussed political situation emerging after Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance.

"It was a normal meeting and the Chief Minister holds such meetings regularly to interact with the deputy ministers to assess the political situation in the state and to monitor the development schemes," Tripathi said.

He said the Chief Minister discussed the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Varanasi that would be a big event and set a milestone for the country.

Tripathi is an MLA from Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. When asked about the stray cow menace in the state, the minister blamed the opposition for hatching a conspiracy against the government to defame it.

"We have given enough funds to the districts to set up gaushalas (cow shelters) for stray cattle in every village," he claimed.

Cong considering tie-up with Shivpal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Congress, jittery over attempts of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party to marginalise it in Uttar Pradesh and the fierce criticism of the grand old party by Mayawati, is considering the option of allying with Shivpal Singh Yadav-led Pragatisheel Samaj Party (Lohia) (PSP).

The consensus, however, eludes the grand old party as its central leadership suspects that the PSP is "BJP's product". However, the Congress leaders in Uttar Pradesh are in favour of the tie-up with the PSP.

The PSP has conveyed its willingness in no uncertain terms for an alliance with the Congress but the grand old party remains uncertain.

"Abhi hamari baat to nahi hui hai lekin jitni bhi secular party hain, Congress bhi hai, agar Congress humse sam-park karegi, humse baat kare-

gi, toh main bilkul taiyaar hun. (I have not spoken to the Congress on alliance. If the Congress is willing then I am ready for the alliance with it)," Shivpal Yadav said.

Shivpal had met Congress president Rahul Gandhi in September last year in Delhi.

Sources in the Congress said that several state leaders of the party had started persuading the party high command to consider the offer even as a section of Congress central leaders suspect that Shivpal is a "BJP product" to divide the Yadav votes and hence he cannot be trusted.

"Politics does not remain static," said a senior Congress leader from UP, while calling for a political review of Shivpal Yadav's offer.

"Yes, our party had a particular understanding with Shivpal Yadav in 2017 as we had an understanding with Akhilesh Yadav (when he and Rahul Gandhi stitched the ill-

fated SP-Congress alliance). If Akhilesh can change his attitude and political approach vis-à-vis Congress now, why can't Shivpal too change his approach?" said a Congress leader.

Congress state leaders backing the tie-up with the breakaway faction of SP claimed that the impression gaining ground in UP was of Akhilesh "bending backwards" to accommodate Mayawati-led BSP's wishes on the contour of their alliance — something, these leaders argue, is not gelling with the reality of traditional Yadav-Dalit political rivalry in state politics.

They argue that Shivpal is trying to provide the anti-BSP Yadav section an opening to vent their anger in the Lok Sabha polls and so the Congress should make use of it, especially since Mayawati is believed to be working on a "larger anti-Congress ambition" in Delhi.

Therefore, they argue, Congress adopting a half-hearted stand in fighting the SP-BSP alliance, keeping in mind the possible requirement of post-poll alliance, would not be wise. A tie-up with outfits such as Shivpal Yadav's PSP could be more beneficial, they said.

A Congress leader pointed out that the Congress vote bank was such that it had much more capability to hurt the BJP than a BSP-SP combine.

"The 2009 Lok Sabha results tell a story. The Congress bagged 21 seats, while the BSP tally was 20 and the SP got 23 seats. The RLD got five, while the BJP was down to 10 seats. Going by the recent pre-poll survey, 2019 has a real possibility of the BSP-SP combine repeating its 2009 performance. It is, therefore, for the Congress and the likes of PSP to make a dent in the BJP tally," he said.

Youth held for rape attempt

Muzaffarnagar (PTI): A 20-year-old youth has been arrested for allegedly attempting to rape a 16-year-old girl in Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Friday. According to a complaint lodged by the girl's father, the accused, Shivam, picked up the minor from near a sugar cane field on Thursday and tried to rape her in Bachan Singh Colony under New Mandi police station. The youth fled after the girl cried for help, the police said. A case has been registered and the accused will be produced before the magistrate to record his statement, SHO Harsharan Sharma said.

Celebratory firing kills two women

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Tragedy struck a marriage ceremony when celebratory firing by some people from the groom's side killed two women and left four other females injured in Mundapandey police station area of Moradabad.

Reports said the incident happened in Arelo locality of Mundapandey when some *baratis* fired from country-made pistols around 11 pm on Thursday. The deceased women were identified as Rashmi and Kusum.

Those injured included Rajrani, Rajkumari, Shivrani and Sonam and they were admitted to hospital.

Police said a case had been registered against unidentified

people and investigation was underway. Some people were detained for interrogation.

The cops seized the footage of the video recording as well as memory card of the camera, to find out who opened fire and with which weapon.

It may be mentioned that a few days back, a youth was killed in celebratory firing in Shamli. A man has been arrested in connection with the death of the 20-year-old youth in the celebratory firing at a wedding in Shamli district.

The accused, Pramod Kumar, was arrested on Thursday and a licensed pistol, which was used for firing at the wedding, was seized from him.

Meanwhile, in another tragic incident reported from Ghazipur, two children were

burnt alive when the hut in which they were playing with other kids suddenly caught fire on Friday afternoon.

Reports said that some kids hailing from Pachdewra hamlet of Ghazipur district were playing in a hut on Friday afternoon when it caught fire. While two boys managed to slip out, two others were trapped inside and burnt alive.

The kids who remained unhurt, raised an alarm following which the villagers rushed to the spot and tried to douse the fire but before they could control the flames, and rescue the boys, both had died.

The victims were identified as Rohit (5) and Aryan (6), both belonging to same family. A case was registered and the bodies were sent for autopsy.

SBSP threatens to snap ties with BJP over quota demand

Lucknow (PNS): Suheldeo Bharatiya Samaj Party head Om Prakash Rajbhar, who is also a UP Cabinet minister, in a scathing attack on the Yogi Adityanath government said the Kumbh Mela and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Varanasi were "drama" being organised by the government with tax payers's money.

"Extravaganzas like Kumbh Mela and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will not help the public cause as they are waste of money. The cause of the common man would have been served better had this money been spent on health and education," the minister said here on Friday.

Rajbhar also lashed out at Congress president Rahul Gandhi saying "why he never sought a debate on the state of education in the country instead of the Rafael fighter plane".

The BJP ally reiterated his threat to snap political ties with the ruling party and contest all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP alone if his demand for split of 27 per cent quota for different communities listed in Other Backward Class category was not accepted in the next 100 days through a Cabinet decision.

The SBSP leader hailed the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance saying it was formidable and would have serious consequences for the BJP.



सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे पुत्र आशुतोष कुमार सिंह की जन्मतिथि मूलतः स्कूल अभिलेखा में 26.05.2006 लिख गई है, जो कि गलत है। सही जन्मतिथि 26.11.2006 है। अतः त्रुटि सुधार कर लिखा जाये। सुनाय चन्द, निवासी-ई-7/129, अमपाली योजना, हरदोई रोड, दुबगा, लखनऊ।

10-year-old raped by neighbour

Lucknow (PNS): A 10-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a neighbour in the residential quarters of a primary health centre in Nai Bazar locality of Bhadohi.

The minor, whose mother is a nurse, was raped by the husband of another nurse living in the same residential quarters when she was alone at home on Wednesday. Kotwali police station in-charge Satya Narain Misra said. He said the girl narrated her ordeal to her mother on Thursday after persistent questioning, following which an FIR was lodged against the accused, Yogesh Yadav. Police are trying to nab Yadav, who is on the run, Misra said. The girl was sent for medical examination.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
Notice
Letter No. JHS/W/TT/DAR/Amit Bal Kishan Date 21.12.2018
Shri Amit S/o Bal Kishan resident of Village Bhanipur Post Satna Purwa Distt. Rae Bareilly has been removed from service w.e.f 13.12.2018
XEN/TMC/Line, 56/19(I) North Central Railway, Jhansi
 North central railways @CPRONCR

Public Notice
 (In case of misplacement of Receipt Book)
 NOTICE is hereby given that Pre Printed Receipt Book of DHFL Cash Collection Receipt Book No. 91055 (Receipt No- 1110251 to 1110275 of Kanpur Branch) is misplaced in Geeta Nagar Crossing, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Already lodged FIR in Police Station, Lucknow. Through (LAR No 017643/2019). That receipts was not issued to anyone and they are blank. DHFL have already blocked Receipt Book No.91055 (Receipt no- 1110251 to 1110275 of Kanpur Branch). That if anyone found the said Receipt Book kindly inform us at, DHFL- 4th Floor Premises No. 16/104-A Shree Siddhi Vinayak Building Civil Lines Kanpur-208001. That any receipt issued under Receipt Book No.91055 (Receipt no- 1110251 to 1110275 of Kanpur Branch is illegal and void.
 This information is also for DHFL customers regarding the lost of Receipt and the DHFL customers are requested to not to make any payments against said receipts to anyone falling which the DHFL customers will be responsible for the consequences and DHFL shall not be liable and responsible in that eventually.
 Sd/- Authorized Signatory
 Place: Kanpur Dated : 19-01-2019. Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd

राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम
 मुख्यतः परिवहन मार्ग, बीएचएस, जयपुर।
ई-टेंडरिंग सूचना संख्या 04/2018-19
 निगम को लगभग 4000 ब्लू लाईन साधारण एवं द्रुतगामी वाहनों जिनमें निगम द्वारा अनुबंधित वाहनों भी शामिल हैं, के चालक/परिचालक साइड पैनेल पर विज्ञापन हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट www.rsrct.rajasthan.gov.in & <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखें।
UBN - RTC1819SLOB00189
 विज्ञापन संख्या 175/2018-19
 राज.सांवा/सी/18/5276 कार्यकारी निदेशक (प्रशासन)

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD. SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR
BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR REQUIREMENT OF D.I. PIPE FOR THE YEAR 2018-19
 GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery D.I. pipes (80 to 1200mm Dia/ K-7 & K-9 class) with ISI Mark 128067 Mtr./ 10158.48 MT Estimated amt. Rs. 5157.21 Lacs (without GST) from approved vendor of GWSSB only. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website. <https://www.nprocure.com>.
 The last date of submission of online tender is 12-2-2019.
NO/INF/VPN/2018/G/2658

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS
 Railway Administration has decided to Cancelled the following trains during Kumbh Mela 2019 as per details given below:-
CANCELLATION OF EXPRESS TRAINS

Train No/Name	Frequency	Date of cancellation from Originating station
15101 Chhapra- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) Jansadharan Express	Weekly	29.01.2019, 05.02.2019 & 12.02.2019
15102 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T)-Chhapra Jansadharan Express	Weekly	01.02.2019, 08.02.2019 & 15.02.2019
12597 Gorakhpur-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) Jansadharan Express	Weekly	29.01.2019 & 05.02.2019
12598 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T)-Gorakhpur Jansadharan Express	Weekly	30.01.2019 & 06.02.2019

Beware of Touts Always buy Railway Ticket from Railway Ticket counter, Apps /website or Authorised Rail Travel Agent
North Central Railway, Allahabad
 North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR 72/19 Ad

PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION OF INDIAN MEDICINE AND HOMOEOPATHY
 An Autonomous Body under Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India
PLIM Campus, Kamla Nehru Nagar, Post Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad - 201002 (U.P.)
Vacancy Notice No. 01 / 2019
 Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) invites application for filling up of the following post:

Name of Post	Pay Scale	No. of Posts / Category
Joint Director	PB-4 Rs. 37400-67000+8700 (GP) Revised Pay Level 13	One / UR

The details of the posts along with eligibility criteria is given in the detailed advertisement along with application format available at the website of Ministry of AYUSH (www.ayush.gov.in). Detailed advertisement is also published in the addition of Employment News. **The last date of receipt of the application will be 45 days from the date of publication of this Advertisement in Employment News.**
 davn 17175 / 11 / 0002 / 1819 **Director**

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Swachhata Survekshan app crosses one lakh downloads

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia said here on Friday that in the city, a total of 1,07,000 people had downloaded the Swachhata Survekshan app. She said that this figure was achieved in merely 15 days since January 4. Talking to *The Pioneer*, Bhatia said that the last date to download the app was January 31.

"Last year, for the Swachhata Survekshan-2018 over one lakh people had downloaded the app in a month. We expect the numbers to increase since there is time until January 31," said the mayor. She said that the survey carried a total of 400 marks which were substantial for getting them in the survey-2019. She said that several efforts were made this year to ensure that the apps were downloaded. "We visited several colleges and schools in this regard," she added.

Incidentally, the officials said that the citizen participation was a very crucial component of the survey. "This year's indicators have marks for innovations led by citizens and their contribution to the overall reduction of the city's solid waste generated. Social media and other traditional media channels will be used strategically through the 'Swachh Manch' - a platform for citizens to connect and contribute to the overall cleanliness of the city. State and city-



Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and specially-abled children spreading awareness regarding Swachhata Survekshan-2019 at Hazratganj crossing on Friday

level campaigns are being promoted in order to educate citizens about the objectives of the survey and its methodology as well as to reinforce the importance of their participation in it in order to ensure significantly higher levels of participation from all the citizens." It was further said that for cities to reap the maximum development benefits from the survey concerted efforts are being taken to design sustainable solutions and strengthen

the capacities of the cities to understand the modalities and spirit of the survey. This year, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) aims to complete the survey of all the ULBs within four weeks, that is, between January 4 and 31. Further to claim indicator-wise marks, the ULBs will have to update their monthly on-line MIS on SBM(U) portal, upload indicator-wise supporting documents on Swachhata Survekshan-2019

portal by December 15, 2019 along with uploading City profile by November 30, 2019. "This will ensure systematic reporting of facts which should be validated during the survey. The MoHUA will conduct intensive interactions through Swachhata Survekshan-2019 regional workshops to familiarise ULBs with the survey methodology, its process and indicators and also clarify what were their expectations from the survey,"

Last year, it took a month for the Swachhata Survekshan app to hit one lakh downloads

the officials said. It may be pointed out here that the MoHUA had conducted the 'Swachhata Survekshan-2016' survey for the rating of 73 cities in January 2016 followed by 'Swachhata Survekshan-2017' conducted in January-February 2017 ranking 434 cities and the recently-concluded Swachhata Survekshan-2018 for ranking 4,203 cities. In a bid to scale up the coverage of the ranking exercise and encourage towns and cities to actively implement mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner the MoHUA now proposes to conduct its fourth survey to rank all the cities under the Swachhata Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).

The objective of the survey is to encourage large-scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage-free and open defecation-free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification, institutionalise existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together for making towns and cities a better place to live in. Additionally the survey also intends to foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to the citizens for creating cleaner cities.

Harassed by money-lender, businessman hangs self

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A 30-year-old businessman committed suicide at his house located at Biharipuri under Saadatganj police station by hanging himself from the ceiling of the room on Friday morning. He was identified as Jitendra Kumar Gupta and was engaged in selling herbals.

A suicide note was found from his bedside table but the police seized the four-page note and kept its content secret. Investigating officer Om Pal said the suicide note content was not disclosed following the statement recorded by his wife Pallavi Gupta to the police.

She said her husband had taken money from a money-lender to expand his business. Her husband assured the money-lender that he would return the money as soon as possible. But the money-lender was getting restless and impatient and used to ridicule her husband for not returning the money. She said her husband always assured him that the entire sum of money would be returned after the payment for consignments, which were sold to different parties, would be released. She alleged her husband committed suicide as he was being mentally tortured by the money-lender. She told police the money-lender used to contact her husband on the mobile late at night regularly.

The money-lender rang him up at least four times on Wednesday asking about the money. She said that her husband had assured him that his money would be returned next



was wearing the uniform of a security agency. His family members were informed about the incident.

DRUG CARRIER HELD

A drug carrier was arrested after a hot chase from Amrapali crossing. He was identified as Chand Babu, aged 25, a resident of Luv Kush Nagar. Ganja weighing 600 gm, a country-made pistol, two live cartridges and a stolen motorcycle were recovered from his possession. During night checking, the police party noticed a youth was coming towards the crossing at a high speed but he suddenly slowed his two-wheeler when he saw the police and raced his motorcycle toward Luv Kush Nagar to escape from being nabbed.

The police personnel chased and nabbed him. He was brought to the police station for interrogation where he disclosed that he was supplying drugs for the past two years. He added the motorcycle was stolen recently.

Meanwhile, three persons were arrested for their involvement in the incident of violence reported at Takrohi village falling under the Indira Nagar police station on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. The immediate provocation of the violence was a dispute over the parking of motor car in the locality. Those arrested were identified as Kamlesh and his accomplices Arjun and Tej Kumar. A country-made pistol and a dozen live cartridges were recovered from Kamlesh, hockey sticks and iron rods from his accomplices.

Defective machine claims life of factory worker

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A youth was killed while he was repairing a machine at an illegal plywood factory located at Pakka Mau area under Gudamba police station in the wee hours of Friday. He was identified as 20-year old Akash Yadav alias Tinku, a resident of Shiyuri locality of Bakshi-Ka-Talab area.

The plywood factory is owned by Babu Ram. Tinku, along with his elder brother Pinto, was working there for the past two years. The illegal factory was functioning following the patronage of the local police station and officers of Forest department.

The locals said the factory used to run only at night so that no one could come to know that the factory was functioning as it had no licence or the approval of the authorised officers of Forest department.

The deceased was assigned the job to dry the plywood on the technically defective machine. It is said his right hand was struck in the machine while he was clearing the last lot of the day. He tried to pull out his arm by which the heavy duty machine fell on him.

He screamed when he came under the machine which drew the attention of others who rushed to his rescue and he was rushed to a private nursing home where he succumbed to injuries. Over 100 workers are working in the illegal unit.

The elder brother went to the local police station in the afternoon to lodge a complaint against the management but the police refused to accept it. Gudamba police station inspector Tej Prakash Singh insisted for an out-of-the-court settlement and also offered him a purse of Rs 1 lakh as compensation.



Students taking part in a rangoli competition at Sanskrit Pathshala Girls' Degree College in Cantt on Friday

Eye bank professionals needed to eliminate corneal blindness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

KGMU UP Community Eye Bank successfully provided training to eye donation counsellors and eye retrieval technicians from Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. Dr Arun Sharma, medical director of KGMU UP Community Eye Bank, said that 20 lakh people were waiting for corneal transplants in India and thousands were getting added every month. Keeping this fact in mind there was a huge need of trained eye bank professionals to eliminate corneal blindness.

He said that the KGMU UP Community Eye Bank was running a centre of excellence and continuously providing training to the eye bank professionals from all over Asia.

"Today the Eye Bank has successfully provided training to eye donation counsellors and eye retrieval technicians from

throughout Asia. Eye Bank manager Mohammad Rashid said that the Eye Bank had performed more than 1,100 sight-restoring transplant surgeries since its inception in December 2016 and became the first eye bank to reach the 1100 number of sight-restoring corneal transplants in a very short period of time. The Eye Bank has established the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme in King George's Medical University and is in discussion with other medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. Currently the Eye Bank team reaches Lucknow, Sitapur, Rae Bareilly, Barabanki and Lakhimpur districts for retrieval.

The certificates of training were provided by Prof MLB Bhatt, Vice-Chancellor, KGMU, and Dr Arun Kumar Sharma, Associate Professor and medical director, KGMU UP Community Eye Bank.



THE KGMU UP COMMUNITY EYE BANK IS RUNNING A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND CONTINUOUSLY PROVIDING TRAINING TO THE EYE BANK PROFESSIONALS FROM ALL OVER ASIA

KGMU V-C giving a certificate to a trainee

CMRS to conduct trials by month-end

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) is expected to carry out trials of balance corridor by the end of this month. A senior LMRC official said that the team would be coming from Mumbai to check everything for safety of passengers.

"The team will take its time on trials because it has to be checked for the safety of passengers. We have submitted detailed documents in this regard to the CMRS," he said.

LMRC has successfully commenced the signalling and integrated testing trials by moving the train in the balance section up to Munshipulia. The integrated testing and trials are for smooth operation of the trains having interface with signalling, telecommunication, track and traction.

The integrated testing of different systems, signalling, track and traction is performed at different speeds on the elevated viaduct and inside the tunnel under different operating scenario. The trains have been provided with the latest state-of-the-art Communication Based Train Control System (CBTC) Signalling system with Automatic Train Protection (ATP) for automatic braking to prevent any collision.

Meanwhile, the stations have used extensive greenery artistically at several places. The point at which the underground stations become elevated at the KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium that portions of the corridor have been covered with green creepers. "We are trying to create green spots at all the Metro station," the official said.



LMRC attempt to ensure greenery

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank
...मरोसे का प्रतीक! ...the name you can BANK upon!

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, The Undersigned being the authorised officer of Punjab National Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction and Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 31 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower detailed below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) in particular and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers 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 charge of the Punjab National Bank, G.B. Marg Branch, Lucknow for the amount liability and interest thereon due from the borrower as mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower & Guarantor	Description of the property (with all the parts and parcels of Asset related land & building)	Outstanding Amount	Date of Demand / Possession Notice
1.	Misha Enterprises (Ravinder Kaur W/o Satpal Singh), H.No. 401, Block-A, Himratna Residency, 3rd Floor, Balmiki Marg, Lalbagh, Lucknow.	H. No. 401, Block -A, Himratna Residency, 3rd Floor, Balmiki Marg, Lalbagh, Lucknow. Area: 371.75 sq.mtr. Boundaries: East- 20ft road, West- Plot No. C-27, North- 25 ft road, South- Remain Part of Plot	Rs. 2,05,23,677.46 + interest and other charges	06.11.2018 11.01.2019
2.	Misha Enterprises (Pro. Bikram Singh Chandhok S/o Satpal Singh), Plot No. K2, Agro Park, Phase II, UPSIDC Ltd., Kurshi Road, Barabanki	Plot No. K2, Agro Park, Phase II, UPSIDC Ltd., Kurshi Road, Barabanki. Area: 788 sq.mtr. Boundaries: East- Plot No. K3, West- Plot No. K1, North- Plot No. J-II, South- 18 mt. road	Rs. 2,05,23,677.46 + interest and other charges	06.11.2018 11.01.2019
3.	Yasmeen Khan w/o Kurban Khan and Kurban Khan S/o Shamsar Khan, H.No. 355/26, Plot No. 6 KHA, Rajajipuram, Lucknow	H.No. 355/26, Plot No. 6 KHA, Rajajipuram, Lucknow, Boundaries: East- Road 25 ft, West- Plot No. 7 of Mrs. Chandra Mukhi, North- Road 10ft, South- Plot No. 6 KA of Mr. Krishna Uppal	Rs. 8,98,188.91 + interest and other charges	24.07.2018 11.01.2019

Date: 19.01.2019 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer

DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
National Office: DHFL House, 4th Floor, 19, Sahar Road, Off Western Express Highway, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai - 400099
Branch office: DHFL, Dreams Mall, first floor, L.B.S Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400078

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the said Borrower(s)), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount/With NPA date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
(LC No. 00001827 of DELHI Branch) Ajay Kumar Rawal (Borrower) Dharam Singh Rawal (Co Borrower) Reena Rawal (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 2129192/- (Twenty One lakh Twenty Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety Two) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Plot No. C- 113 Block C, Sector Omicron-1 Mathurapur, Greater Noida, Gautambudh Nagar- 201308
(LC No. 00002412 of Varanasi Branch) Dharmendra Kumar Sonkar (Borrower) Beenu Sonkar (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 2389571/- (Twenty Three lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Gata No. 392 Village Ratapur Paragana & Tehsil, Raebareilly - 229001
(LC No. 00003209 of Varanasi Branch) Guru Prasad (Borrower) Ashwani Yadav (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 2548267/- (Twenty Five lakh Forty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Gata No 1473/3, Chak Ahmadpur Nazool (Gandhi Nagar), Pargana & Teh. Raebareilly - 229001
(LC No. 00000552 of Karnal Branch) Sanjeev Kumar (Borrower) Sunita Devi (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1698412/- (Sixteen lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twelve) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Khexwat No 231/208 min, Muraba No 31, khasra No 6/2(1-15)(7-15), 8/1(1-11), 15/1(4-6) Kishapura Road Bir Pipil, Kurukshetra - 136118
(LC No. 00000204 of DELHI Branch) Dharmendra Singh Yadav (Borrower) Sonu Yadav (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 605240/- (Six lakh Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Plot No B 06 Khasra No 6380 Lakmi Vihar Near Sarai Kazi, Meerut, Meerut - 250004
(LC No. 00002628 of Haldwani Branch) Abdul Sameer Khan (Borrower) Amreen Khan (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1298106/- (Twelve lakh Ninety Eight Thousand One Hundred Six) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Part Of Khasra No.266 To 271 And 619 To 622 Village Bihraman Nagia, Bareilly, Bareilly- 243001
(LC No. 00002940 of Haldwani Branch) Waheed Ahmad (Borrower) Tasabbare Begum (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 3818529/- (Thirty Eight lakh Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Nine) (NPA date : 01-08-2018)	Plot No 56 Jagatpur Vihar Extension Jagatpur Lala Begum, Bareilly - 243001
(LC No. 00003306 of Haldwani Branch) Mohd Ashraf Hussain Shabri (Borrower) Rubina Khatun (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 2872706/- (Twenty Eight lakh Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Six) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Part Of Khasra No. 799 Min & 800 Min Bakey Rajasvaya Gram Vihar Bihar Man Nagia, Bareilly - 243001
(LC No. 00003335 of Haldwani Branch) Koteswar Infrastructure Private Limited (Borrower) Gopal Das Agarwal (Co Borrower) Shashi Agarwal (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1921654/- (Nineteen lakh Twenty One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Four) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Part Of Khasra No. 242/2 Min. Plot No 31, Chema Colony Village Dibdiba Bilaspur Rampur Uttar Pradesh 244921
(LC No. 00001090 of Lucknow Branch) Koteswar Infrastructure Private Limited (Borrower) Gopal Das Agarwal (Co Borrower) Shashi Agarwal (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 64133733/- (Six Crore Forty One lakh Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Three) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Land Khasra no 168P 169 P 170P 241P, 243P, 244P & 247 P Ghazipur Said-Un-Nisha Lucknow, Lucknow - 226001
(LC No. 00041856 of Lucknow Branch) Neetu Shukla (Borrower) Shailendra Kumar (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 3259157/- (Thirty Two lakh Fifty Nine Thousand One Hundred Fifty Seven) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Plot No 153 Khasra No 218 Ka Min Vill Lonapur, Lucknow - 226020
(LC No. 00041860 of Lucknow Branch) Santosh Kumar Jha (Borrower) Yogita Jha (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 2563565/- (Twenty Five lakh Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Five) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	House On Plot No 69 On Khasra No 173 Ka Minjulia Vill. Bhuhar Ward Haidarganj, Lucknow - 226020
(LC No. 00042286 of Lucknow Branch) Ashok Kumari (Borrower) Ashwani Kumar (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1739673/- (Seventeen lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Three) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Plot No. 34 Part Of Gata No 219 Vill Baijwar Khurd Pargna Khairabad Tehsil Sitapur, Sitapur - 261001

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 19-Jan-2019 Place: UTTAR PRADESH
Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Mayor launches 'Chalo app'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and municipal commissioner Indra Mani Tripathi launched the Lucknow Chalo app at a programme organised at a city hotel on Friday. The app has been conceptualised by Urban Mass Transit Company Limited (UMTC) along with Lucknow City Transport Services Limited (LCTSL) under the leadership of Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC). Chalo is a free mobile app that revolutionises public transport and helps people plan their daily journeys. The app benefits lakhs of bus travellers by reducing their commuting time by as much as 40 minutes each day and helps them in saving money by finding the cheapest trip options to their destination.

Lucknow City Bus Transport Services Limited managing director Arif Saqlain, while talking to *The Pioneer*, said that with this app they wanted the buses to become the most preferred option for travel. He said that with the help of this app people could track buses. "The company has fitted the GPS system in all the 176 buses which are running in the city for which we did not have to pay any amount," he said. The managing director said: "With this app one can



decide sitting from home which bus he or she needs to catch for any destination in the city and he or she can also while standing at a bus stop decide what will be the convenient option for him or her," he said. Experts from the Urban Mass Transit Company said that the Lucknow Chalo app would empower commuters in Lucknow.

"With this, they can know the arrival time of their bus and so they can leave for the bus stop accordingly, track the live GPS position of their bus on a map, find the cheapest and fastest trip options, including all the bus route options to their destination. Plan their trip door-to-door using a multi-modal trip planner, travel safely with features such as Emergency SOS and live trip

sharing with friends and family locate bus stops closest to them," they said.

With the launch of this Chalo app, Lucknow becomes the first city in UP to offer a smart transport solution to its commuters, at par with the world's leading cities. The Lucknow Metro has also provided a link for the app.

Experts added that the app would not only help unlock valuable time for bus travellers but by increasing the usage of public transport it would reduce traffic congestion, carbon emissions and overcrowding at bus stops which are big challenges in a city like Lucknow. Bus travellers of Lucknow can experience the Chalo app right away by downloading it free from the Google Play Store, they pointed out.

CITY BRIEFS

SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS AT KUMBH MELA

SMS Lucknow has formed a team of faculty and students in order to unearth various scientific aspects behind the huge gathering driven by belief and faith enveloping spiritualism amongst pilgrims at Kumbh, under the aegis of Vedic Science Centre. Senior environmentalist and director general (Tech), SMS Lucknow, Bharat Raj Singh said the transition of the Sun into 'Makar Rashi' creates a force of attraction that induces faith and belief in living beings which make them assemble at Kumbh Mela. The main objective behind the formation of this team is to extract the gist pertaining to the acknowledging of spiritualism. According to secretary and CEO of SMS Lucknow Sharad Singh, special emphasis has been on research work since 2010. He said that under the continuation of research activity at the institute, it had scored first position in 'Navachar, Navaparivartan and Startup' among the technical institutes affiliated to AKTU.

FDP INAUGURATED

A two-day faculty development programme (FDP) was inaugurated at the Centre for Advanced Studies, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, on Friday. The objective was to enhance knowledge of faculty members in terms of innovation and entrepreneurship. Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies Manish Gaur welcomed the faculty members and motivated them for innovation and entrepreneurship.



Shiksha Mitras protesting at Eco Gardens on Friday

characteristics and important stages of entrepreneurship. He spoke about 'Srijan Sanchar', which is an organisation working in the entire continuum of ideas to entrepreneurship. 'Srijan Sanchar' has set up an industry academia interface and an incubator, 'Srijan Samarthan'. Lead enabler of 'Srijan Sanchar' Aditendra Jaiswal described the innovative industry academia mechanism for budding entrepreneurs. Principle executive director, Ministry of Defense, SN Jaiswal explained the importance of innovation and how to convert ideas into enterprise. Swati Maheshwari shared her story as an entrepreneur bringing out different

imposed a penalty of Rs 3.40 crore on the company which has said once the prototype is okayed, all 39 e-buses would be supplied. The buses will be charged at the Dubagga workshop. Saqlain said the e-buses would be noiseless while moving. "The trials will take place from Alambagh to Gomti Nagar for the first bus," he added.

E-BUS TRIALS

The first trials of electric buses will likely be conducted on January 26. Managing director Lucknow City Transport Bus Services Limited Arif Saqlain said they had still not received the e-buses. "The buses will be coming from Bengaluru but there is some problem as a result of which the vehicles will be arriving a week later. We expect the first trials on January 26," he said. The e-buses were supposed to arrive from the company in August last year. The Lucknow City Transport Services has also

imposed a penalty of Rs 3.40 crore on the company which has said once the prototype is okayed, all 39 e-buses would be supplied. The buses will be charged at the Dubagga workshop. Saqlain said the e-buses would be noiseless while moving. "The trials will take place from Alambagh to Gomti Nagar for the first bus," he added.

PROTEST

Over two lakh Shiksha Mitras, led by Uma Devi, staged a massive protest at Eco Gardens on Friday. The protesters demanded implementation of Schedule 9 of the Constitution to help Shiksha

Mitras regain their posts which were cancelled in July, 2017.

FLOWER SHOW

NBRI pavilion will be the main attraction at the flower show which will be inaugurated on Saturday. The two-day 'Rose and Gladiolus Show 2019' at the central lawn of Botanic Garden. "Competitors from different walks of life and organisations will be participating in the flower show by exhibiting their entries under different categories. The main attraction of the show will be CSIR-NBRI pavilion with display of cut flowers of NBRI germplasm of roses and gladiolus and herbal products and technologies," a senior scientist said. Meanwhile, the 3-day Vivekananda Flower Show kicked off at Ramakrishna Math on Friday. The flower show was inaugurated by NBRI director SK Barik. He laid emphasis on the role of floriculture industry and cut-flower trade. He explained that in recent years, India exported plants and floriculture produce worth of Rs 600 crore.



Flower show at Ramakrishna Math

FSDA additional CS inspects lab

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Additional chief secretary, Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) Anita Bhatnagar Jain carried out an inspection at Rajkiya Jan Vishleshak Lab in Aliganj on Friday. She visited each section of the lab and got the samples tested in front of her.

Addressing mediapersons at



her office in Babu Bhawan, she said that while reviewing the sample collection process, she found that the date when the samples were procured was not mentioned in the register. However, she found that the dates of procuring the samples and those mentioned in the register were different. She said dates of sample collection should also be mentioned so that it could be made clear after how much time did the lab receive samples since the date of collection. Jain said the samples should be collected district-wise in all the six categories.

The additional chief sec-

retary (FSDA) said directions should be given again in terms of packaging and preservatives used and efforts be made to ensure samples reached the same day. She said that the work of section incharge should not be to merely allot samples and he should also monitor the work of junior analysts. Jain said the samples of wheat and wheat products had been pending for long and she had also been informed that some milk samples contained urea and detergent. She pointed out that some packets of turmeric and chilli contained chemicals and they were being sold marked as inedible.

SCHOOLSCAN

OPEN DAY

The young participants who came from 14 countries to attend the 26th International Children's Camp, hosted by City Montessori School, celebrated 'Open Day' with enthusiasm. The participants from Brazil, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and India displayed astonishing folk dances and songs that kept the audience glued to their seats. Earlier, Minister for Labour, Employment and Coordination Swami Prasad Maurya inaugurated the function and encouraged the participants to work for the service to humanity. Maurya said that the pivot of world unity was the blending of various cultures and thoughts. It was amazing to feel that the children of different countries live together, he added. The young repre-



sentatives of 14 countries prayed for welfare of mankind and then presented scintillating cultural presentations. After 'Open Day' celebrations, president of CISV India chapter and CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi briefed mediapersons regarding the aims and objective of hosting the camp. He

said that despite varied languages and cultures, the children built an amazing atmosphere of unity.

उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा विधि विस्तार सूचना
इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा संख्या 214-वि.पा.मं. प्र.ल./2018-19 जो दिनांक 18.01.2019 को खोली जाती थी, अब किसी अपरिहार्य कारणों से दिनांक 24.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 25.01.2019 को 12:30 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा निविदा को अन्य नियम व शर्त पूर्वक रहेगी।
अधीक्षक अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, कक्षा सं. 111 से 114, मूलतः, पारेषण भवन विद्युतखण्ड-1, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। संख्या-135, दिनांक-18.1.19 राधुहित में बिजली बचाये।

उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा संख्या 19/विपा0ख0(तु)
सं/2018-19 अघोस्ताहकर्ता द्वारा अनुमोदी केन्दरो/फर्मो से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अलग-अलग सीलबन्ध ई-निविदाये दो भागो में ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि व केता, तकनीकी एवं अनुभव सम्बन्धित प्रश्न, व्यावसायिक व अन्य शर्त आदि एवं दूसरे भाग में दरे व वाणिज्यिक नियम एवं शर्त प्रदान करनी होगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य, धरोहर धनराशि आवेदन पत्र के साथ संलग्न करनी हूए इनकी Scanned copy upload करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर धनराशि, एन0इ0एफ0 टी0/आर0टी0जी0एर0टी0 के रूप (A/C Name : EE, ETD-III, Lucknow, A/C No. 6193005500000067, IFSC Code : PUNB0619300) में प्रस्तुत की जायेगी जो अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, लखनऊ के पक्ष में देय होगी। प्रथम भाग में वांछित धरोहर धनराशि एवं अन्य प्रपत्र पूर्ण तथा उचित/स्वीकार्य योग्य न होने पर द्वितीय भाग को नहीं खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदा का विवरण-निविदा सं. कार्य का नाम, धरोहर धनराशि, खुलने की तिथि व समय क्रमशः निम्नानुसार है :- (1) ई-निविदा संख्या 19/विपा0ख0(तु) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र हैदराबाद पर 40 एवं 20 MVA परिवर्तकों और 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र रामसनेही घाट पर 40 MVA परिवर्तकों के एन0टी0 साइड पर प्रोटेक्शन नेट के फेडीकेशन एवं इरेक्शन का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि रु 2,00,000. निविदा दिनांक 18.02.2019 को 17:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 19.02.2019, समय 12:00 बजे भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 236/- मात्र (रु 200.00+जी0 एर0टी0)@18% अतिरिक्त) ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि को अवकाश की स्थिति में निविदा आगले कार्य दिवस पर खोली जायेगी। विस्तृत जानकारी एवं अन्य संशोधनों आदि के सम्बन्ध में सूचना एवं निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने हेतु ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in देखी जा सकती है। सभी निविदा प्रपत्र अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, लखनऊ के पक्ष में एन0इ0एफ0 टी0/आर0टी0जी0एर0टी0 द्वारा भुगतान कर प्रपत्र डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in देखी जा सकती है। अघोस्ताहकर्ता को विना कारण बताये ई-निविदा को अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ कक्षा संख्या 217-222, पारेषण भवन एन0एर0डी0डी0 परिसर विद्युत खण्ड-1, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010 पत्रांक 49 दिनांक 18.1.19 राधुहित में बिजली बचाये।

उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा संख्या 230 से 234 विपा0
सं/2018-19 अघोस्ताहकर्ता द्वारा अनुमोदी केन्दरो/फर्मो से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अलग-अलग सीलबन्ध ई-निविदाये दो भागो में ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि व केता, तकनीकी एवं अनुभव सम्बन्धित प्रश्न, व्यावसायिक व अन्य शर्त आदि एवं दूसरे भाग में दरे व वाणिज्यिक नियम एवं शर्त प्रदान करनी होगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य, धरोहर धनराशि एवं जी0एर0टी0 पंजीकरण प्रमाण-पत्र आवेदन पत्र के साथ संलग्न करनी हूए इनकी Scanned copy upload करना अनिवार्य है। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं धरोहर धनराशि, जो कि अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, लखनऊ के खाता संख्या 2408002190005438, I.F.S. Code-PUNB0691100 पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, लखनऊ के खाते में RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से स्थानान्तरित कर सु0टी0आर0 संख्या तथा पे-रिस्फ की प्रति ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ सह प्रमाणित PAN एवं GST पंजीकरण प्रमाण-पत्र की प्रति प्रथम भाग के साथ लगाने अनिवार्य होगा। वांछित धरोहर धनराशि एवं अन्य प्रपत्र पूर्ण तथा उचित/स्वीकार्य योग्य न होने पर द्वितीय भाग को नहीं खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदाओं का विवरण-निविदा सं. कार्य का नाम, धरोहर धनराशि, खुलने की तिथि व समय क्रमशः निम्नानुसार है :- (1) अल्पकालिक 230-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत नव निर्मित पारेषण भवन में विद्युत व्यवस्था हेतु स्थापित विद्युत उपकरणों की वार्षिक देख-रेख एवं उससे सम्बन्धित अन्य कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 17,50,000, निविदा दिनांक 05.02.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 06.02.2019, समय 12:30 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (2) अल्पकालिक 231-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत सु0पी0एर0टी0सी0 भवन में विद्युत व्यवस्था हेतु स्थापित विद्युत उपकरणों की वार्षिक देख-रेख एवं उससे सम्बन्धित अन्य कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 17,50,000, निविदा दिनांक 05.02.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 06.02.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (3) 232-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र मोहाना रोड लखनऊ पर वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुस्थापन का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 19,00,000, निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.01.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (4) अल्पकालिक 233-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र रहींगाबाद लखनऊ पर वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुस्थापन का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 19,00,000, निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.01.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (5) अल्पकालिक 234-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र मोहाना रोड लखनऊ पर वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुस्थापन का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 14,50,000, निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.01.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (6) अल्पकालिक 235-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र मोहाना रोड लखनऊ पर वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुस्थापन का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 16,50,000, निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.01.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (7) अल्पकालिक 236-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र मोहाना रोड लखनऊ पर वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुस्थापन का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 16,50,000, निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.01.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (8) अल्पकालिक 237-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र मोहाना रोड लखनऊ पर वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुस्थापन का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 16,50,000, निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.01.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (9) 232-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र मोहाना रोड लखनऊ पर वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुस्थापन का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 16,50,000, निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.01.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (10) 233-विपा0मं0(प्र0) सं/2018-19, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के0टी0 उपकेंद्र मोहाना रोड लखनऊ पर वार्षिक परिचालन एवं अनुस्थापन का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रु 16,50,000, निविदा दिनांक 28.01.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.01.2019, समय 13:00 बजे, भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्दर्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- मात्र (रु 500.00+G.S.T.@18% अतिरिक्त), (11) से 114, मूलतः पारेषण भवन, विद्युत खण्ड-1, गोमती नगर लखनऊ पत्रांक 133 दिनांक 18.1.19 राधुहित में बिजली बचाये।

Dinesh Sharma says BJP not scared of any political tie-up



Kanpur: Bharatiya Janata Party is not scared of any political alliance ahead of parliamentary elections, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said. "BJP is capable of forming the government on its own. The opposition is day-dreaming," he said. His comments came days after Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati and Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav announced they would contest Lok Sabha polls, expected to be held in April-May, together in UP. The comments also came ahead of Saturday's rally of several anti-BJP parties being organised by TMC chief Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata, which the SP and the BSP have decided to be part of. "Those who are scared have decided to opt for alliances. They are the ones who make strategies to join hands with one to make the other lose," Sharma told reporters. "The opportunist has struck alliances in the past too,

which were devoid of any policy or morality... They were not able to defeat the BJP even then," he said. Sharma said BJP has formed governments in 16 states people can see "what BJP has done for development." The Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister said crime and casteism in the state were rampant once, but after the BJP came to power, investors have begun looking towards UP. To a question about CBI raids in connection with illegal mining during the previous government, Sharma said it were being done in pursuance with court orders. "BJP does not work like previous governments. Whoever is guilty will definitely be punished," he pointed out. On cleaning the Ganga river, Sharma said people are getting pure Ganga water in Kumbh. "Even leaders of Opposition parties, taking a holy dip in Ganga, are thanking UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for it," Sharma said. PTI

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EX.ENGINEER (NE) II
R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95
PRESS NIT No. 38 (2018-19)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender to Tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of old / damaged / deep 150 mm dia water line at Roshan Vihar road from Karawal Nagar road in Mustafabad AC-69 Tender ID No. 2019_DJB_165935_3	30,27,414.00	61,000.00	500.00	15.01.2019	04.02.2019 upto 02.30 P.M.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 689/2018-19

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) II
H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-110089
PH: 27851040 (E-MAIL eenw2.djb@gmail.com)
SHORT PRESS NIT No. 46 (2018-19) Press Notice Tender

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to tender	Earnest Money/ Tender Fee	Date of release of tender procurement solution/D. No.	Last date/time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of sewerage system by repairing, reconstructing the damaged manholes in narrow lanes of C Block, Sector-5, Rohini in AC-06 Rihala under EE(NW)-II	Rs. 30,73,582/-	Rs. 61,500/-	17.01.2019	30.01.2019 Upto 3.00 PM
2.	Improvement of water supply by replacing old under sized water lines in D-8 Pocket of Sector-6, Rohini in AC-06 Rihala under EE(NW)-II	Rs. 29,95,498/-	Rs. 60,000/-	17.01.2019	30.01.2019 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 692/2018-19

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PROVINCIAL DIVISION, PWD, KAUSHAMBI (U.P.)
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
No.: 86/7A/2019 Date : 14-01-2019

1. The Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Kaushambi on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate online bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD in class A (Registered in Road Signage) as the can may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.)	Period of completion (Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Kaushambi	Vitthiya Varsh 2018-19 mein marg suraksha ke antargat Rajya Marg/Pramukh Jila Marg and mahalvapurn anya Jila Marg par Sadak Suraksha ke Karya.	32.00	3.20	500+ 300/- stationery charge+GST	30 Days

3- Time allowed for completion of each work is as mentioned in column no. 7, including rainy season.
4- Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB)4. Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB)
5- Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> on 21-01-2019 to 28-01-2019 upto 12:00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 12:00 Hours on 29-01-2019. Technical Bid will be opened on 29-01-2019 at 12:30 Hours
6- The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.
(SATISH KUMAR)
Executive Engineer
Provincial Division, PWD, Kaushambi
For and on behalf of Governor of U.P.

U.P.: 136578, Date: 16.01.2019
विज्ञापन वेबसाईट www.upgovtprocurement.com पर उपलब्ध है।

UP ILLEGAL SAND MINING SCAM

IAS officer Chandrakala, SP leader get ED summon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to four accused persons, including IAS officer B Chandrakala and a Samajwadi Party (SP) leader, in connection with an alleged illegal mining scam case in Uttar Pradesh.

The ED had registered a criminal case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after taking cognisance of a CBI FIR to probe illegal mining of minor minerals (sand and gravel) in the Hamirpur area between 2012 and 2016.

The CBI has said it is probing the role of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav too in the case as he had held the mining portfolio during this period.

Chandrakala and SP MLC Ramesh Kumar Mishra had been summoned by the ED to appear before the Investigating Officer of the case in Lucknow on January 24 and 28 respectively. Besides Chandrakala and Mishra, the ED has summoned two more officials to appear before it next week, sources said.

The ED is probing the money trail and whether the alleged proceeds of crime generated due to the kickbacks received in these cases were laundered by the accused.

The agency will also look for assets, both immovable and movable, of the accused that can be attached under the



Chandrakala and SP MLC Ramesh Kumar Mishra had been summoned by the ED to appear before the Investigating Officer of the case in Lucknow on January 24 and 28 respectively

Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on a BSP ticket), to probe the alleged illegal mining of minor minerals in Hamirpur district during 2012-16.

The role of the then mining ministers of the State is also under the scanner of the ED.

Yadav, who was the CM of the State between 2012 and 2017, held the mining portfolio during 2012-13, a reason why his role is under the scanner for investigation, according to the CBI FIR.

He was succeeded by Gayatri Prajapati, who took charge as the mining minister in 2013 and was arrested in 2017 following a complaint of rape by a woman residing in Chitrakoot.

CITIZENSHIP BILL

Centre likely to call N-E CMs meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of strong protests over the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill, the Centre is expected to soon call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all northeastern States to address concerns.

Sources said a decision in this regard was taken after Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh discussed the matter in detail with Mizoram and Meghalaya Chief Ministers in a meeting here.

The controversial Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8.

However, large scale protests were witnessed in the northeastern States including Assam and Mizoram over the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government's attempt to pass the Bill in the Upper House of Parliament.

"There was a serious discussion on the Bill in the meeting. The Centre has assured that it will look into the concerns of northeastern States before moving ahead," a highly placed Government source said.

"Most likely, a meeting of chief ministers of all northeastern States will be called soon to resolve their concerns," the source added.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said:



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma (2nd R), Mizoram CM Zoramthanga (L) and Meghalaya Dy CM Prestone Tynsong (R) during a meeting regarding Citizenship Bill, in New Delhi on Friday

"Northeastern States will be forced to take a call if it does not get a positive response on the scrapping of the Bill."

In the meeting, Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga said the Centre was informed that all northeastern States were opposing the Bill and the law should not be diluted.

"It (amendments) should not be there. Let it be as it is. Let it not be amended as it is proposed. That's what we want," he said.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, pro-

Large scale protests were witnessed in the northeastern States including Assam and Mizoram over the BJP-led NDA Government's attempt to pass the Bill in the Upper House of Parliament

IN SHORT

RS SECS PITCHES FOR GENDER EQUALITY

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Secretariat Secretary Dr PPK Ramacharyulu on Friday said that the constitutional provisions for gender equality have been supplemented from time to time by significant women-centric legislations like the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act. The implementation of this Act has, however, not been able to address the concerns regarding women security and safety at the workplace, he said at the concluding address of the two day sensitisation workshop on various aspects of the issue of sexual harassment at workplace and the provisions of the Act in this regard.

WOMEN TO BE RECRUITED IN MILITARY POLICE: MIN

New Delhi: Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the Government has taken a "historic" decision to induct women in the military police with an aim to enhance their representation in the armed forces. Women will be inducted in a graded manner to eventually comprise 20 per cent of total Corps of Military Police, the official handle of the Defence Minister tweeted. Their role would range from probing rape and molestation cases to assisting the Army wherever required.

'CELEBRATE BOSE'S B'DAY AS DESHPREM DIVAS'

New Delhi: The Forward Bloc has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate the birthday of its founder Subhas Chandra Bose as "Deshpreem Divas", more than eight years after the demand was rejected by the then Congress-led government. Bose had quit the Congress and floated the All India Forward Bloc in 1939. Calling Modi an "ardent admirer of Netaji", the Left party, in a letter to the prime minister, requested that the day be renamed as soon as possible as January 23, 2019 would be the 123rd birth anniversary of Bose.

'BIG DECISION FOR FARMERS SOON'

New Delhi: BJP farmers' wing president Virendra Singh Mast on Friday said the Centre will soon announce a "very big decision" aimed at boosting the income of farmers. He said the government had taken a number of "historic" decisions for rural development and the agriculture sector.

IRANI SLAMS CONG OVER ANTI-INDIA SLOGANS

New Delhi: The BJP is committed to make India a strong and resurgent nation while the Congress is standing with those who raise anti-India slogans, Union Minister Smriti Irani said on Friday. She further attacked the Congress, saying one of its senior leaders had advocated repealing the law that defined sedition.

India lodges strong protest with Pak over Gilgit-Baltistan

New Delhi: India on Friday summoned the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan and lodged a strong protest on a recent order by Pakistan Supreme Court extending its jurisdiction over Gilgit-Baltistan. The Pakistani official was conveyed that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, which also includes the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan', "has been, is and shall remain an integral part of India", the Ministry of External Affairs said. In an order, the Pakistan Supreme Court has said that its jurisdiction and power extend to Gilgit-Baltistan.

"The Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan was summoned today and a strong protest was lodged on recent order by Supreme Court of Pakistan on the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' which is an interference in India's internal affairs," the MEA said.

It also said Pakistan was asked to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation. "Pakistan Government or judiciary have no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it. Any action to alter the status of these occupied territories by Pakistan has no legal basis whatsoever," the MEA said in a statement.

It said India rejected such continued attempts by Pakistan to bring material change in these "occupied territories and to camouflage grave human rights violations, exploitation and sufferings of the people living there".

Survey to identify those who left out by Govt schemes, says Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to identify eligible people who are left out under the Prime Minister's flagship schemes, a survey, 'safety net survey', is being conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA). All necessary formalities are expected to be completed by January 31, 2019. The survey is being done among the self help group (SHG) members, whose number stands at 34 lakh across the country.

Besides, the Ministry will extend outreach of its flagship project Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana among the poorest of poor in the country through a series of events in the coming month.

Announcing this, the Union HUA Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said the survey is being conducted to identify eligible self help group members not covered by Government programs including Swachh Bharat Mission (urban), Prime Minister Awas Yojana (Urban), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and National Nutrition Mission.

According to HUA officials, there are reports that numbers of eligible people have not been able to get benefit from the flagship schemes. "We will try to include those eligible who have not been covered," officials added.

Puri also announced that the 'Shehri Samridhi Utsav',

Kartarpur corridor: Access mode for Indian devotees yet to be decided

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said the mode of access for Indian devotees headed for Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara in Pakistan, is yet to be decided by the two countries. "Whether access will be given to them by using passport as a travel document or VISA will be applied, are issues that are to be discussed bilaterally between the two countries. It is yet to be finalised," Puri told reporters. He said that a decision has been taken that access from the Indian side — the main road which goes up to Kartarpur Sahib will be completed in a time-bound manner.

focusing on urban livelihoods, will be held from February 1 to 15, showcasing initiatives of the Deen Dayal Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-National Urban Livelihood Mission).

The Mission has made "significant progress" in the last five years, organising 34 lakh urban poor women into self-help groups, besides providing subsidised loans to over 8.5 lakh individuals and groups.

"Over 8.9 lakh candidates have been skill trained and certified. Over 4.6 lakh have been placed," Puri said.

Among other achievements under the mission, 16 lakh street vendors have been identified through a survey and half of them have been given identity cards. More than 1,000 permanent shelters have been set up, creating space for

more than 60,000 urban homeless, he said.

Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said various activities will be organised in the city, state and at the national level as part of the 'Shehri Samridhi Utsav'. A national exhibition will be held in New Delhi from February 8 to 17 along with a national street food festival which will start on February 14, he said.

A national conference on street vending will also be held to discuss issues and seek a way forward to support livelihoods of hawkers. National-level workshop on sanitation and a conference on street vending will also be part of the planned programmes. Further, rally by self help groups, job melas, loan camps, identity cards for street vendors and other activities will be organised.

51 women in 10-50 age group entered Sabarimala shrine till now: Kerala to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fifty-one female devotees in the age group of 10-50 years have entered the Sabarimala temple through an online process since the Supreme Court removed the bar on their entry in September last year, the Kerala Government on Friday told the apex court.

The submission was made during the hearing of a plea filed by Bindu and Kanakadurga, the two women who had entered the temple on January 2, seeking security.

The apex court ordered the state to provide two of them round-the-clock foolproof security.

A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices L.N Rao and Dinesh Maheshwari said it was only going into the

aspect of security of the two women, and would not like to entertain any other prayer made in the petition.

"We deem it appropriate to close this writ petition at this stage by directing the State of Kerala to provide adequate/full security to the petitioner Nos. 1 (Bindu) and 2 (Kanakadurga) herein which would be provided to the petitioners round the clock," the Bench said.

It was hearing the petition of 42-year-old Bindu, a college lecturer and CPI(M) activist from Kozhikode district's Koyilandy, and Kanakadurga, 44, a civil supplies department employee from Angadipuram in Malappuram, who had entered the Sabarimala shrine on January 2.

The state has witnessed violent protests over the issue.

At the outset, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing for the Kerala Government, told the bench that till now 51 female devotees have entered Sabarimala temple and all of them are being provided adequate security.

"In this regard it is submitted that a total of 7,564 women between the age group of 10-50 years had registered for darshan and as per the digitally scanned records around 51 women in this group have already visited the shrine and had darshan without any issue," the note of Kerala government given to the court stated.

He said that the two petitioners were given adequate and effective protection from the temple to a safe place and they continue to remain under protection.

SC considers four advocates for elevation to Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court collegium has considered four advocates for elevation to the Delhi High Court and has deferred decision on two of the recommended names while the other two have been sent back, according to a resolution posted on the apex court website on Friday.

The four — Krishnendu Datta, Saurabh Kirpal, Priya Kumar and Sanjoy Ghose — were among nine advocates whose names were recommended for elevation by the collegium of the Delhi High Court on October 13, 2017. PTI

Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, Sanjiv Khanna sworn in as apex court judges

New Delhi: Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna were on Friday sworn in as Supreme Court judges amid a raging controversy over the functioning of the Collegium which recommended their elevation by ignoring some senior judges of various high courts.

Both the judges were administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi during a ceremony held in court number 1 of the apex court. PTI

ISRO to give students practical experience of satellite building

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation will select over 100 students from across India and give them a practical experience of how satellites are built under the new 'Young Scientist Programme', its chairman K Sivan announced on Friday.

The initiative, chalked to attract young minds and arouse interest in this niche arena, is conceptualised on the lines of a similar programme run by American space agency NASA.

Sivan said mostly Class 8 students — three each from 29 states and seven Union territories — will be given lectures by ISRO scientists and they will also get access to the space agency's laboratories.

The programme will be funded entirely by ISRO, he said.

"We want them to get a practical experience of building a small satellite. If the satellites are good, we want them to fly,"

Sivan said. Vivek Singh, director of media and public relations, said the students will be encouraged to develop "scientific payloads" that can be launched by ISRO. Sivan said six incubation centres will be established in various parts of the country — North, South, East, West, Centre and North-East, and the first such centre has been established in Agartala in Tripura. The students will be able to use these centres for R&D purposes. ISRO, he said, will ask the students to address problems and buy solutions from them.

The PS4, the last stage of PSLV, can be used for various experimental purposes, Sivan said, urging students to send their satellites which can be launched by ISRO.

PSLV is a four-stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages. Singh said since PS4 can be used by launching satellites by students with no extra cost to ISRO.



Anti-vaccine movement threat to global health in '19: WHO

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

It is not only India but even several countries across the globe are witnessing the anti-vaccine movement particularly myths circulated on social media, prompting the World Health Organisation (WHO) to declare the disturbing trend as one of the ten biggest health threats that the humanity faces in 2019.

Other key threats for 2019 in the list, that the WHO compiles every year and was released recently, include climate change, air pollution, a global influenza pandemic, dengue, poor primary health-care facilities, HIV and ebola.

Reluctance or refusal to immunise "threatens to reverse progress" made in tackling preventable diseases, the UN

health body has noted. "Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective ways of avoiding disease — it currently prevents 2-3 million deaths a year, and a further 1.5 million could be avoided if global coverage of vaccinations improved. An estimated 1,10,000 people, mainly children, died from the vaccine-preventable disease across the world in 2017," said the WHO.

Though, India, is a biggest exporter of vaccine, it has failed to reach out to every needy kid because of several reasons including vaccine hesitancy.

The WHO warning comes after a 30 per cent spike in measles cases worldwide, including in several countries where the virus had been virtually eliminated. In India too,

10 biggest threats to global health in 2019

➤ Vaccine hesitancy, Ebola virus, fragile and vulnerable settings, HIV, Dengue fever, noncommunicable diseases like diabetes and heart conditions, HIV, weak primary health care and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

measles cases are on increase.

"The reasons for this rise are complex, and not all of these cases are due to vaccine hesitancy," the WHO said. "However, some countries that were close to eliminating the disease have seen a resurgence," the WHO said, terming it as 'of serious concern'.

With nine out of ten people breathing polluted air every day, air pollution has been touted as the greatest environmental threat in 2019. Microscopic pollutants in the air can penetrate respiratory and circulatory systems, dam-

aging the lungs, heart and brain, killing 7 million people prematurely every year from diseases such as cancer, stroke, heart and lung disease. "Around 90 per cent of these deaths are in low- and middle-income countries, with high volumes of emissions from industry, transport and agriculture, as well as dirty cookstoves and fuels in homes," as per the global health agency.

The primary cause of air pollution (burning fossil fuels) is also a major contributor to climate change, which impacts people's health in different

ways. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause 2,50,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)—the ability of bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi to resist these medicines — threatens to send us back to a time when we were unable to easily treat infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, gonorrhoea, and salmonellosis. India is already battling with AMR cases in TB.

While India has launched Ayushman Bharat scheme aiming to help the poor people to avail medical facilities free of cost at the tertiary hospital, primary health care which is usually the first point of contact people have with their health

care system, remain wanting. Dengue is yet another threat that the countries including India will have to tackle in 2019. A high number of cases occur in the rainy seasons of countries such as Bangladesh and India.

Also, though much progress has been made against HIV, the epidemic continues to rage with nearly a million people every year dying of HIV/AIDS. Today, around 37 million worldwide live with HIV. Reaching people like sex workers, people in prison, men who have sex with men, or transgender people is hugely challenging. Often these groups are excluded from health services, noted the WHO. In India, new pockets are witnessing emergence of HIV cases.

Train runs over 25 cows in Hamirpur

Banda (UP): A train ran over 25 cows near Ragaol railway station in neighbouring Hamirpur district on Friday, officials said.

Notice Inviting e-Tender No. SSA/Esstt/TT/ELP/544/2018-19/5687 Date: 17.01.2019

Notice Inviting e-Tender No. SSA/Esstt/TT/Print/2018-19/12019/5688 Date: 17.01.2019

3 grenade attacks on security forces in J&K

JeM claims responsibility



Police personnel collect samples after a grenade attack by militants who were reportedly targeting a CRPF picket at City Centre Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Friday

Militants lobbed three grenades on police and security forces in Srinagar and south Kashmir on Friday

There was no damage to life or property in the three blasts. Security sources said that

unidentified terrorists hurled hand grenade towards security personnel near Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower), one of the main market places in Srinagar.

Around the evening, another grenade was hurled at a police station in Kakpora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

militants usually up the ante ahead of Republic Day in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Police on Friday presented charge-sheet against seven accused persons allegedly involved in a case related to killing of a policeman guarding a senior separatist leader Fazlul Haq Qureshi's house and snatching his service rifle last year in Sura pocket of Srinagar outskirts.

Ex-BJP MP Uday Singh quits party; may join Grand Alliance

Patna: Former BJP MP Uday Singh, who has represented the Purnea Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar twice, announced his resignation from the party here on Friday

Singh being considered for the seat, which he had won in 2004 and 2009 and his mother Madhuri Singh had represented as a Congress nominee in the 1980s.

Woman who got HIV after blood transfusion delivers baby girl

Madurai: A 24-year-old woman, who contracted HIV at a Government hospital allegedly after being transfused contaminated blood, has given birth to a baby girl here.

He added. Last month, the pregnant woman contracted HIV at a Government hospital in Sattur in Virudhunagar district

allegedly after being transfused contaminated blood supplied by a blood bank. Following this, the state government ordered examination of stocks in the State's blood banks.

Table with 5 columns: क्र.सं., कार्य का नाम, कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, धरोहर धराराशि, कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य, फंजीरिंग शुल्क. Contains 27 rows of tender details.

110 feared dead as avalanche hits Ladakh's Khardung La

Srinagar: Five persons were killed and five others were missing after their truck came under an avalanche in the Khardung La area of the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

Guv condoles deaths

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik expressed grief over the loss of lives due to an avalanche in Ladakh region on Friday.



Silhouette of a Pelican bird seen flying past fishermen collecting their fishing nets after day end's work at Foreshore Estate beach (Pattinappakam beach) in Chennai on Friday

Maha Government mulling Ordinance against dance bars

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI Under severe criticism from the Opposition and other quarters over the Supreme Court relaxing some of its stringent legal provisions restricting licencing and functioning of dance bars in the State, the Maharashtra Government on Friday announced that if necessary, it would promulgate an Ordinance to enforce rules and stop reopening of dance bars in the State.

pm to 11.30 pm and allowed the sale of liquor in these joints, Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said that the State Government was contemplating bringing an ordinance to prevent reopening dancing joints in Mumbai and other parts of the State.

considering bringing an ordinance to stop dance bars from operating in Mumbai and other parts of the State," Mungantiwar said.

Cong MLAs being 'terrorised' as part of BJP's toppling bid: Kharge

Bengaluru: Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of attempting to "take control" of his party MLAs in Karnataka by using CBI, ED and Income Tax to "terrorise" them in the BJP's alleged bid to topple the State Government.

"They are trying multiple things such as threatening our MLAs by carrying out CBI, Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax raids.

at a ceremony where H K Patil took over as KPCC campaign committee chief. Kharge, the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, reminded BJP leaders that Congress workers were "strong and stubborn" and they would not yield to any pressure.

Kanpur Nagar Nigam NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Request for Qualification (RFQ) cum Request for Proposal (RFP) for development and construction of Kanha Gaushala at Village Jana Jajmau, Kanpur On TURN KEY BASIS

Citizenship Bill: Rajnath rings up AASU, seeks to resolve issue

Guwahati: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has rung up the All Assam Students Union (AASU) spearheading the agitation over the Citizenship Amendment Bill expressing the Centre's desire to resolve the issue through discussions, a statement by the students' body said here on Friday.

Talking to Singh, AASU and North East Students Organisation (NESO) Chief Advisor Samujjal Bhattacharyya insisted that the bill "which will make the indigenous people extinct and only protect the Bangladeshis has to be scrapped as desired by the people of Assam and the northeast region."

NESO is the umbrella organisation of major students unions of the seven northeast-

ern states. "Only through implementation of the historic Assam Accord 1985, signed at the end of the Assam Movement, the burning issue of citizenship problem has to be solved," the statement quoted Bhattacharyya as telling the Minister. A six-year long movement by the AASU demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants culminated with the signing of the Assam Accord by the Rajiv Gandhi government and the AASU on August 15, 1985. AASU president Dipanka Nath and General Secretary Luringiyoti Gogoi said the organisation will apprise the leadership of its allied 30 ethnic community and the NESO about Rajnath Singh's phone call.

Son of dismissed BSF constable found dead

In 2017, his father was dismissed from Army for complaining about bad food



Chandigarh: The 20-year-old son of dismissed BSF constable Tej Bahadur Yadav was found dead at his home in Haryana's Rewari district, police said on Friday. Rohit Yadav was found dead with bullet injuries on his temple at his home in Madhu Vihar locality on Thursday, they said.

His father Tej Bahadur Yadav, who was dismissed from the force after he posted a video online complaining about poor quality food being served to the

troops in 2017, had gone to Kumbh mela in Uttar Pradesh, police said. His mother was also not at home when the incident took place, they added. Police said as per the statement of Tej Bahadur Yadav, he had hidden his licensed weapon in the house but his son somehow traced it out.

The bullet probably got fired when his only son was fiddling with the pistol, they said quoting the statement of the father, who returned home Friday morning. His body was lying in a pool of blood with his father's licensed pistol in his hand, said a police official of Rewari Model Town police station. Police said inquest proceedings under section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure have been initiated in the case. Tej Bahadur Yadav had posted the video online complaining about poor quality food being served to the troops on icy heights along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir. He was later dismissed on charges of indiscipline.

Sabarimala action committee to hold mega rally in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Sabarimala Action Committee, an umbrella organisation fighting the Supreme Court verdict that quashed the ban on the entry of women in the child bearing age group in the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa is organising a mammoth rally on Sunday at Thiruvananthapuram, the Capital city of Kerala.

The rally and public meeting titled Ayyappa Bhakta Sangamam to be held at Putharikandom Maidan of the heritage city would be addressed by leading Hindu monks, sanyasins and spiritual leaders, according to a release issued by the organising committee on Friday. For the first time in modern times, the State of Kerala will see Swamy Chidanandapuri, the spiritual leader of the Hindus, Mata Amrithanandamayi, popularly known as the hugging saint along with a galaxy of monks and sanyasins sharing the stage to address the

gathering. "Using the Supreme Court verdict as an excuse feminist activists with connections to Maoists are being escorted to the shrine by the State Government machinery to desecrate the holy abode of Lord Ayyappa. The devotees who have mounted a constant vigil top protect the temple and its sanctity have been subjected to brutal State repression," the SAC alleged in the release.

It said the Sangamam is being organised in response to the attempts to desecrate the shrine and show the determination of the devotees to resist

the efforts to browbeat them into submission. "More than 150 leaders of social organisations will be present on the dais along with prominent activists, intellectuals, and artists from the entertainment industry," said M S Giri, the convener of the event.

Devotees from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana are also on their way to Thiruvananthapuram to take part in the Nama Japa Yatra as well as the public meeting, said Durai Shankar, leader of Dharma Raksha Samiti, Tamil Nadu.

Government of India
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
(Department of Social Justice & Empowerment)
Vacancy Circular

Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (D/o SJE) proposes to fill up the post of Financial Advisor in the Pay Band - PB-4 (Rs. 37400-67000/- + GP Rs. 8700/- on Deputation (including short term contract) basis. Last date for receipt of application is 45 days from the date of publication of advertisement in the Employment News.

For details, please refer to the Vacancy Circular published on the official website of D/o Social Justice and Empowerment: www.socialjustice.nic.in.

davp 38101/11/0085/1819 Under Secretary (SCD-VI)

DMK moves HC against 10% quota

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The DMK, which demanded earlier this month that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly pass a unanimous resolution against the 10 per cent reservation announced by the Centre for the economically weaker sections in the forward communities, approached the Madras High Court on Friday with a writ petition, challenging the

Constitutional validity of the recent amendment incorporated in the Constitution in this regard. According to R S Bharati, MP, the petitioner, the amendment made in the Constitution setting apart ten per cent quota in Government jobs and seats in educational institutions to the underprivileged sections in forward communities was unconstitutional and violated the basic feature of the Constitution. A division bench consist-

ing of Justices S Manikumar and Subramaniam Prasad agreed to hear the case as and when the High Court Registry lists the matter before them for admission. Bharati stated in his affidavit that reservation in education and public employment were provided under the Constitution for uplifting the oppressed and backward classes and to end caste-based discrimination in existence in the country for about three millenniums.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

Tender Notice No. 60/2018
No. C/158/A,B/GMU/Noti/JHS Div/MS-II Date: 09.01.2019
For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager North Central Railway Jhansi invites sealed bid on single stage two packet system i.e. packet "A" containing technical bid and packet "B" containing only financial bid from food and catering service providers for Provision of catering vending services through Catering Static Unit of 10' x6 Sq-ft (General Minor Unit) at following stations for a period of five years, mentioned as under.

Station	Platform No.	Location	Stall No.
Banda (A Category)	1/3	50 mts from FOB towards JHS end	01
		20 mts from FOB towards JHS end	02 (Women)
		Near post office	04
	02	Near pay office	05
		50 mts from FOB towards JHS end	06 (Women)
Murena (A Category)	01	10 mts from exit gate	08
		45 mts from exit gate	09
	2/3	85 mts from exit gate	10 (Women)
		In front of RCC tank towards JHS end	02
		In front of wash room	03
01	Beside Water Vending Machine	04 (Women)	
	Under ROB towards JHS end.	06	
	Beside water cooler	07	
	Beside water stand	08 (Women)	
01	Beside FOB towards AGC end.	10	

NSG-4

Station	Platform No.	Location	Stall No.
Lalitpur (A Category)	01	In front of OHE Pole no. 1038/1A	01
		In front of OHE Pole no. 1037/39A	02 (Women)
		In front of upper class waiting room	04
	2/3	In front of OHE Pole no. 1037/31A	05
		In front of OHE Pole no. 1037/41	06 (Women)
Orai (A Category)	01	In front of pole no. 16	08
		In front of OHE Pole no. 1037/30	09
	2/3	In front of OHE Pole no. 1037/27	10 (Women)
		In front of water tank	03
		Near OHE pole 1241/30	04 (Women)
Chitrakut (A Category)	01	Between columns 2&3 of shed no. 1 from JHS end	06
		Near coach indication board display pole 13	07
	2/3	In front of OHE Pole no. 1241/24A	08 (Women)
		Under COP at Banda end	01
Mahoba (A Category)	01	In front of General Waiting Hall	02
		Under FOB, beside retiring room	03 (Women)
	2/3	At Manikpur end, under COP	05
		In front of General waiting Hall	06
		In front of station building	07 (Women)
Datia (B Category)	01	In front of barrack	09
		In front of PWI office	10
	02	Beside handicapped toilet	01 (Women)
		2 mts from FOB BMDA end	03
Dabrai (B Category)	01	5 mts from DG shed BMDA end	04
		Near station name board	05 (Women)
	2/3	In between COP columns 5 & 6	07
		In front of pole KM 1265/700	08
Khajuraho (B Category)	01	In front of pole KM 1265/850	09 (Women)
		In front of pole no. 1152/12	01
	02	Near water vending machine	03 (Women)
		In front of pole no. 1152/11	05
Khajuraho (B Category)	01	In front of pole no. 1152/21	06
		In front of pole no. 1182/22	01
	02	In front of pole no. 1182/34	04
		In front of pole no. 1182/17	05
Khajuraho (B Category)	01	In front of pole no. 1182/27	06
		In front of electric pole no. 13	02
	02	Left of water stand between electric pole 10&11	03
		Between COP pole 07&08	04 (Women)
Khajuraho (B Category)	01	Between electric pole 11 and water stand	06
		Between electric pole 05 & 06	07
	02	Between electric pole 04 and water stand	08 (Women)

Minimum reserve price per stall per annum: ₹ 11,08,800/- Earnest money per stall: ₹ 1,15,315/- Tender document Cost: Non refundable ₹ 5000+900/- including GST total ₹ Five thousand nine hundred only. Sale of tender form date & timing: From 15.01.2019 to 18.02.2019 (between any day from 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs.) Last date & time for submission of tenders: Upto 14:00 hrs 19.02.2019 Tender opening date & time: 19.02.2019 at 15:00 hrs Tender notification & tender form/document and terms & conditions can be downloaded from web site www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in and also purchased from Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Office Jhansi. 66/19(I) North central railways @ CPRONCR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PC: RAFALE JETS...

Chidambaram earlier said in the light of new facts and revelations, "the question gains greater urgency: why did the government buy only 36 Rafale aircraft instead of 126 aircraft required by the Air Force?" Chidambaram took to Twitter and said serious issues are being raised in media reports about the process of decision-making in the NDA Government and alleged that "the man who got away was Mr Manohar Parrikar who passed the bill to the Cabinet Committee on Security. Clever man." Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry on Friday said the deal for purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets in 2016 achieved the objectives of better price, better delivery period and better terms compared to the earlier proposal. Making this assertion, the Ministry said Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had answered in detail about all issues related to the contract in an open debate in Parliament in the recently concluded winter session. In a statement, the Ministry said pricing details, which are of confidential nature and covered by the Indo-French security agreement of 2008, were shared with the Supreme Court in a sealed cover. The Supreme Court has gone through the details of pricing and commercial advantage. The Court has not found anything adverse in the deal and has refused to order an investigation. Moreover, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has been given access to all the files related to Rafale deal. It is best to await the report of an authoritative agency like the CAG, it said.

As regards questions raised about India Specific Enhancements (ISE) for the Rafale jets and allegations that the NDA Government paid 41 per cent more than deal being negotiated by the erstwhile UPA Government, the ministry said these enhancements were part of the requirements of the Indian Air Force to achieve tactical superiority over its adversaries. Also these ISE were part of the 2007 bid and continued to be part of the 2016 deal. The cost of the India Specific Enhancements was on a fixed basis in the 2007 bid which was negotiated down in the 2016 deal. However, to compare the cost for the now scrapped Medium Multi-role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) contract which never materialized with the cost of the 36 aircraft procured in 2016 is fallacious, the statement said.

Allegations about the price of ISE as 1.4 billion Euro in 2007 has failed to include the in-built escalation factor that would have worked between 2007 and 2015. Moreover, comparisons were made between un-escalated price of 2007 with the price of 2016 without considering the escalation factors inherent in the

price bid, it said.

The statement said the change from a firm and fixed price to a flexible rate was possible only because the deal was structured under an Inter Governmental Agreement with France. This factor is expected to lead to a substantial commercial advantage over the delivery period of 36 Rafale aircraft, it added. On the issue of dissent within the Indian negotiation team while finalising the 36 Rafale jet deal, the statement said it was answered by Sitharaman in Parliament. In the highest traditions of the Civil Service, all views are aired and recorded and a collegiate decision taken after considering such opinions. Decisions on the deal were taken after due process of inter-ministerial consultation, the ministry said.

RAHUL HAILS...

The immensity of the rally could be gauged from the 100-foot long stage and four other mini-stages to accommodate other dignitaries. In a symbolic statement the ambience of the rally ground is being kept "absolutely party-neutral and federal," a senior Trinamool Congress leader said adding the backdrop of the 100-foot stage will show a huge cutout of India with no picture of any leader and not even Mamata Banerjee gracing it.

According to past records, the Brigade Parade Ground has a maximum capacity of 12-14 lakhs. If the crowd surpasses that figure "which we expect it to do then the processions will be stopped midway, sources said adding "for those who would not be able to come to the ground will be able to watch the leaders speak on giant screens fixed at about 20 points across the city.

LS POLLS...

The Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir was dissolved in November, 2018 and the upper limit ends in May. In normal circumstances, the J&K Assembly's six-year term was to end on March 16, 2021. The other State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha have a five-year term.

The State Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana are scheduled to be held later this year. While the term of the Sikkim Assembly ends on May 27, 2019, the terms of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh assemblies end on June 18, June 11 and June 1 respectively.

The final electoral rolls with January 1, 2019, as the qualifying date were published in all the States and Union Territories. This marked the end of the Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls 2019. The process had started on September 1, 2018.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already announced the schedule of the Class Xth and

Class XIIth examinations, making it sure that both commence and conclude earlier than usual so that the electioneering could not disturb the students preparing for the examinations. The Class Xth examinations will start on February 21 and end on March 29, while Class XII will be held from February 15 to April 3.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

No.: C/PA/NCR/Comm1.Pub./NFR MCD0/18 Expression of Interest (EOI) Date: 15.01.2019
North Central Railway invites proposals in form of Expression of Interest from individuals, organizations, companies, etc. working in the field of advertising for advertisements on Bed-sheets, blankets, pillow-covers, towels, etc. provided by the Railways in trains belonging to NCR. Also, ideas are solicited for advertising on the floor of coaches and doors of toilets of the trains through PVC stickers of similar method. The estimated annual consumption is as given below:-

SN	Item Description	Average annual Consumption	Avg. life	Advertisement
1	Bedsheet handloom white size 140x229cm	97000 nos.	01 year	Advertisement on bedsheets may be printed in size 15x10cm in blue ink along with the strips.
2	Pillow cover handloom white size 50x36 cm	49018 nos.	01 year	Advertisement on pillow covers may be printed in size 8x5cm in blue ink along with the strips.
3	Blanket light pink or light blue size 215x120cm	14200 nos.	02 years	Advertisement on blankets may be stitched in size 15x10cm in two opposite corners.

The proposal should contain details of the methodology, technology involved, size of advertisement and quality of material to be used. Name address, email-id, and phone number of the proposer should be clearly mentioned in the proposal. The display of advertisements in no way should decrease or hamper the aesthetics of the coach or bedding. The interested entities are requested to submit their EOI within 30 days from today on any working day from 10:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs in the office of PCCM, NCR, GM Office North Central Railway, Subedarganj, Prayagraj, U.P. Pin 211011 in the box specifically placed for the purpose. This notice is not a notice for inviting tender/quotation, and the Railways reserves all rights on considering the proposal or otherwise, A meeting may be called with the proposers for discussing the details submitted. For execution of the work, separate tender/quotation shall be invited by the North Central Railway as and when deemed fit.

67/19(I) North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

JOIN INDIAN COAST GUARD (MINISTRY OF DEFENCE)

AS NAVIK (GENERAL DUTY) 10+2 ENTRY - 02/2019 BATCH

APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED 'ONLINE' FROM 21 TO 31 JAN 19

Indian Coast Guard offers opportunity for 10+2 passed with Maths and Physics from an education board recognized by Central / State Government with minimum 50% aggregate marks. (5% relaxation in minimum cut off will be given for SC/ST candidates and outstanding sports personnel of National level who have obtained 1st, 2nd or 3rd position in any field sports events at the Open National Championship/ Interstate National Championship. This relaxation will also be applicable to the wards of Coast Guard uniform personnel deceased while in service).

Age Minimum 18 Years and maximum 22 years i.e. between 01 Aug 1997 to 31 Jul 2001 (Both dates inclusive). Upper age relaxation of 5 years for SC/ST and 3 years for OBC candidates.

Selection procedure includes written examination and physical fitness tests, followed by medical examination.

Applications will be accepted 'Online' only from 21 TO 31 JAN 19 TILL 1700 Hrs. Candidates are to logon www.joinindiancoastguard.gov.in. Applicants to take print out of the e-admit card through URL www.joinindiancoastguard.gov.in/reprint.aspx from 11 to 21 Feb 19.

The Recruitment Zones and State wise examination centre's are listed below:-

Zone	Examination Centres	States-Candidates residing
Northern Zone	Jalandhar	Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana (other than NCR District's) and Union Territory of Chandigarh.
	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
	Jodhpur	Rajasthan (other than NCR district's).
	Noida	Delhi & NCR Region Haryana NCR District-Faridabad, Gurgaon, Mewat, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, Panipat, Palwal, Bhiwani and Mahendergarh. U.P NCR District - Meerut, Ghaziabad, GautamBudh Nagar, Bulandshahr, Hapur and Baghpat. Rajasthan NCR District - Alwar and Bharatpur
	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh (other than NCR district's)
North-East Zone	Guwahati	Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim.
	Paradip	Odisha
	Halidia	West Bengal
	Kolkata	Bihar and Jharkhand
East Zone	Tuticorin	South Tamil Nadu District - Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Theni, Madurai, Sivaganga, Pudukottai, Dindigul, Thanjavur, Thiruvavur, Nagapattinam and Karur.
	Chennai	Rest of Tamil Nadu District and Union Territory of Puducherry.
	Secunderabad	Telangana
	Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
West Zone	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh
	Kochi	Kerala and Lakshadweep
	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli
	New Mangalore	Karnataka and Goa
North-West Zone	Gandhi Nagar	Gujrat
A&N Zone	Post Blair	A&N Islands

Important Instructions

- The candidates are to choose only one choice of Centre from the list mentioned against state to which they belong to. Indian Coast Guard reserves the right to cancel/reconduct the examination of a particular Centre or change the Centre of the candidates for administrative/other reasons.
- Cut off percentage (%) of a particular state/centre will be decided depending upon the number of applications with higher percentage received.
- Last date for 'Online' applications is 31 Jan 2019 till 1700 Hrs. For detailed eligibility criteria, filling up of forms and other details download the full Advertisement from Indian Coast Guard website www.joinindiancoastguard.gov.in
- CANDIDATES NEED TO READ THE COMPLETE ADVERTISEMENT. SHOWING IGNORANCE AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION AT EXAMINATION CENTRE AND NOT MEETING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

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*Candidates to see Coast Guard Recruitment Website for update. This is an indicative advertisement only.

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DAVP/10119/11/0038/1819

Thali to the rescue

The Lancet study has set markers for a planet-friendly diet but it already has a template in ayurveda



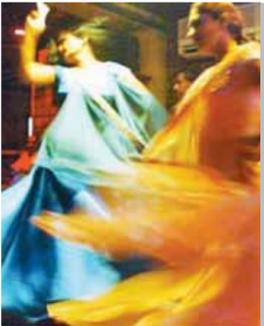
For all our environmental sensitivities and the need to reduce our carbon footprint, rarely do we look beyond the atmospherics — pollution, air quality, industrial and development monstrosities — and at ourselves, more importantly what we eat sitting atop the food chain. The latest Lancet study warns us that if we do not change our patterns of consumption and work towards a “planet friendly” diet, then we could not leave enough to support the 10 billion population that we are expected to become by 2050 as the earth can produce only so much and no further. All we need to do

is shift from meat to vegetables, cut down on sugar and processed foods and eat what we can grow if we are to bequeath reserves and prevent 11 million premature deaths, the result of our current dietary habits. This would simultaneously reduce the damaging effects of climate change, soil erosion, deforestation and loss of biodiversity. In everyday life, a conscientious diet — as advocated by the report that relied on experts from around the world, including India — means halving red meat and sugar, doubling nuts, fruits, vegetables, legumes, lentils and chickpeas and apportioning 35 per cent of our calorie requirements from whole grains, tubers and plant proteins. If you are a diehard carnivore, then nutritionists estimate that you could just about provision for seven grams of red meat, 29 grams of poultry and 28 grams of fish per day. In short a nugget here and there. And if we are wondering what all this means in real terms, then one needs to internalise that food production is responsible for up to a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. A recent blog post from the World Resources Institute, a global sustainability think-tank, warns that agriculture alone could raise the Earth’s average temperature by more than 1.5 C above than in pre-industrial times if we don’t change our eating habits. This can be well understood from the fact that a simple non-vegetarian sandwich, from acquiring the land for a farm, feeding the animals whose meat you might prefer, to harvesting the wheat to processing, packaging and refrigerating the finished product and transporting it piles up carbon debts. A recent study on the warming potential of animal-heavy diets by the University of Waterloo in Canada has even quantified how omnivores generate emissions equivalent to driving nearly 15,000 km! The World Resources Institute corroborated this with its finding that producing meat uses 20 times the land and generates 20 times the emissions as producing beans per gram of protein.

While all of these may be well-nigh alarming, for us Indians it is not too difficult a target to meet considering that our traditional diet patterns were based on the sustainable logic of ayurveda. In fact, the south Indian breakfast platter has often been rated internationally as the most wholesome start-the-day spread there is. And it certainly stays away from animal protein. Ayurveda practitioners have for long understood that the stomach of human beings, by virtue of being foragers and food gatherers at one time, is more conditioned to plant food and the latest obsession with animal protein actually does more harm than good, overloading our system. We are lucky to have an existing roadmap for a sustainable food future. Already our chefs have gotten together to revive our legume and grain heritage, something with proven nutritional benefits, and create a smart food network of the hospitality industry, advocacy groups, food producers and marketers to promote sustainable and farmer-friendly food. Gastronomic tourism is being promoted by even the Government to revive our native foods and crops, something which could help our farmers, who have lost out on their livelihood by growing market-friendly rather than geologically-appropriate vegetables and cereals. A traditional Indian diet, with its dependence on plant products and a moderation of animal protein, could well turn out to be the answer the world is looking for.

A morality play

Even if the Supreme Court has allowed dance bars to re-open, there is no looking in the rear-view mirror



A few decades ago, dance bars and cabarets were common across many metropolitan areas of India but they came to define Mumbai nightlife and were made even more glamorous by Bollywood. They then mutated to becoming a conduit into the underworld; dance bars functioned not just as places where one could have a good time but also as barely disguised brothels where illicit alcohol and drugs flowed. And with the police turning a blind eye to what was going on, Mumbai nightlife remained the most

vibrant across India. Many of the dancers believed that dancing at one of these bars would be their route to fame and fortune, if not as a Bollywood starlet then as a gangster’s moll.

With the emergence of politicians going after the temperance vote of women, these dance bars became an easy target back in 2005. Even after the Supreme Court itself ruled in 2013 that dance bars could be allowed, the state fought back both with new legislation and morality-crusading policemen. In fact, the Supreme Court came down heavily on moral policing, saying in its judgement that “a practice which may not be immoral by societal standards cannot be thrust upon the society as immoral by the State with its own notion of morality and thereby exercise social control.” For this, the bench headed by Justice AK Sikri must be commended. But the judgement also left a leeway for the State to decide what is obscene, and that opens another grey area which politicians are sure to take advantage of. It is not as if dance bars completely died out after the ban. In Mumbai, there are some ‘Orchestra Bars’ that, for lack of a nicer term, function as places where prostitution is rampant. Also while the Supreme Court has said that the Maharashtra Government should issue licences, the State can easily drag its feet on this front. A new sort of morality has emerged across India that perversely sees these dance bars as dens of vice while refusing to admit that prostitution and drug usage are shooting through the roof in the country. Dance bars have moved on, any visitor to Dubai can find several Bombay-style dance bars functioning with impunity in that country, although they are more controlled. Mumbai has not quite been the same as Bombay was in the 1970s; it is a different city in all aspects now. But Mumbaikars should have an equal right to some fun.

Endgame in Afghanistan

India must force its way into the peace process. It must show its willingness to support the Kabul regime with military hardware, other than financial and technological aid



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

One has heard the question before: “What is going to happen in Afghanistan?” There are two reasons for revisiting it. The first is the delegation-level talks between Zalmay Khalilzad, the US special representative for Afghanistan, with Pakistani authorities in Islamabad on Thursday. Both sides agreed there that direct talks between the Afghan government and Afghan Taliban were essential to ending the 17-year-old war in the country. The second is the statement by the spokesman of Pakistan’s foreign office, Mohammad Faisal, on the same day that India had no role in Afghanistan and that Islamabad had played a key role in arranging talks between the Taliban and the US.

It is clear that Washington and Islamabad are now working closely together on Afghanistan. Also, Pakistan sticks to its old position that it does not want India to have anything to do with Afghanistan. The shift in the US posture from the minatory — withholding aid to compel Pakistan to act against the Afghan Taliban — to the cooperative, clearly stems from the Trump administration’s keenness, bordering on desperation, to end the war in Afghanistan and bring its troops home. That this is so is corroborated by the Trump administration’s decision, announced on December 20, to withdraw 7,000 troops from Afghanistan by this summer.

The shift in the US position was discernible as early as July last year, when the Trump administration began seeking direct talks with the Taliban, a significant shift in American policy given Taliban’s long-held position that they would first discuss peace only with the Americans, while the US had been insisting on the Afghan government’s participation. Since then, Khalilzad has met Taliban representatives in Doha, Qatar and has been conducting what can be called talks that could lead to formal talks to end the conflict.

The question is: Where do things go from here? So far, the Taliban can be seen to have been insisting on two fundamental demands. It would not entertain any delegation from the present Afghan government. The country’s constitution will have to be changed. It is difficult to see them relenting on either; the US government’s keenness to end the conflict is liable to convince them that they have only to sit tight and a desperate Washington would leave under circumstances in which they can march to Kabul and grab power. This would be in keeping with the strategy of attrition they have followed so far vis-à-vis the Americans and their Western allies. Their logical strategy will be to go on talking about holding formal talks while further building up their strength on the ground while carrying out high profile terrorist strikes and attacks on cities to demoralise the Afghan government and security forces.



It is not just a question of strategy. There are fundamental differences on the issue of the Constitution. The Taliban do not recognise the present Afghan constitution approved in 2004 by a *Loya Jirga* (a grand tribal council with legislative functions). On their part, they issued in 2005 their Order of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the nearest document to a constitution they have produced. There is inadequate space here for a discussion of the fundamental differences between the two in detail. Suffice it to say that they relate to the political systems they stand for.

The Afghan constitution has established a democratic system of government in which a popularly elected president is the head of state and government. The Taliban order, by contrast, proclaims Afghanistan as an Islamic Emirate under the leadership of Mullah Mohammad. The legislative and judicial branches of the two systems differ significantly. The Afghan constitution has established a bicameral National Assembly in which the lower house is directly elected and the upper house consists of a mix of indirectly elected and presidentially appointed senators. The Taliban order, by contrast, establishes a single chamber Islamic Council as the highest legislative organ, whose members are appointed by the Amir ul-Momineen (Commander

INDIA HAS ALREADY INVESTED NEARLY \$3 BILLION IN BUILDING AFGHANISTAN’S INSTITUTIONAL, WELFARE AND EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD INDIGENOUS AFGHAN CAPACITY IN DIFFERENT AREAS

of the Faithful) based on their familiarity with the principles of jihad and sharia. The order does not mention how the Amir ul-Momineen is to be selected nor how long an individual may serve in this role. It does, however, specify that he must be a male Muslim follower of the Hanafi school of Islamic jurisprudence.

It is difficult to imagine how the basic contradictions between the Afghan constitution and the Order of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan can be resolved. One can, therefore, visualise the talk for formal talks, and even perhaps the latter, continuing until the Taliban have entrenched themselves in the Afghan countryside to the extent that they can launch a massive offensive which sends the Afghan government forces reeling and the Americans see no alternative to peace on the Taliban’s terms. And, of course, a major beneficiary of all this will be Islamabad which will continue to milk Washington as “the honest broker.”

Of course, there will be many twists and turns on the way. One would need to see what the Russians, who have been holding a parallel peace process in Moscow with the participation of the Taliban, do. Whatever happens, India has to get actively involved. Its historic ties with Afghanistan have been deepened and reinforced by the ones developed in recent years. It has already

invested nearly \$3 billion in building up Afghanistan’s institutional, welfare and educational infrastructure and provided educational and technical assistance to re-build indigenous Afghan capacity in different areas. It has been encouraging investment in Afghanistan’s natural resources and providing duty-free access to the Indian market for Afghanistan’s exports. It has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Afghanistan in 2011 and has been supporting an Afghan-led, broad-based and inclusive process of peace and reconciliation, and advocating the need for a sustained and long-term commitment to Afghanistan by the international community.

Given Pakistan’s attitude and the unpredictability of Trump’s policies and actions, India has to make all concerned — including Russia and China — that it needs to be a party to any peace process. For this, it must show its willingness to support the Kabul regime not only with investments and financial and technological aid but military hardware. It has so far provided it with attack helicopters — more are on the way — and training its military personnel. It must now consider giving it heavy artillery, tanks and combat aircraft phased here but good enough for fighting the Taliban.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, *The Pioneer*, and an author)

SOUNDBITE

Some leaders are even accidental and are foisted into the position by others. The accidental leaders do wake up to the responsibilities after given the position.



Goa Governor —Miridula Sinha

Nobody accepted the results of the general elections. The Imran Khan-led Government will not be able to complete the stipulated tenure.



Former Pak President —Asif Ali Zardari

Today in films, there is no lack of opportunity. I have been able to bridge the gap, in terms of what my male contemporaries get paid versus what I am getting paid.



Actress —Deepika Padukone

The next election is not just an election, it is a battle for India’s soul and its future and there the Opposition parties all stand together.



Congress MP —Shashi Tharoor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Triumph of truth

Sir — The judgement of the special CBI court sentencing the self-styled godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim to lifetime imprisonment is commendable. By taking this decision, the judiciary has restored the faith of the common people in democratic institutions.

We also need to acknowledge the indomitable spirit of rape victims and their family members who meticulously fought to expose the unscrupulous godman. There arises a fundamental question, who makes such imposters God? The answer is a mass of blind followers backed by media and political parties. And large numbers of these followers are uneducated and unemployed. Secularism truly means keeping religion out of politics. Likewise, democracy truly means keeping politics out of religion. Distort either one and you muck up the other. The judiciary cannot solve every problem. It is high time, as part of preventive measures, that we reject such pseudo-spiritual leaders and use our conscience before following any such spiritual scamsters.

Sameer Bhoi
Bargarh

Dance bars finally freed from moral fetters

The quashing of the curbs on dance bars by the Supreme Court deserves an unreserved welcome. It has given bar dancers a new lease of life and made moral prudes and puritans squirm. We laud the apex court’s ruling for putting the right to livelihood above our misplaced morality. We also laud it for recognising bar dancers as individuals in their own right and restoring their freedom of choice and dignity of their labour. There is nothing obscene or immoral about bar dance. If it offends the ‘moral sensibilities’ of the ‘decent and respectable’ people, they can avoid visiting such places. A country which boasts the *Kamasutra* and the erotic sculptures of the Khajuraho as part of its architectural tradition cannot disapprove of bar dance and carnal beauty. Social conservatives can be a little less hypocritical.

It is a fallacy to say that human trafficking is rampant in dance bars. The court’s prescription of a contract between the bar dancers and bar owners as part



of regulating such bars is aimed at reducing if not avoiding their exploitation. The re-opening of dance bars in Mumbai and other cities in Maharashtra following the court order will restore bar dancers — mostly from impoverished background — their means of livelihood.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Kashmir problem

Sir — It has been reported that Srinagar would get its first multiplex soon. Jammu & Kashmir has seen a lot of violence and disorder since the onset of militancy in the State and the news that its Capital would get its first multiplex soon is likely to be welcomed by many who would want

to have some respite from the horrors of militancy that have shaken the State so far.

However, multiplex alone cannot resolve the larger problem and that is how peace can return to the Valley. The State of Jammu & Kashmir needs more progress and development. It needs to involve young people in developmental activities to wean them away from the desire to choose

the path of self-destruction.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Challenging approach

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Quota push and a drag” (January 17). Ten per cent quota for the economically-weaker sections (EWS) will fuel discrimina-

tion within society. Although the system of quota to EWS was not practically possible till this time, its acceptability and application will surely take time. However, the government can make the EWS quota simpler by setting up a proper committee that can look into all the matters for rapid redressal. It is quite challenging but not impossible.

Kirti Wadhawan
Kanpur

Fresh lease of life

Sir — I welcome the Supreme Court’s decision on dance bars. Every major city in the world has a night life — it is a mode of entertainment. There is a need to govern but not to control. The court has drawn a right balance between the rights of citizens and duty of the state to govern. But the authorities must ensure that the thin line between morality and immorality is maintained. Otherwise it will only lead to chaos.

Jubel D’Cruz
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

New paradigm for prosperity

India needs to create 12-15 million jobs each year if it wants demographic dividends, say Arindam Bhattacharya & Aparna Bijapurkar

India is preparing its 15-year vision document and seven-year strategy and action plan. The destination is clear; India needs eight per cent growth over the next 20 to 30 years to grow the Indian economy from a lower-middle income to an upper-middle income country. Implicit in this aspiration is also the need to create 12-15 million jobs each year if India has to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend, which should perhaps be the biggest policy imperative given the situation of growth with low job creation facing the country. In recent years, however, very few countries have achieved such a sustained period of high growth and job creation, other than China. India faces two challenges. The first is to adopt a set of strategies that will enable us to sustain a growth rate of eight per cent or higher in the "new" global economic environment, which is characterised by low to medium global growth and the absence of the "trade multiplier." The second, and perhaps more serious, challenge is to ensure that the high growth rate is accompanied by high job creation. Between 2004 and 2012, the average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth was 8.1 per cent but job growth averaged only 2 per cent. While the traditional models of globalisation — and consequently the economic model of manufacturing and export-led growth — are being disrupted, a set of new opportunities is emerging from the growth of digital technologies.

The first opportunity arises from the trend of growing "servitisation" of business. We are increasingly witnessing changing business models with growth of services consumption and trade, driven by a consumer need towards "solutions" rather than simple product-related transactions. These value-added services command higher margins for business. This growth can be seen, for example, in the rise of forward services in manufacturing, like asset performance improvement and predictive maintenance services, that leverage largescale data generated by connected devices. It can also be seen in the rise of asset-sharing models like Uber, which are beginning to disrupt traditional industries, such as automobiles, which are growing by service provision rather than product sales. In India, the services sector has shown immense promise with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.6 per cent (2010-2014), outperforming China (8.4 per cent) and the US (1.8 per cent). The second, related, opportunity is the growth in platform players, which is driving the viability of new start-ups, individual entrepreneurs, micro entrepreneurs employing a few workers and self-contracted workers. Hence, they support an entire ecosystem of self-employment, of "job creators" rather than only "job seekers." By aggregating micro-entrepreneurs, platforms provide these services at relatively low transaction fees, lower costs for customers and grow the market.

The global and local challenges to growth and jobs on one hand, and the new opportunities presented by servitisation and the growth in platform players enabled by newer digital technologies on the other, strongly point to the need for a new economic development paradigm for India around three pillars: i) Domestic demand will have to be the primary driver of growth (although exports, especially in services, will continue to contribute to GDP growth). ii) Services will provide a strong opportunity for both domestic and export growth; even more so for job creation as manufacturing will become increasingly capital or automation-intensive. iii) Micro entrepreneurs will play a bigger role in driving growth and job creation, alongside larger enterprises.

The Government has already launched major policy initiatives, such as Ease of Doing Business, Digital India and Startup India, to lay a strong foundation for this new economic development paradigm. What is needed is a concerted, focussed implementation of these policies as well as a special focus on "activating" four key leverage points. First, digital infrastructure will be as critical as physical infrastructure. This should cover all layers of the "technology stack" — high quality and ubiquitous broadband and low cost smart phones, the India stack, societal platforms and standards and norms for inter-operability of digital systems that enterprises can leverage. Second, the risk and growth capital for micro entrepreneurs has to be scaled up rapidly, along with the rules and mechanisms for easy access to them. Third, the learning and skilling ecosystem has to move towards a "lifelong learning system" as new kinds of jobs emerge with very different skill profiles. Finally, labour norms need to be revisited.

While heavy manufacturing sectors are likely to start shedding jobs as they become automated, in the short-term the light manufacturing sector in India has the potential to grow and create more jobs by taking advantage of the industry shifts away from China, where labour costs are rising rapidly. We have to leverage the complementarity between labour and technology. "Evolved" services like construction and financial services are currently contributing over five per cent of GDP and a large number of jobs. "Under-penetrated" services, such as education, tourism, transport and storage and healthcare will see rapid growth and job creation, fuelled by the growth in technology. Finally, a new set of "emerging" services sectors, such as natural infrastructure management and digital services, will need to be developed in order to bridge the jobs gap.

(Courtesy: India: Growth and Jobs in the New Globalisation, BCG and CII)



PROFULL GORADIA

For a good century and a quarter, Assam has lived under a dual threat of its culture and ethos being marginalised. On occasions, the threat came from immigrants whose language would overshadow the indigenous tongue, pushing it into the background. And there were times when there were deliberate designs to reduce the sons of the soil to a religious minority. It has been a tale of continual tension caused by neighbours to the south and frequent anxiety emanating from friends in the west. The Assamese could not always be sanguine that their own sons were playing the sly role, enabling the neighbours who were short of fertile lands to till and live off them. A threat engineered and egged on by persons within is worse than a danger posed by antagonists without.

The anxiety among the Assamese people at the passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is wholly understandable. Merely assuring the people that protecting their culture is as much the Centre's concern as securing the culture of the entire country is hardly satisfying. For several good reasons, Assam is a very special and distinct case. For one, Assam and Bangladesh share a border. It is, therefore, most convenient for immigrants to cross over. Since the turn of the 19th and the 20th centuries, there was infiltration, especially from Mymensingh district into the Brahmaputra Valley. From Sylhet into Cachar district, a cross over is even easier as they were twin districts pre-Partition. The two formed the legendary Surmah Valley.

Unless one has lived or frequently travelled in Assam, it is difficult to appreciate what nightmares the Assamese see when they think of infiltration. They are a gentle people with a soft, peace-loving nature. They have their own festivals. They were gifted by nature with plenty of land or even more rivers and water. They do not have to work too hard for survival. The climate is mostly warm and humid and does not lend itself to hard work. They are not competitive by nature and understandably shudder at the fear of this ethos being disturbed by outsiders.

Believe it not, until two decades ago it was a popular impression that the Congress strategy for winning elections in Assam was "Ali, Coolie and Bengali." Coolie implied the tea garden workers and their families. Ali and Bengali are self-explanatory; they are mostly people who had over the years immigrated into Assam. Even the tea garden workers were Adivasis brought from Jharkhand and neighbouring areas to plant and pluck the bushes. To this day, it is difficult to find an original Assamese who is a plucker in a tea garden. In sum and substance, the Congress depended on settlers from outside to win a majority vote.

Earlier a near fatal game was played with Assam. As mentioned, they are a gentle people. When World War II broke out in Europe, the British also declared that India was a participant. Congress leaders expressed their grave disapproval for the government doing so without consulting Indian leaders. In a loud protest, all Congress provincial ministries resigned forthwith, as did the one in Assam. It was replaced by a Muslim League ministry led by Muhammad Saadullah. The idea of Pakistan was already floating in the political air by then. Saadullah concocted a new theory that the Adivasis in Assam were animists and not Hindus. The result-

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

2018 HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR THE SECURITY FORCES AS THE ARMY HAS KILLED MANY MILITANTS WHILE OTHERS SURRENDERED UNDER PRESSURE.

—NORTHERN COMMAND CHIEF
 LT GEN RANBIR SINGH



IT IS STRANGE THAT A WELL-TRAINED ARMED FORCE IS CELEBRATING AND PATTING ITS BACK ON KILLING YOUNG MEN AND BOYS.

—HURRIYAT CONFERENCE (M) CHAIRPERSON
 MIRWAIZ UMAR FAROOQ

Roots of a divided past

Assam has lived under a threat of marginalisation of its culture and ethos. Adding to the tale of continual tension, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act lit a fire that is yet to die down



THE FEAR IS THAT MANY A HINDU FROM BANGLADESH MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION AND COME OVER TO ASSAM. SUCH A LEGAL MIGRATION WOULD REDUCE THE PERCENTAGE OF THE ETHNIC ASSAMESE AND DILUTE THEIR INDIGENOUS CULTURE. FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ILLEGAL INFILTRATORS, THE BILL IS WELCOME BECAUSE MANY OF THEM WHO CAME 1971 ONWARDS CAN BE SENT AWAY. BUT IN THEIR PLACE MANY A LEGAL MIGRANT MAY COME

ing arithmetic made the Muslims come within striking distance of a majority.

In 1947, MA Jinnah nearly convinced the British rulers in New Delhi that Assam was a Muslim-majority province and should, therefore, go to Pakistan. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in his book on eastern Pakistan, stated that tribals were not only non-Hindus but also unfit for civilised life. The generally vague conclusion of the sympathisers for Pakistan was that Eastern Bengal and Assam should be combined into one province. As was the case under the first Partition of Bengal by Viceroy Lord Curzon in 1905. Fortunately, it was undone by 1911. Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, and also one of the three members of the Cabinet Mission, 1946, sent by the British government to find out what structure would be acceptable to Indian leaders, also swallowed this theory about an amalgamation of the two.

It was touch and go when Gopinath Bordoloi, the Assam Congress leader, rushed to New Delhi and persuaded those in power and influence that the Jinnah contention was untrue. As a result, Assam was saved for India, except for Sylhet district, which is now in Bangladesh. That is the kind of price Assam nearly paid for allowing illegal migrants to settle. Incidentally, until 1874, Assam was a part of the Bengal Presidency. It was then separated and placed under the rule of a Chief Commissioner. To make Assam a viable separate province, three Bengali-speaking districts of the Presidency, namely, Goalpara, Sylhet and Cachar were merged into the new province. That is how Assam became not only separate but also began its joint existence in company with Bengalis as well as Muslims. The allocation of Sylhet to East Pakistan in 1947 relieved this pressure to an extent.

Nevertheless, the Partition added

Bengalis to the population as Sylhet had been a sister district of Cachar and its people were at least 46 per cent Hindu. Moreover, Mymensingh district was also nearby, enabling refugees to cross over. Due to the poverty of the landless peasants, Muslim infiltration also continued. West Pakistan monopolised the country's power and the eastern wing was treated as a colony. Emigration was perhaps the only way many a easterner could survive. The poorest came to Assam as well as West Bengal. The more resourceful went to England and other richer countries. Called Bangladeshis since 1971, they have the reputation of being the world's number one migrants in recent decades. No state in India has been spared by their visitation. The writer's temporary gardener at Cochin (now Kochi) turned out to be from Bangladesh. Delhi has any number of domestic servants, many albeit with Hindu pen-names.

Assam, however, can ill afford to host these infiltrators; the Assamese population is very small. The recent Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is a major irritant for them especially since what was discovered in 1979. Some young men discovered in the electoral rolls of the Mangaldai Assembly constituency that many a voter was an obvious infiltrator. In order to spread the protest and try and stop such distortion of the electoral rolls of the State, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) was formed. Some members also went on to establish the Assam Ganatantra Parishad (AGP), a major political party. A few members took to terrorism under the name of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill has understandably upset the people of Assam in the light of the events just narrated. The fear is that many a Hindu

from Bangladesh may take advantage of this legislation and come over to Assam. Such a legal migration would reduce the percentage of the ethnic Assamese and dilute their indigenous culture. From the viewpoint of illegal infiltrators, the Bill is welcome because many of them who came 1971 onwards can be sent away. But in their place many a legal migrant may come. The dilution of the local culture and the threat to the political voice of the Assamese would be about the same. Hence the disturbed mood not only in Assam but also in the other northeastern States.

The solution to this potentially serious national problem would lie in making the Cachar district a separate Union Territory having no special political connection with Assam. Cachar has a population of some 40 lakh people of whom a little over half are Hindu. Under two per cent are Christian and the rest Muslim. More or less, all speak and write Bengali. Its economy is viable, especially with the help of over a hundred tea gardens which produce five crore kilograms of tea worth some ₹800 crore annually. That would separate some 16 per cent of the total Assam population, virtually all of whom are either Bengali or Muslim; a great relief to the Assamese. Remotely perhaps, the Bodos also may use the chance as an example and demand a Union Territory of much less than two million people living between Kokrajhar town and Sankosh river to the west. This is the one sure way to bring happiness to the Assamese people after at least a century. In any case, the Cacharis would be pleased at being semi-independent with Silchar becoming a mini rajdhani.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author)

The evolution of mohajir consciousness

Was the Muttahida Qaumi Movement simply engineered by Gen Zia or was there more to its history?



NADEEM PARACHA

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), once the most dominant political party in Karachi, is in complete disarray. At the moment there are three factions of the party vying for the Mohajir vote and at least two sub-factions within one of the splinter groups. The immediate memory associated with the MQM in the minds of the party's supporters is that of an organisation that was able to stall the political and economic alienation of Sindhi's Mohajirs. The other immediate memory of the party — mostly held by its detractors — is of an outfit which plunged Sindhi's capital, Karachi, into ethnic turmoil and of heinous crimes allegedly committed by the party's armed wings.

There are also those who have maintained that the party was the outcome of "political engineering" undertaken by the 'agencies' at the behest of

Gen Zia's dictatorship. This has often been repeated by various political analysts. Although this claim was convincingly substantiated, it's possible that this indeed was the case before MQM broke away from the agencies' orbit sometime in the late 1980s.

This perception is largely rooted in comments by some Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) leaders and then those belonging to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). In 1986, when one of the worst ethnic riots in Karachi propelled the MQM into the forefront, the JI claimed that the party had been created by the Zia dictatorship to neutralise the support the JI once enjoyed in Karachi. The PPP, on the other hand, claimed that the party had been engineered to "balance out the PPP's influence in Sindh." There are various theories about MQM's formation. But there is enough agreement among historians and analysts about the train of events which led to the formation of a Mohajir nationalist outfit. Dr Tanvir A Tahir's book *Political Dynamics of Sindh* traces the roots of this evolution all the way back to the 1950s when, according to Tahir, the Mohajir community began to feel it was being pushed out of the country's ruling and economic elite. Tahir writes that

the Mohajirs had become part of this elite immediately after Pakistan's creation in 1947 when the Punjabis dominated the military and the Mohajirs were prominent in the bureaucracy.

After the assassination of Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan (a Mohajir), the Mohajirs began to feel that they were being nudged out. According to Tahir, the Mohajirs — who had come in droves from various parts of India and had mainly settled in Sindh — did not find the need to become familiar with the Sindhi culture because they became a majority in Karachi. Tahir also writes that this delayed the formation of a Sindhi middle class because the Mohajirs immediately managed to bag important positions in the province's economy and government from Karachi that had become the country's first capital.

In 1954, a Mohajir politician, Mahmud-ul-Haq Usmani demanded that Karachi be made a separate Mohajir-majority province. But the imposition of the One Unit system, that clubbed West Pakistan as a single province, somewhat placated the Mohajir community which was suspicious of provinces being based on ethnic considerations. According to Tanvir,

the Mohajirs found themselves almost completely ousted from the ruling circles during the Ayub Khan regime in the 1960s. They vehemently took part in the 1968 anti-Ayub movement. But when, after Ayub's departure in 1969, Gen Yahya Khan agreed to do away with the One Unit, the Mohajir groups protested against Karachi becoming part of Sindh.

The February 23, 1969 edition of *Dawn* reported the formation of a Jeay Karachi Committee. It was mainly led by a faction of the Left-wing National Students Federation. The Committee demanded the creation of a "Karachi sooba (province)." Another organisation, the Mohajir Mahaz (MM) came into being in late 1969. But it could win just one Sindh provincial Assembly seat during the 1970 election. Mohajir vote largely went to JI and Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP). In 1972, when the PPP-led Sindh government declared Sindhi as the province's official language, groups of Mohajir students formed the Muttahida Talaba Mahaz Karachi (MTMK). They asked car owners to change their number plates to Urdu and attacked English signboards. Riots broke out between the police and the MTMK in Karachi and

between Mohajir and Sindhi youth elsewhere in Sindh.

Usmani, who had demanded Karachi to be made a separate province in 1954, had joined the Left-wing National Awami Party (NAP). But he lost the election in 1970. During the 1972 riots, he formed the Urdu Qaumi Council. The July 15, 1972 edition of *dawn* quotes the Council members as saying that the organisation was launched to "inculcate in the minds of Mohajirs, scientific consciousness of their history and culture." The Council also demanded that the state treat Mohajirs as a separate ethnic community as it does the Punjabis, Sindhis, Baloch and Pakhtuns. Two years later, in 1974, a Karachi Province Movement was launched but it fizzled out.

The Mohajirs of Karachi played a leading role in the 1977 movement against the Bhutto regime. In 1978, two Karachi University (KU) students, Alif Hussain and Azeem Ahmad Tariq formed the All Pakistan Mohajir Students Organisation (APMSO). In his 2011 biography, *My Life's Journey*, Hussain writes that Mohajir youth were exploited by JI and JUP against the Bhutto regime. In 1981, APMSO became a member of the progressive

student alliance, the United Students' Movement (USM) at Karachi University (KU). Hussain writes that JI's youth wing "expelled" APMSO from KU and the party began to establish offices in Mohajir *mohallas* (localities).

According to their 2011 essay for *Berkeley Journal of Social Sciences*, Ali Chandio, M Ahmad and F Naseem quote famous Sindhi scholar Ibrahim Joyo as saying that "Punjab's economic hegemony" increased immensely in Sindh during the dictatorship of Gen Zia. This situation had a negative impact on the interests of Karachi's prominent (non-Punjab) business communities. This concern saw some members of these communities form an organisation called the Maha Sindh (MS) in 1983. It was an organisation set up to protect the economic interests of Karachi's Memon, Sindhi and Mohajir businessmen and traders. Chandio, Ahmad and Naseem write that Maha Sindh encouraged the formation of a Karachi-based party. Many APMSO members were involved in the party's activities. MS eventually became a Mohajir-dominated organisation, which then evolved into becoming the MQM in 1984.

(Courtesy: Dawn)



FOREIGN EYE



REVIEW CURRENT ENERGY POLICIES

The questions of onshore wind and solar subsidies must be revisited, along with recent developments in carbon capture and battery technology. Affordable offshore wind must be scaled up. The job losses in Wales are an especially harsh blow after last year's decision to reject the Swansea tidal power project. The problem facing the whole country is that this government's energy policies do not add up.

(The Guardian editorial)

Sensex, Nifty end marginally higher

RIL shines post Q3 show

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Markets closed marginally higher on Friday after a volatile session as investors largely stuck to index heavyweights despite positive global cues.

The BSE Sensex settled 12.53 points, or 0.03 per cent, higher at 36,386.61. The broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.75 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 10,906.95.

During the week, the 30-share Sensex gained 378.77 points, or 1 per cent and the



Nifty rose 112 points, or 1.02 per cent.

Reliance Industries was the biggest gainer on Sensex in Friday's session, spurring 4.43 per cent, after the company became the first Indian private sector company to report a quarterly profit of more than Rs 10,000 crore following

record earnings from petrochemical, retail and telecom businesses.

Other gainers included Kotak Bank, HCL Tech, ONGC, Asian Paints, Vedanta, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Maruti and TCS, gaining up to 1.41 per cent.

Sun Pharma was the top loser, cracking 8.58 per cent, on reports of fresh allegations by a whistleblower against the company.

Bharti Airtel, L&T, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, ITC, Tata Motors and PowerGrid also fell up to 6.42 per cent.

"Domestic indices failed to absorb the rebound in global market as plunge in pharma stocks and weak rupee dragged

the sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"Global headwinds continue to dictate a range-bound movement in the market while any green shoots in quarter earnings provide opportunity to accumulate," he added.

On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) purchased shares worth ₹842.13 crore Thursday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers to the tune of ₹727.46 crore, provisional data available with BSE showed.

According to analysts, global trade tensions and risk of recession will cast a cloud over the sentiment, while lack of major triggers in the domes-

tic market could see range-bound movement in the near term. The rupee, meanwhile, depreciated 10 paise against the US dollar to 71.13 intra-day.

The benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.98 per cent to \$61.78 per barrel.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index jumped 1.42 per cent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.25 per cent, Japan's Nikkei gained 1.29 per cent, and Korea's Kospi climbed 0.82 per cent higher.

In Europe, London's FTSE rallied 1.03 per cent, Frankfurt's DAX was up 0.97 per cent and Paris CAC 40 surged 1.29 per cent in early deals.

QUICK TAKES

NIIT TECH Q3 NET PROFIT UP 32.6% TO ₹100.2 CRORE

New Delhi (PTI): NIIT Technologies on Friday posted a 32.6 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹100.2 crore for the December 2018 quarter and said the demand continued to be robust in large markets like the US and Europe. The net profit stood at ₹75.6 crore in the corresponding period of previous year. Sequentially, the net profit declined by 10 per cent on account of lower 'other income' and increased effective tax rate, the company said. The consolidated revenue for the third quarter was up 28.5 per cent year-on-year to ₹971.7 crore helped by "all round growth across verticals and geographies," NIIT Technologies vice-chairman and managing director Arvind Thakur told PTI. Asked about the tightening of visa norms in key markets like the US, Thakur said mobility of people was definitely a "challenge" but the company had, in response, stepped up localisation and set up two nearshore centres. He declined to comment on media reports about Baring Private Equity Asia acquiring a stake in NIIT Technologies in a deal valuing the IT firm at ₹8,000-10,000 crore. The operating profit at ₹180.5 crore marked a growth of 39.4 per cent over the same period last year and 10.4 per cent sequentially.

WIPRO Q3 NET PROFIT RISES 31.8% TO ₹2,544.5 CRORE

New Delhi (PTI): IT services major Wipro on Friday posted a 31.8 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹2,544.5 crore for October-December 2018 compared to the year-ago period. Wipro's board has also approved an issue of bonus shares, offering one bonus share for every three held by shareholders, a BSE filing said. The net profit in the October-December 2017 quarter was at ₹1,930.1 crore. Wipro's revenue from operations expanded 10.17 per cent to ₹15,059.5 crore during the period under review from ₹13,669 crore in the third quarter of FY2017-18. The company's IT services segment revenue, which accounts for a bulk of

its topline, was at USD 2,046.5 million (around ₹14,555 crore), up 1.8 per cent sequentially.

LTI NET PROFIT UP 32.8% TO ₹375.5 CR IN DECEMBER QUARTER

New Delhi (PTI): Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) on Friday said consolidated net profit had increased 32.8 per cent to ₹375.5 crore for the quarter ended December 2018 compared to the year-ago period. The company had registered a net profit of ₹282.8 crore in the October-December 2017 quarter, LTI said in a statement. Its revenue grew 31.3 per cent to ₹2,472.9 crore in the quarter, against ₹1,883.8 crore in the third quarter of FY18, it added. On a sequential basis, the net profit declined 6.2 per cent (from ₹400.3 crore), while revenue was higher by 6.1 per cent (from ₹2,331.2 crore in September 2018 quarter). In dollar terms, LTI's revenue was at USD 346.9 million, growing 18.2 per cent year-on-year.

RALLIS INDIA Q3 PROFIT DOWN 45% TO ₹13.8 CR; REVENUE UP 7% AT ₹423 CR

New Delhi (PTI): Tata group firm Rallis India, which is into crop protection business, has reported a 45 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹13.76 crore for the quarter ended December 2018 on higher tax outgo and other expenses. Its net profit had stood at ₹24.94 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Total income, however, rose by 7 per cent to ₹423.25 crore in the third quarter of this financial year, from ₹393.86 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. "Margins remain constrained owing to higher raw material prices. Expect profitability to pick up going forward following growth-specific initiatives undertaken towards driving growth," Rallis said in a statement. Higher input cost, imports from China resulted in profitability and margin compression, the company said. It is working towards improving product mix - share of value-added/specialty products to offset impact of rising raw material. The company said the revenue grew on the back of steady performances in domestic and global markets.

Toyota pitches for lower tax, stable norms for hybrid cars

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pitching for hybrid cars in India, Japanese auto major Toyota on Friday said stable regulations and reduction in taxes could further help the company to bring in models with even better technologies to counter air pollution.

The company, which on Friday launched an all-new version of Camry Hybrid sedan at an introductory price of ₹36.95 lakh (ex-showroom) in the country, said self-charging electric cars or hybrids were the best solution

at the moment in India to check forex outgo on fuel imports and reduce vehicular pollution.

"With the new generation Camry Hybrid, which is self charging electric vehicle, we are moving one step ahead towards cleaner and greener environment," TKM managing director Mazakazu Yoshimura told reporters here.

With changing market dynamics in terms of safety and emission norms, the auto industry in the country will have to come up with solutions that lead towards conservation of envi-

ronment, he added.

"In the mid to long term, we have a variety of technologies which can be brought into the country...it all depends on stable regulations and taxation...if the structure of tax regulations changes drastically, quickly we can put heavy amount of investment in new technologies," Yoshimura said. TKM is a joint venture between the Japanese auto major and Kirloskar group.

While terming taxation structure in India as very complicated, Yoshimura added that vehicles should be taxed on the

basis of emissions rather than size or engine power. "If emissions are better you (should) get better tax benefits," he said.

Under the GST regime, hybrid vehicles have been put in the same category as big petrol and diesel luxury cars, attracting 28 per cent rate with a cess of 15 per cent.

He said self-charging electric vehicles were better for a country like India as they do not require additional charging infrastructure and at the same time could help in reducing air pollution. Introduction of such cars

could help the country save forex outgo on fuel imports, he added. "We have also fuel cell technology which is zero emission...at the moment the best for India is that we should introduce self-charging hybrid cars which could reduce energy costs," Yoshimura said.

TKM deputy managing director N Raja said the company would keep working to popularise hybrid vehicles in the country. He, however, ruled out coming out with mass segment models with such hybrid technology in the near future.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10914.85	10928.20	10852.20	10906.95
RELIANCE	1148.80	1189.90	1135.25	1185.80
WIPRO	336.00	347.50	333.40	346.55
KOTAKBANK	1220.10	1243.00	1216.50	1240.20
HINDALCO	206.65	209.40	205.95	208.95
HCLTECH	948.60	968.75	946.35	968.00
ONGC	145.10	147.70	145.10	146.75
ADANIAPORTS	396.50	399.95	392.25	398.70
VEDL	199.00	200.00	196.25	198.75
BAJFINANCE	2545.00	2555.00	2525.10	2547.95
MARUTI	7345.00	7379.95	7318.00	7370.00
TECHM	705.00	714.20	702.35	708.48
ASIANPAINT	1391.00	1404.75	1383.00	1394.80
TCS	1881.00	1904.20	1876.00	1899.50
IBULHSGFN	822.90	823.95	805.65	818.20
INFY	730.00	736.20	726.30	734.00
M&M	734.50	737.90	728.00	735.00
ITAN	961.55	965.00	954.05	961.10
IOC	137.50	138.70	137.15	137.55
CIPLA	510.20	513.00	507.30	509.20
ZEEL	441.80	445.00	436.20	440.50
HDFCBANK	2135.00	2139.00	2114.55	2130.00
HDFC	2004.00	2012.60	1989.25	2000.05
POWERGRID	194.00	196.70	192.50	193.45
HINDUNILVR	1750.00	1768.85	1727.30	1746.40
HEROMOTOCO	2916.40	2929.95	2863.00	2894.95
GRASIM	828.90	834.55	818.20	825.50
BPCCL	353.90	357.70	351.30	353.90
BAJAJ-AUTO	2741.00	2746.50	2696.65	2718.85
NTPC	145.30	146.40	144.30	144.30
UPL	768.00	771.00	764.00	765.80
TATASTEEL	473.55	477.70	468.00	471.05
INDUSINDBK	1523.10	1532.40	1513.00	1515.10
TATAMOTORS	185.65	185.65	181.30	183.90
ICICIBANK	374.60	376.40	370.35	372.00
SBN	298.75	299.85	295.25	295.30
DREDDY2	265.00	2629.35	2594.50	2600.00
ULTRACEMCO	3859.00	3859.00	3771.60	3815.05
ITC	293.25	295.10	290.65	291.10
COALINDIA	232.15	232.55	229.60	229.25
INFRAEAT	280.65	283.40	277.00	277.60
EICHERMOT	20400.00	20425.00	19950.00	20131.05
YESBANK	202.00	203.05	196.20	198.95
JSWSTEEL	288.35	291.85	283.25	285.15
AXISBANK	674.60	676.05	661.45	664.25
BAJAJFINSV	619.10	637.95	623.00	626.00
LT	1350.85	1352.00	1313.00	1319.50
HINDPETRO	243.85	245.35	238.25	239.30
GAIL	332.40	332.85	320.50	321.50
BHARTIARTL	330.50	332.45	304.30	310.55
SUNPHARMA	424.05	424.10	370.20	366.30

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
RCOM	13.80	13.80	13.37	13.37
SUNPHARMA	425.50	425.50	375.40	390.75
RELIANCE	1149.70	1189.25	1135.50	1182.95
JETAIRWAYS	284.00	295.00	276.00	281.35
YESBANK	202.05	203.00	196.45	198.25
SPARC	173.30	173.30	141.10	148.40
JPASSOCIAT	7.23	7.29	7.12	7.16
SUZLON	5.31	5.33	5.20	5.24
PHILIPCARB	206.00	208.25	182.35	184.45
LINDENIA	770.00	770.85	613.60	613.60
GRAPHITE	734.00	737.00	698.00	700.00
BHARTIARTL	331.45	332.35	305.10	310.95
SUNTV	567.30	568.40	513.75	524.90
LIT	1351.00	1352.00	1313.00	1318.25
ICICIBANK	374.20	376.50	370.05	371.90
DHFL	220.75	222.70	214.00	215.35
WIPRO	336.40	348.45	333.95	346.20
KRBL	342.05	386.70	341.40	381.25
HINDUNILVR	1757.00	1768.65	1728.65	1743.70
MINDTREE	867.95	893.00	855.00	886.80
ITI	109.85	110.25	104.00	104.40
CYIENT	600.00	618.00	577.30	614.85
HEG	3601.00	3765.90	3531.00	3546.85
IBULHSGFN	823.70	823.70	805.55	816.90
TATASTEEL	474.00	477.45	468.10	470.50
VEDL	198.50	199.90	195.90	198.15
IOC	137.85	138.60	137.00	137.40
LTS	1711.00	1746.95	1625.40	1637.35
ASHOKLEY	93.75	93.75	91.90	92.25
RECILTD	128.00	129.00	125.10	126.10
RELCAPITAL	218.50	219.50	208.60	210.15
SBN	298.05	299.70	290.25	295.20
AXISBANK	675.70	675.80	661.65	664.30
RELFINRA	298.05	303.85	292.25	297.25
INFY	731.95	736.00	726.50	731.00
SPIICEJET	84.30	84.35	81.10	81.35



NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27763.45	27768.60	27355.20	27410.55
BHEL	70.40	71.15	69.70	71.00
DABUR	422.95	427.00	418.55	424.30
ICICIPRULI	350.15	353.20	342.50	353.00
DMART	1371.00	1388.80	1361.00	1380.00
GODREJCLD	19234.00	19290.00	19019.60	19255.00
HAVELLS	677.55	686.00	671.45	679.20
HINDZINC	273.60	275.10	271.30	271.80
PIDLITIND	1152.00	1162.60	1140.35	1150.55
PGHFI	995.45	1005.00	991.95	998.00
AMROPHARMA	780.10	781.00	763.00	774.00
MURF	6600.05	6609.20	6560.00	6570.10
OIL	172.95	173.60	172.05	172.40
L&T	142.20	142.20	138.35	141.00
MARICO	382.10	382.60	375.25	379.15
SAIL	50.00	50.45	49.50	49.65
GODREJCP	793.30	797.50	781.00	789.25
ABB	1290.00	1294.30	1274.00	1276.65
MOTHERSUMI	160.10	160.85	155.55	158.20
ASHOKLEY	93.35	93.55	92.00	92.40
BANKBARODA	119.20	119.90	117.55	118.05
NMDC	92.00	92.10	90.55	90.95
BIOCIN	660.00	672.50	650.00	651.15
NIALCT	182.00	183.50	179.65	180.60
BEL	87.90	88.25	86.05	86.25
COLPAL	1330.00	1331.75	1306.15	1311.95
ACC	1468.00	1468.00	1435.00	1439.00
LUPIN	861.10	867.35	851.85	859.90
NHPC	25.50	25.70	25.10	25.25
BRITANNIA	3214.85	3217.35	3134.25	3169.35
SRTRANSFIN	1159.00	1167.40	1131.35	1135.00
SBLIFE	627.00	629.50	615.05	615.00
GICRE	258.00	259.00</		

'US discusses potential missile defence coop with India'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has discussed a potential missile defence cooperation with India as part of its effort to deepen the bilateral strategic partnership, the Pentagon has said, asserting that New Delhi is a "key element" in America's Indo-Pacific strategy. The Pentagon's announcement in the 81-page 'Missile Defense Review' report released by President Donald Trump gains significance in view of India placing a USD 5 billion order to purchase S-400 air defense system from Russia, for which the US has publicly expressed its displeasure.

Noting that the threats posed by offensive missile capabilities are no longer limited to a few regions around the world, the Pentagon in its report said there were now a number of States in South Asia that are developing an advanced and diverse range of ballistic and cruise missile capabilities.

"Within this context, the United States has discussed potential missile defense cooperation with India. This is a natural outgrowth of India's status as a Major Defense Partner and key element of our Indo-Pacific Strategy," said the Pentagon report on Thursday.

The report, which identifies missile development projects by Russia and China as major threats to the US, did not give any further details about its potential missile defense cooperation with India.

Previously, the US was reluctant to offer its missile defence system to India. Given the tough neighbourhood that India is in, New Delhi several years ago had approached US and expressed its desire to acquire a missile defense system from it, particularly the Terminal High Altitude Area

Defense system popular as THAAD.

The previous Obama administration was not very forthcoming in sharing its advance missile defense system with India, following which New Delhi went ahead to procure it from Russia.

As part of its Indo-Pacific strategy, the Trump administration now seems to be more than inclined to let India procure its missile defense system with talks between the two countries having already started.

"We will deepen our strategic partnership with India and support its leadership role in Indian Ocean security and throughout the broader region," said the 2017 National Security Strategy of the US, which has been mentioned in the Pentagon report.

The Missile Defense Review report said that the cornerstone of US' security and diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific region is its strong bilateral alliances with Japan, South Korea and Australia, and emerging security relationships with others such as India.

Japan and South Korea are working with the US to build missile defense systems that are increasingly interoperable with American defenses and increasingly capable against regional offensive missile threats and coercion.

This cooperation includes bilateral missile defense training exercises with the US. Australia participates in a trilateral discussion on missile defense with the US and Japan. The US and Australia meet annually to discuss bilateral missile defense cooperation. New areas of focus include joint examination of the challenges posed by advanced missile threats, it said.

US announces new missile defence system ... to counter threats from Russia, China

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has announced a new missile defense policy aimed at addressing the challenges posed by Russia and China, which seeks to displace America in the Indo-Pacific region and has adopted an assertive posture in disputes over territorial boundaries with its neighbours. In its 'Missile Defense Review' report released Thursday, the Pentagon said Russia and China were developing advanced cruise missiles and hypersonic missile capabilities that can travel at exceptional speeds with unpredictable flight paths which challenge the existing defensive systems.

These are challenging realities of the emerging missile threat environment that US missile defense policy, strategy, and capabilities must address, it said. "While Russia and China pose separate challenges and are distinct in many ways, both are enhancing their existing offensive missile systems and developing advanced sea and air-launched cruise missiles as well as hypersonic

capabilities," Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said.

The report presents a comprehensive and layered approach to prevent and defeat adversary missile attacks through a combination of deterrence, active and passive missile defenses, and attack operations to destroy offensive missiles prior to launch.

This comprehensive approach to missile defense strengthens America's ability to protect the homeland, allies and partners and deters adver-



capabilities," Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said.

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sary threats and attacks, Shanahan said.

It assures allies and partners, engages in diplomacy from a position of strength, hedges against future risk and preserves America's freedom of action to conduct regional military operations in defense of its interests, Shanahan said.

"China seeks to displace the United States in the Indo-Pacific region and reorder the region to its advantage," the report said. Offensive missiles play an increasingly prominent role in China's military mod-

ernisation, its coercive threats and efforts to counter US military capabilities in the Indo-Pacific, it said. China has deployed 75-100 ICBMs, including a new road-mobile system and a new multi-warhead version of its silo-based intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). While Russia illegally occupies territory outside its borders, seeks to coerce and destabilise its neighbours, and flouts treaty obligations, China has adopted an increasingly assertive posture in disputes with its neighbours, many of whom are US allies or partners, the Pentagon said.

"These include disputes over territorial boundaries, claims to contested island territory, and a campaign to build and militarise islands in the South China Sea. The military forces and doctrines of these and other States feature offensive missile capabilities that are growing rapidly in size, sophistication and prominence," the Pentagon said. "China can now potentially threaten the United States with about 125 nuclear missiles, some capable of employing multiple warheads,

and its nuclear forces will increase in the coming years. Beijing also is developing advanced technologies, such as MaRVs and HGVs," it said.

Observing that China is developing missile capabilities intended to deny it the capability and freedom of action to protect US allies and partners in Asia, the Pentagon said a key component of Beijing's military modernisation was its conventional ballistic missile arsenal designed to prevent US military access to support regional allies and partners.

"China is improving its ability to strike regional targets, such as US bases and naval assets, at greater ranges with the addition of the growing number of medium and intermediate-range ballistic missiles. This includes sophisticated anti-airballistic missiles that pose a direct threat to US aircraft carriers," it said.

The Pentagon said the wide-ranging developments in China's expansive offensive missile arsenal posed a potential nuclear and non-nuclear threat to US forces deployed abroad, and are of acute concern to US allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

China is aggressively pur-

suing a wide range of mobile air and missile defense capabilities, including the purchase of S-400 systems from Russia, each with four interceptor missiles, and is developing additional theatre ballistic missile defense systems.

It also has announced that it is testing a new mid-course missile defense system.

Russia considers the US and the NATO to be the principal threats to its contemporary revisionist geopolitical ambitions and routinely conducts exercises involving simulated nuclear strikes against America, the report said.

The Russian leaders claim that Moscow possesses a new class of missile, the hypersonic glide vehicles (HGV), which maneuver and typically travel at velocities greater than Mach 5 in or just above the atmosphere, it said.

North Korea continues to pose an extraordinary threat and the United States must remain vigilant, the report said. "One of Iran's primary tools of coercion and force projection is its missile arsenal, which is characterised by increasing numbers, as well as increases in accuracy, range, and lethality," it said.

SC orders to give more rights to Gilgit-Baltistan citizens

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court has ordered the federal government to promulgate a new law within a fortnight to grant more rights, including fundamental human rights, to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. A seven-judge bench headed by Justice Saqib Nisar issued a detailed order Thursday in response to several petitions filed against constitutional issues and previous reforms in the region. The bench wrote that the jurisdiction and power of the Supreme Court extend to Gilgit-Baltistan. The Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi last year conveyed its stand to Pakistan that the entire state of Jammu and

Kashmir, which also includes the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan', is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession in 1947.

It further said that the region's courts did not have constitutional power to deal with issues within Pakistan but the people from the region will be able to challenge their top court's decisions in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

It also ordered that the people of the region should be given fundamental human rights as provided in the proposed constitutional order, which was made part of the detailed order.

Noting the international status of Kashmir, of which Gilgit-Baltistan is a part, the order said that "as and when

the promised plebiscite is organized by the parties to the dispute, it will be up to the people of all of Jammu and Kashmir, and of Gilgit-Baltistan, to make their choice".

It also said until the plebiscite, "it is surely incumbent upon both India as well as Pakistan to ensure that the people of this region enjoy maximum rights for areas within each country's control".

However, it noted that until the plebiscite is held, a proper arrangement must be provided by Pakistan for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan for the purposes of governance within a framework of a constitutional nature, including most importantly the enjoyment of fundamental rights.

US envoy on Af Khalilzad holds talks with Pak FM

Islamabad (PTI): US special envoy on Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad Friday held talks with Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and discussed efforts to speed up the Afghan peace process by involving the Taliban.

Khalilzad arrived in Islamabad on Thursday from Afghanistan and held delegation level talks with Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua and also met Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said Khalilzad called on Qureshi. "He briefed Foreign Minister Qureshi on his recent engagements in the region for Afghan peace and reconciliation process," Faisal said. "The FM assured Ambassador Khalilzad of Pakistan's support for the peace process," he tweeted.

Earlier, a statement issued by the Foreign Office on Thursday after Khalilzad's meeting with Janjua said that the two sides agreed on "intra-Afghan dialogue" to end more than 17-year-long Afghan war.

Asif Khosa takes oath as new Pak CJ

Islamabad (PTI): Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, known for adding lyrical flair in his judgments, Friday took oath as the 26th Chief Justice of Pakistan in a simple ceremony held here at the President's House which was



also attended by foreign legal luminaries, including from India.

Justice Khosa, 64, who was administered oath by President Arif Alvi, will serve as top judge for nearly 337 days and is scheduled to retire on December 21, 2019. Prime Minister Imran Khan, judges of higher courts, ministers, diplomats, civil and military officials, lawyers and foreign guests including from India were present at the oath taking ceremony, the Dawn reported.

Former judge of the Supreme Court of India and President Governing Committee of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur and Sandra E Oxner, former judge and founding president Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, Canada took part in the ceremony, the report said. They arrived through the Wagah border in Lahore on Thursday to attend the ceremony, it said. Five senior judges from Turkey, South Africa and Nigeria also attended the oath taking ceremony.

Top North Korean general in Washington to prepare new Donald Trump summit

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

Top North Korean general is in Washington Friday for a rare visit, during which he is expected to meet President Donald Trump as the two countries seek to finalise a new summit aimed at denuclearisation and easing decades of hostility. Kim Yong Chol, a right-hand man to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, arrived Thursday evening in the US capital, the latest peace-making mission just a year after once-searing tensions began to abate.

The North Korean negotiator abruptly cancelled his last planned talks in the United States - a meeting set two months ago in New York with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and this time the administration has treaded cautiously, not announcing his visit in advance.



But an American source, who could not be identified as the schedule has not been announced, said that Pompeo would welcome Kim on Friday for a meal in Washington before the two are expected to head together to the White House. Trump has repeatedly voiced eagerness to see Kim Jong Un

again after their landmark June summit in Singapore, the first meeting ever between sitting leaders from the two countries that never formally ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Trump has repeatedly hailed his diplomacy as a triumph, recently saying there would have been "a nice big fat war in Asia" if it were not for him.

He has said to expect an announcement soon about the second summit, with diplomats seeing Vietnam and Thailand as possible venues. In a sign that frictions have eased since the official's no-show in November, Trump - who has mused that he and Kim Jong Un are "in love" - said he received a warm new letter from the North Korean leader earlier this month.

For Trump, the made-for-television summit with the young and elusive North Korean leader also offers a welcome respite from news at home. Special counsel Robert Mueller is probing whether Trump's presidential campaign colluded with Russia, and his insistence that Congress fund a wall on the Mexican border has shuttered the US government for nearly a month. For Kim, the stakes are more existential as he seeks guarantees of the survival of his regime.

Kim, backed by ally China as well as South Korea's dovish government, is also hoping for an easing of international sanctions, but the United States insists on maintaining maximum pressure until Pyongyang moves forward on giving up its nuclear weapons.

Queen Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip escapes unhurt in major car crash

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, miraculously escaped unhurt in a terrifying accident when a Land Rover the 97-year-old duke was driving flipped onto its side after a collision with another car carrying two women and a baby. The Duke of Edinburgh was unharmed but the two women in the Kia hatchback were injured in the accident near the Queen's Sandringham estate on Thursday. The nine-month-old baby who was in the back seat of car was uninjured.

Pictures from the scene showed Tata Motors' Land Rover laying on its side with debris scattered around it. It has been suggested that the royal was dazzled by sunlight at a T-



junction and his vehicle hit the Kia. Witnesses said the duke was "conscious but very, very shocked and shaken" as he was pulled out from the wreckage of his overturned Land Rover, the Sun reported.

The driver of the Kia suffered cuts, while the passenger sustained an arm injury, police

said. Both were treated at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn.

The Press Association reported that there was a passenger in the duke's vehicle who was likely his close protection officer. A witness said Philip seemed "distracted" and it was a "miracle" he escaped uninjured.

"I saw the car flip," Roy Warne, 75, told daily, adding that he rushed to help free the driver before he "suddenly realised it was Prince Philip". The duke saw a doctor as a precaution who confirmed he was not hurt.

Police breathalysed both the drivers. Police said it was standard policy to breath test drivers involved in collisions and both had provided negative readings.

GLOBE TROTTING

Adrienne Palicki and Scott Grimes engaged

Los Angeles: "The Orville" actors Adrienne Palicki and Scott Grimes are engaged. The couple took to social media to confirm their engagement. "So happy to spend my life with you @ScottGrimes #ido #iloveyou (sic)" Palicki wrote on Instagram alongside a black-and-white picture of them sitting on a couch. The duo first appeared in public as a couple at San Diego Comic-Con in July last year.



Cheryl to release new song in March

London (PTI): Singer Cheryl has revealed that she will be releasing her new song in March. The 35-year-old singer did not share the exact date of the release of the song which will be the follow-up to "Love made me do it", reported Contactmusic. "I am releasing a new song in March, I never like to give a specific date," Cheryl said during an appearance on "The One Show". "It is a bit more uptempo," she added.



Israeli NSA calls on PM Modi; discusses bilateral issues

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli National Security Adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat visited India earlier this week and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues related to bilateral relations, including the advancing of security deals, according to an official statement here, NSA Ben-Shabbat, who was in India on the invitation of his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval, also held a series of meetings with senior officials of Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and security organisation, a statement from the Prime Minister's media adviser here said.

Prime Minister Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu also spoke over phone during the visit of the Israeli NSA to New Delhi.

Ben-Shabbat returned to Israel on January 15, on the Air India flight that flies through the Saudi Arabian airspace, the statement said. During his visit, the Israeli NSA discussed issues related to bilateral relations including the advancing of security deals, it said. Additional measures were agreed to on advancing security, technology and civilian-economic cooperation between Israel and India, it said.

Ben-Shabbat is said to have briefed his interlocutors on regional issues, including "Iran's efforts to entrench itself militarily in Syria and its actions that undermine regional stability". He was accompanied by Israeli Ambassador to India Dr Ron Malka and Defence Attache Colonel Efraim Defrain in the meetings.



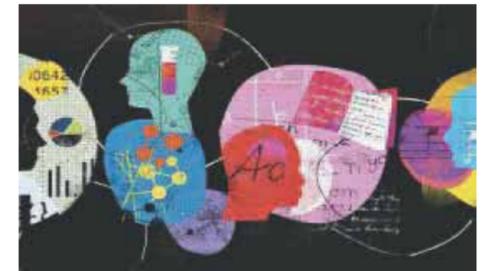
Genes may help predict how long a person will live: Study

PTI ■ LONDON

Analysing the DNA may help predict whether a person will live longer or die sooner than average, according to a study. Researchers at the University of Edinburgh in the UK analysed the combined effect of genetic variations that influence lifespan to produce a scoring system.

People who score in the top 10 per cent of the population might expect to live up to five years longer than those who score in the lowest 10 per cent, they said. The findings, published in the journal eLife, also revealed fresh insights into diseases and the biological mechanisms involved in ageing.

"If we take 100 people at birth, or later, and use our lifespan score to divide them into ten groups, the top group will live five years longer than the bottom on average," said Peter Joshi from the University of Edinburgh's Usher Institute. The researchers looked at genetic data from more than half a million people alongside records of their parents' lifespan.



Some 12 areas of the human genome were pinpointed as having a significant impact on lifespan, including five sites that have not been reported before, according to the study.

The DNA sites with the greatest impact on overall lifespan were those that have previously been linked to fatal illnesses, including heart disease and smoking-related conditions, researchers said.

"We found genes that affect the brain and the heart are responsible for most of the variation in lifespan," said Paul Timmers, a PhD student at the

Usher Institute. However, genes that have been linked to other cancers, not directly associated with smoking, did not show up in this study, the researchers said.

This suggests that susceptibility to death caused by these cancers is either a result of rarer genetic differences in affected people, or social and environmental factors, they said.

The researchers had hoped to discover genes that directly influence how quickly people age. They say that if such genes exist, their effects were too small to be detected in this study.

Trump cancels Pelosi's foreign trip citing govt shutdown

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has denied House Speaker Nancy Pelosi a military plane for an "excursion" to Brussels and war-torn Afghanistan, a tit-for-tat retaliation that deepened the divide between the two leaders amidst the longest-ever federal government shutdown.

President Trump's unusual move to postpone Pelosi's overseas trip came on Thursday, a day after the 78-year-old top Democrat, urged him to reschedule his annual State of the Union address slated for January 29, citing security concerns triggered by the shutdown that has entered its 27th day.

The shutdown is a result of the bitter political divide over border security issue as the Democrats who now enjoy majority in the House of Representatives have refused to pass a legislation approving USD 5.7 billion in federal funding to construct a wall across the US-Mexico border, a poll promise by the Republican president.

"Due to the shutdown, I am sorry to inform you that your trip to Brussels, Egypt, and Afghanistan has been postponed. We will reschedule this seven-day excursion when the Shutdown is over," Trump said in a letter to Pelosi, a copy of which was released to the press, an hour before her delegation was due to leave for the week-long trip.

"Obviously, if you would like to make your journey by flying commercial, that would certainly be your prerogative," Trump wrote to Pelosi, who is third in line to the presidency.

Trump also informed the Speaker of the House of



Representatives that he also feel that, during this period, it would be better if Pelosi stayed in Washington negotiating with him how to end the crippling government shutdown and back his demand for funds to construct a border wall with Mexico.

The president also said postponing Pelosi's "public relations event" was totally appropriate. Later on Thursday, the White House announced it would not send a US delegation to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland later this month, over the shutdown.

Trump had previously said he would not attend, and on Tuesday announced a scaled-back delegation, which was to be led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The longest-ever shutdown in US history has rendered over 800,000 federal employees without work, crippling the functioning of several key wings of the government including Security and State Department.

"In light of the 800,000 great American workers not receiving pay, I am sure you

would agree that," Trump said. However, Pelosi's spokesman Drew Hammill said the visit's purpose was to express appreciation to US troops and obtain "critical" briefings from them. The trip did not have Egypt as a stop, he said.

The president said: "I look forward to seeing you soon and even more forward to watching our open and dangerous Southern Border finally receive the attention, funding, and security it so desperately deserves!"

Trump's letter to Pelosi came soon after the House Speaker told reporters at the US Capitol that the president has been silent for more than 24 hours on the issue of rescheduling his annual State of the Union address.

"We haven't heard. It was a very silent more than 24 hours, to your question that you ask me every time I step out of the office, have you heard? No, we haven't heard yet," Pelosi said taking a dig at the president.

Pelosi's spokesman, Hammill, said the Congressional Delegation to

Afghanistan included a required stop in Brussels to allow pilots to rest. In Brussels, the delegation was scheduled to meet with top NATO commanders, US military leaders and key allies - to affirm the United States' ironclad commitment to the NATO alliance. This weekend visit to Afghanistan did not include a stop in Egypt as mentioned by the president, the spokesman said.

"The purpose of the trip was to express appreciation and thanks to our men and women in uniform for their service and dedication, and to obtain critical national security and intelligence briefings from those on the front lines," he said.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, "We want to keep her (Pelosi) in Washington. If she leaves, she guarantees that the second round of paychecks to 800,000 federal workers won't go out. The deadline to make that deal is midnight on Tuesday."

"She wasn't scheduled to be back until Wednesday. The president wants her here to negotiate," she said. President Trump insists that building a wall is the only solution to protect the nation from a large flow of illegal immigrants and drug smuggling.

The Democrats are opposed to any such funding. After Trump walked out of a meeting at the White House last week, Democrats have refused to come to the negotiation table. The ongoing shutdown on January 12 broke the previous record of 21 days of US government shutdown under the Bill Clinton administration in December 16, 1995 to January 5, 1996.

21 dead in car bomb attack on Colombian police academy

AFP ■ BOGOTA

Colombia's government declared three days of mourning Thursday after at least 21 people died in a car bomb at a Bogota police cadet training academy, and 68 were wounded — the worst such incident in the city in 16 years.

The defense ministry said the "terrorist act" was carried out using a vehicle packed with 80 kilograms (around 175 pounds) of explosives.

"Unfortunately, the preliminary toll is 21 people dead, including the person responsible for the incident, and 68 wounded," Colombian police said in a statement, adding 58 of those injured had been discharged from hospital. The defense ministry had previously reported 11 dead and 65 injured. "All Colombians reject terrorism and we're united in fighting it," President Ivan Duque tweeted in the aftermath. Later in a statement to the nation, he said he had ordered reinforcements to Colombia's borders and routes in and out of cities.

"I have also requested that priority be given to all the investigations ... to identify the masterminds of this terrorist attack and their accomplices," he said.

The bomber — who authorities confirmed was killed in the attack — struck at the General Francisco de Paula Santander Officer's School in the south of Bogota during a promotion ceremony for cadets. No group has claimed responsibility, but public prosecutor Nestor Humberto Martinez named suspect Jose Aldemar Rojas Rodriguez as the "material author of this abominable crime." Martinez said Rojas Rodriguez entered



Family members of victims of a bombing gather outside the entrance to the General Santander police academy where the bombing took place in Bogota, Colombia, Thursday

the school compound at 9:30 am (1430 GMT) driving a grey 1993 Nissan Patrol truck, but gave no details about the explosion.

He said the truck underwent an inspection in July in the Arauco department on the border with Venezuela — a traditional stronghold of ELN Marxist guerrillas.

Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno said one of the dead was an Ecuadorian cadet, while a second suffered light injuries. "The brutal act of terrorism in Bogota took the life of a compatriot," Moreno said on Twitter. "My sincerest thoughts go to the family, friends and companions of Erika Chico." Meanwhile, Panama's President Juan Carlos Varela said that 45 Panamanian cadets were present during the attack, with two injured. Fanny Contreras, the Colombian armed forces health inspector, told local radio that the truck "entered (the school compound) sud-

denly, almost hitting the police, and then there was the explosion." Carol Oviedo said her brother Jonathan, a cadet, told her on the phone he had been injured, before the connection was cut.

"In two years since he joined the police, he's never had to face a situation like this," she said. Like other families, she was lingering in the vicinity of the academy hoping to hear some news.

United States assistant secretary of state in charge of Latin America, Kimberly Breier condemned the attack and said: "Our condolences and sympathies go to the victims and family members of those killed." The US embassy in Bogota offered its "help in investigating this reprehensible attack."

Rosalba Jimenez, 62, was opening her confectionery store near the school when the bomb went off. "When we turned to look at the school the

sky was grey with smoke. People were running, sirens... horrible, horrible, it seemed like the end of the world," Jimenez told AFP.

Authorities sealed off the area to the press and increased security service patrols in the south of the city, AFP reporters said.

Right-wing Duque, who assumed power in August, has peddled a tough line against Marxist rebels and drug traffickers in the largest cocaine producer in the world.

Peace talks with ELN guerrillas — who in the past have claimed responsibility for bomb attacks on police — stalled before Duque replaced Juan Manuel Santos as president, and have not been restarted. Duque has made several demands, including the release of all hostages, as prerequisites to kick-starting the peace process, but the ELN has dismissed those as unacceptable.

Prez Trump cancels US delegation's visit to Davos amid shutdown

Washington (PTI): President Donald Trump has cancelled the US delegation's trip to the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos, Switzerland, due to the partial government shutdown.

The announcement comes as the shutdown entered its 27th day on Thursday. Last week, Trump cancelled his planned trip to the WEF meeting, citing the "intransigence" of the Democrats on his funding request to build a controversial wall along the US-Mexico border.

The five-day summit is slated to begin at the Swiss resort town of Davos from January 21. "Out of consideration for the 800,000 great American workers not receiving pay and to ensure his team can assist as needed, President Trump has canceled his delegation's trip to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement on Thursday. The cancellation of the US delegation visit to the WEF meeting came on a day Trump postponed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Brussels, Egypt and Afghanistan, citing the shutdown. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin was due to lead the five-member presidential delegation to Davos which also included Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

The other members of the presidential delegation to Davos are United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Coordination Chris Liddell.

The longest-ever shutdown in US history has rendered over 800,000 federal employees without work, crippling the functioning of several key wings of the government including Security and State Department.

The shutdown is a result of the bitter political divide over border security issue as the Democrats who now enjoy majority in the House have refused to approve a legislation approving USD 5.7 billion in federal funding to construct a wall across the US-Mexico border.

President Trump insists that building a wall is the only solution to protect the nation from a large flow of illegal immigrants and drug smuggling.

The Democrats are opposed to any such funding. After Trump walked out of a meeting at the White House last week, Democrats have refused to come to the negotiation table. The ongoing shutdown on January 12 broke the previous record of 21 days of US government shutdown under the Bill Clinton administration in December 16, 1995 to January 5, 1996.

US officials to ask Ecuador embassy staff about Assange visitors

London (AFP): US investigators will on Friday begin to question diplomatic staff who were stationed at the Ecuadorian embassy in London during WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's years-long stay about his visitors, according to the whistleblower group.

It follows international subpoenas from the US Department of Justice, which is probing a report that President Donald Trump's disgraced former 2016 campaign chairman Paul Manafort held secret talks there with Assange, Wikileaks said. The Justice Department, which declined to comment on the matter, wants to talk to six staff members from the embassy and will start to interview them in the Ecuadorian capital Quito on Friday, it added.

Britain's The Guardian newspaper claimed in November that Manafort - who was convicted of multiple charges including bank fraud and money laundering in two separate cases last year - met Assange on several occasions from 2013 to 2016. The period coincided with Manafort becoming a key figure in Trump's bid for the White House and preceded Wikileaks publishing thousands of emails allegedly stolen by Russian hackers from the rival Democratic campaign of Hillary Clinton.

S'pore to replace its ageing F-16 fighter jets with F-35 warplanes

Singapore (PTI): Singapore will replace its ageing F-16 fighter jets with F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), the defence ministry announced on Friday, as the city-state opts for the US warplane over European and Chinese-made stealth fighters. The announcement ends years of speculation that Singapore would eventually decide on the fifth-generation F-35 as a replacement for the F-16s. Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen in June last year had said that Singapore was evaluating a range of options, including Lockheed Martin's F-35, Europe's Eurofighter Typhoon and Chinese-made stealth fighters to replace F-16s.

The RSAF is expected to acquire a "small number" of the F-35 JSF for a full evaluation. This follows a five-year technical evaluation by the RSAF and Defence Science and Technology Agency.

"The technical evaluation also concluded that the RSAF should first purchase a small number of F-35 JSFs for a full evaluation of their capabilities and suitability before deciding on a full fleet," the defence ministry said in a statement.

"In the next phase, MINDEF will discuss details with relevant parties in the US before confirming its decision to acquire the F-35 JSFs for Singapore's defence capabilities," it added.

In a Facebook post on Friday, the defence minister said this phase might take nine to 12 months, adding that relevant agencies will speak to their US

counterparts to "move the process forward".

Details that will be discussed include price, quantity and which variant of the jet to buy, as well as issues like logistical requirements and the training of pilots.

The F-35A — the conventional take-off and landing variant — costs USD 89.2 million, according to maker Lockheed Martin. It is believed that Singapore is interested in the B variant, which costs more and can take off from shorter runways and land vertically, according to a Channel News Asia report. If discussions are successful, Singapore will proceed to buy a few F-35s for a full evaluation. The length of this phase is unclear and will also depend on developments during tests by other militaries which operate the F-35.

What is clear, however, is that the defence ministry is working on a timeline that will not jeopardise the replacement of the F-16s, which face obsolescence beyond 2030. It is understood that the defence ministry is still on track to meet this target.

"Our RSAF's F-16s that were in service since 1998 will have to retire soon after 2030, even after their mid-life upgrades," Ng said. "That's not very far away, just over 10 years, to acquire their replacement and, just as important, to build the logistic support and train pilots individually and as a fleet to guard our skies," he said.

Radical cleric behind Bali bombing to be freed from prison

AFP ■ JAKARTA

A radical cleric thought to be the spiritual leader of the Bali bombers will be released from prison on medical grounds, Indonesia's president said Friday. Abu Bakar Bashir, 80, is believed to have been a key figure in terror network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), which was blamed for the 2002 bombings on the holiday island which killed more than 200 people, mostly foreign tourists.

It was Indonesia's deadliest militant attack and prompted Jakarta to beef up anti-terror cooperation with the US and Australia, which has previously opposed clemency for Bashir.

Indonesian leader Joko Widodo said on Friday that he had agreed to order the ailing preacher's release from a prison on the outskirts of the capital. "The first reason is humanitarian," Widodo told reporters. "He is old... and his health condition was also part of the consideration." In 2011, the firebrand preacher — once synonymous with militant Islam in Indonesia — was sentenced to 15 years in jail for helping fund a paramilitary group training in the conservative Islamic province of Aceh.

Bashir, the co-founder of an infamous Islamic boarding school known for producing militants, was jailed after authorities in the world's biggest Muslim



majority country broke up the camp.

Several militants convicted over their involvement in the Bali bombings have been executed while two others, including Malaysian Noordin Mohammed Top, were killed in police raids in 2009 and 2010.

Bashir, who has repeatedly denied involvement in terror attacks, was also previously jailed over the Bali bombings but that conviction was quashed on appeal.

Al-Qaida-linked JI was founded by a handful of exiled Indonesian militants in Malaysia in the 1980s, and grew to include cells across Southeast Asia.

As well as the 2002 Bali bombings, the radical group was blamed for a deadly 2003 car bomb at the JW Marriott

hotel in Jakarta and a suicide car bomb the following year outside the Australian embassy.

An anti-terror crackdown weakened some of Indonesia's most dangerous networks, including Jemaah Islamiyah. The Islamic State (IS) group proved to be a potent rallying cry for Indonesia's radicals, with hundreds travelling to the Middle East to join the jihadists.

Last year, a wave of deadly suicide bombings at churches and a police post rocked Indonesia's second biggest city Surabaya. Those attacks were carried out by families — including children — linked to local extremist network Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), which has pledged allegiance to IS.



In this April 3, 2018 file photo, Memphis police arrest Spanish-language reporter Manuel Duran during an immigration protest in Memphis, Tenn. Lawyers for Duran, facing deportation, say he has been denied release from detention. The Southern Poverty Law Center said in a news release that an immigration judge denied bond for Duran during a hearing Thursday in Jena, Louisiana.

'Total internet shutdown' in Zimbabwe

AFP ■ HARARE

Zimbabwe imposed a "total shutdown" of the internet on Friday, a major provider told customers, after protests early this week triggered a ruthless security crackdown.

The internet had been partially restored after a first shutdown started on Tuesday. "We were served with another directive for total shutdown of the internet until further notice," Econet, the country's biggest provider, said in a text message on Friday. "Our lawyers advised we are required to comply with the directive pending the court decision on its legality. The earlier directive(s) are already the subject of pending high court application. We sincerely apolo-

gise for all inconveniences caused by the acts of government." The EU on Thursday joined the US and Britain in criticising the authorities' response to the protests.

"The escalation of violence in Zimbabwe over recent days has been aggravated by the disproportionate use of force by security personnel," European Commission spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic said in a statement.

"The shutdown of access to the internet should also be reversed." The US embassy in Harare it was "alarmed by credible reports that security forces are targeting and beating political activists and labor leaders". Nationwide demonstrations erupted on Monday after President

Emmerson Mnangagwa announced that fuel prices were being doubled in a country suffering regular shortages of fuel, food and medicine.

Mnangagwa, who succeeded ousted authoritarian president Robert Mugabe in 2017, had promised a fresh start for Zimbabwe after decades of repression and economic decline.

Trade unions called the national strike on Monday and the demonstrations took place in several cities with widespread rioting and looting.

Security forces have made about 600 arrests. Police and soldiers have been accused of indiscriminately dragging people from their homes and beating them.

Woman convicted in S'pore of forcing maid to hurt self with hot water

Singapore (AFP): A Singaporean woman was found guilty Friday of abusing her Myanmar maid, including forcing her to pour hot water onto herself and to drink water laced with floor cleaner.

The abuse of the maid, Phyu Phyu Mar, happened from August to October 2016 at the house of the Singaporean married couple who employed her, according to court documents.

The abuses detailed in six charges against the wife — Linda Seah — include two instances when the maid was forced to pour hot water onto her left shoulder "to voluntarily cause hurt to herself".

According to the Straits Times, Seah, 39, was unhappy with the maid as she felt she was slow in completing her chores. The maid suffered scald marks

and blisters on her skin but instead of sending her to a doctor, Seah gave her a needle to poke the blisters herself, the newspaper said.

Another charge said Seah told the maid to hurt herself "by knocking her head on the floor". Seah also forced the maid to drink "water adulterated with floor cleaner", according to another charge.

In late September 2016, Seah abused the maid by grabbing her by the hair and "shaking her until quite a lot of her hair fell out", according to another charge. A month later, Seah repeatedly hit the maid on the forehead with a mobile phone. The woman's husband Lim Toon Leng, 44, faced one charge of punching the maid on the forehead.

WEB WORLD 60 MINUTES

GIRL GANGS AGAIN

Four young actors didn't shy away from revealing their lovable imperfections while navigating the perils of modern life in their path-breaking new show, says AYUSHI SHARMA

Hindi movies of yore would have you believe that it was only men who knew how to have long-term friendships that saw you through the highs and lows of life. So it took a good 18 years after *Dil Chahta Hai* and seven after *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* that we finally had *Veere Di Wedding* and an online series *The Trip*, a definitive film on female-bonding where four women didn't shy away from revealing their lovable imperfections while navigating the perils of modern life. And close on its heels follows a series, *Four More Shots Please*, starring, Kirti Kulhari, Sayani Gupta, Bani J, Maanvi Gagroo and Lisa Ray which will be streamed on Amazon Prime from January 25.

The storyline features four friends. Anjana (Kirti) is a single mother who hasn't had sex since the birth of her four-year-old daughter. Damini (Sayani) is a journalist who prefers pleasuring herself to a relationship. Umang (Bani) is bisexual and looking for adventure, while Siddhi (Maanvi) is a virgin whose love life is closely scrutinised by her mother. All these women are also juggling their careers alongside their personal lives.

From the storyline, the series appears to be quite similar in content to *Veere Di Wedding* and *The Trip*. However, Kirti and Maanvi interestingly shared that "we had already finished shooting for the series and the film was released much later. When the first look of the film came we were like oh my god, it's so similar to our show, what do we do now. But trust us, besides the fact that there are four sassy, funny and glamorous girls, our show is completely different. It also packs an emotional punch which tugs at your heart when you least expect it."

Kirti insisted, "I don't understand same *kya hota hai*? There are just four girls and the similarity ends then and there itself."

Maanvi further added to Kirti's point, "Haven't you seen *Dil Chahta Hai* and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*? Both had three men but were poles apart, right?"

They explained that a story is not a situation but rather it is a view of what



the director brings out from the characters. Though the structure might be similar to *Veere Di Wedding*, or *The Trip* but how the characters are treated, portrayed and executed is different.

In this series the characters are very distinct from each other without being perfect. Rather they celebrated their flaws and were even aspirational.

Sayani agreed that comparisons are

bound to happen because a lot of time people watch a film and say, "this movie reminds me of that film. It's a natural process, to get associations."

Having said that she explained why they ended up saying yes to this one was because they had not seen or heard anything of this sort before.

Sayani's somebody who does not like to overtly publicise her political views but prefers to let her work represent the ide-



IN ART THERE CANNOT BE ANY KIND OF CENSORSHIP BECAUSE IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF THE ARTIST. IF YOU WANT TO TELL YOUR STORY IN THE WAY YOU WANT TO, GO AHEAD AND DO IT



ology she believes in. Her character Damini is extremely advanced, detailed and complex. She says, "I have done a lot of female-centric work but it's the kind of role that any actor would like to sink her teeth into," she said.

Recently, there were reports that the centre is planning censorship on the digital medium as well. Bani and Sayani stand completely against any kind of censorship.

Sayani believes that in art there cannot be any kind of censorship because it's an expression of the artist. If you want to tell your story in the way you want to, go ahead and do it. But if somebody else is making a film who are you to object to it? She said, "Online platforms also have +13 and +18 certification, which is great. By that, one gets to know which show comes under what category. But watching a show depends on personal conscience and interests. I think nobody can tell you how to make your art. I love the criteria of self-censoring, it's brilliant."

On the other hand, Bani feels the same, she said, "With great freedom comes great responsibility. I might understand why there's a need to put censorship on digital medium, but it's the responsibility of the makers, the writers and the audience as well. Just be a little more in charge of the projects you choose and how you execute them. Be sensitive to the fact that we are still living in a third world country where there are some very conservative people. At the same time, we also have a large population of youth and we need to cater to them in a responsible fashion."

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

MUSIC MAKER 25 MINUTES



The fire within

British-Indian singer-songwriter SHAHIN BADAR's new single *Jaag* celebrates womanhood and liberation. By CHAHAK MITTAL

Music is an indirect medium of communicating ideas that need attention. As feminism increasingly crawls into lyrics of songs, one such is UK-based British-Indian singer-songwriter Shahin Badar's newest single, *Jaag*.

For her, the song signifies the strength of womanhood. She says, "With disrespect on the rise, every woman needs a brother in society who acknowledges her strength and beauty." It astutely studies power equations and admonishes a misogynistic society. The term, that means to 'wake up' or 'rise', in Hindi, celebrates women empowerment and encompasses the themes of "liberation and self-love." Shahin explains that it brings to the fore the idea of waking up and recognising self-beauty, love and freedom from the negative remarks of the society against women.

Through her experiences and conversations, she realised, that because of all the socio-economic changes there has been a lot of manipulation. "Lines were crossed and many things shouldn't have been tolerated. There is also a need for spirituality and humility among both men and women so that each of us can rise above the afflictions caused by negative forces," she says.

The singer says that she has mostly worked on songs which were sent to her by music production companies. However, she penned *Jaag* keeping in mind the idea of womanhood and respect.

The versatile award-winning singer has collaborated with a number of Indian and internationally-acclaimed music composers, exploring global music genres like EDM, Pop, Trance, House, Sufi, as well as the Indian music scene.

She says that she was enriched by Arabic music as she grew up in Kuwait. "However," she says, "In UK, I got connected to an environment where there was different kinds of dance and music. I met people who opened the doors of music and production for me. Since then, I started exploring various genres and collaborating with many UK-based artists." And combining them led to the creation of sounds that could be termed "eclectic."

The singer says that she didn't wish to be "generalised" or even "confined" to one thing. Hence, "I decided to put all my ideas to paper and then record it."

For someone, who has never had direct encounters with the culture of India, developing an interest in the country's music is intriguing. Shahin attributes it to her teacher and *ghazal* writer mother, who she is a huge source of inspiration. She was officially known to be the 'second Lata Mangeshkar' in her town in Gujarat. "And she used to sing the Indian National Anthem in the state on All India Radio (AIR). However, her conservative family never let her pursue her dream of becoming a musician." With such a background it is not surprising that she was drawn towards Hindustani classical music which expanded her vision further.

In fact Shahin's teenage years prominently featured Indian music that was "usually played all day long in the house and I would always sing along with my mother. She helped me to sing better. There were social gatherings especially to celebrate music where I would meet producers and composers."

It was in 2004 when *Dol Dol* from *Aayutha Ezhuthu* had released and everyone noticed the singer's collaboration with composer AR Rahman. Shahin says that it was "a dream come true. I was very honoured to have worked with him."

The multiple awards-winning artist says that the most important thing is the person behind that award who shows respect and humility towards one's work and voice. She says, "I find it very intriguing. Winning awards has been the most uplifting part of my career. It makes a person reach out to the soul so that ideas and enthusiasm just come naturally."

Among all the other music genres, she has loved the Indian music scene the most. She says, "I feel it gives you the freedom of expression."

However, she opposes certain trends that the Indian music industry and even the audience are adopting these days. "Many music composers in India say that people today wanted to hear tracks that are similar to the other hit songs. And that is why you see the rise of the remakes. It was very disheartening. Hence, I would say that the industry is yet to evolve. This is just ignorance. Old songs are anyway a hit, they don't need remakes to be retold," she says, as she signs off.

FASHION LOG 60 MINUTES

Queen's necklace

A Jaipur-based group has been roped in to design the jewellery for *Manikarnika, The Queen of Jhansi* which combines the flora and fauna found in Maratha region

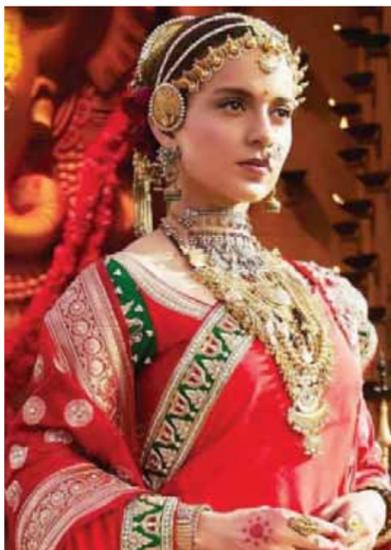


The trend of using a particular jeweller's ornaments in Bollywood films isn't new. Any film that showcases the rich Indian legacy and heritage, has to begin with antique ornaments. It's something that the ancient rulers had cherished the most. Films like *Jodha Akbar*, *Baahubali*, *Padmaavat*, *Bajirao Mastani* are a few examples.

Well, with film — *Manikarnika, The Queen of Jhansi* — a yet another jeweller has come to fore. Amrapali Jaipur is the official designer for all the jewellery that the characters in the Kangana Ranaut-starrer wear.

Tarang Arora, creative director, says that the pieces derive inspiration from the Maratha grandeur and the 19th century. He said, "According to the briefs given by the costume designer Neeta Lulla and production house about the look, we have developed motifs which are a combination of the flora and fauna found in Maratha region as well as Jhansi."

He said that the entire collection has been specially made to create the fierce, dual persona of the fearless warrior and queen, Rani Lakshmi Bai. "Each piece



has been handcrafted to achieve the preciseness and quality that the film had demanded," said he.

As per the designers, the film's script was decoded to create jewellery that "elevates the visual journey for the viewer and lends credibility to the characters."

It took around 1.5 years and 30 *karigars* (craftsmen) to create an expansive collection of 955 pieces in approximately 700 different styles. From royal *sarpechs*, delicate hair and nose pins to extravagant head ornaments, the jewellery was handcrafted in gold-plated silver and studded with semi-precious and precious stones.

"Our designers and artisans have worked tirelessly for over a year to achieve the desired aesthetics that the script demanded," said Rajiv Arora and Rajesh Ajmera, co-founders.

The price of the ornaments range from ₹2,000 to ₹40,000.

Along with Kangana, the rest of the film's cast will also be seen wearing the jewellery.

SHORT CIRCUITS



EMRAAN HASHMI

#MeToo is a great movement but there has to be a due process. We just jump the gun and start making accusations. We understand that the accusations have been made but there has to be some kind of process where there is some kind of investigation, so I hope that gets done for the girl.



ANKITA LOKHANDE

I owe every bit of my career and appreciation I have been receiving to my parents, they have been my pillars of strength through all the ups and downs. Every time I was low, they were there to boost my self-esteem. Now I am finally here making my Bollywood debut, I have never seen them happier. I thank them for being the best parents.



VARUN DHAWAN

It's my fourth film with Alia Bhatt. It always feels like it's new. She is amazing in the film. And one thing that she has done great is to run very well, and I'm proud of her. She knows she is my favourite but Shanaya, Kavya, Vaidehi and... wait for it, people are going to be as blown away as I was by her and her performance.



MIKE POSNER

My album is about pain, loss and the joy that comes with it. It's about getting a call that my father has a tumour the size of a tangerine in his forehead. It's about falling in love after his death. It's about having that relationship fall apart and not really knowing why. It's about somehow finding peace through it all.

KANGANA RANAUT

Four historians have certified *Manikarnika*. We have got a censor certificate as well. The Karni Sena has been conveyed this but they are continuing to harass me. If they don't stop, then they should know that I am also a Rajput and I will destroy each one of them.



ENCOUNTER 30 MINUTES

A WINK AND A WONDER

One of the most under-rated actors, ARSHAD WARSI is at equal ease in both comic and serious roles. But it is the box-office window that frames the identity of a true artiste, says SAIMI SATTAR



Dressed in black, actor Arshad Warsi is pacing the expanse where the entire wall is made of glass. He wants to know if there is a place where he can step out or if there is a window pane which can be opened. When the person replies in the negative, he immediately says, "It is such pleasant weather. I would have loved to enjoy the cold," which sounds a little strange coming from a person who is essentially from Mumbai, a place which is not necessarily known for the mercury plummeting. Outside, it is blustery grey, even though it is way past noon. Still he would rather have a breath of fresh air. Rather he would find it despite all the greyness.

But then Arshad is known to take his own road. His latest comedy *Fraud Saiyaan* released yesterday, a genre that has a way of finding the actor. Even though he has been a part of many many comedies, notably *Munnabhai* and the *Golmaal* franchise, each of his characters has quirks that set them apart. He says, "I have been asked that each of my roles looks different compared to those essayed by other actors in comedies. First, I am lucky to get characters which are colourful and have layers even in their behaviour and eccentricities. I simply follow my director. I ask the writer what the character is like and with that information, I add a little bit of me to develop it further. Five different writers write five different characters and if I follow their vision, then I would be playing each one distinctly. Otherwise where is the fun?" In the same breath, the 50-year-old, who never tires of a good laugh, goes on to add that he would never play a role similar to Circuit, the much-loved sidekick of *Munnabhai*, again. "I was inundated with similar roles after the film but I did not take any of them up," he specifies.

When one prods him further about what went into his iconic character, he confesses that he had no idea that Circuit would have such a mass appeal. "I didn't expect anything of it. I went to Raju and told him 'why are you making me do this? It straightaway takes me away from hero, second hero or even sup-

porting cast and categorises me straightaway into a character role.' He replied, 'it is good for me but it might not be good for you'. I did it because I like Raju. I knew it was a good film and would do well. But if I give you the script, you will know why I am saying that I had no hopes for the character," he adds.

In hindsight, he feels fortunate as an actor that a character that he has played despite his better judgment will be remembered for eternity. "It does not happen very often and such roles can actually be counted on your fingers," he says.

Coming to his latest role, he says that he plays an out-and-out bad guy as people like to see such characters on the big screen. "It is inspired by the real life of a person who married several women and was living off them. The writers picked that idea and wrote the script," he says. There were several reasons why Arshad, who says that he is extremely picky about his choices, did this film which could teeter on the edge of misogyny, according to critics. "A comedy film from Prakash Jha was interesting as he does credible stuff. There can be no buffoonery because he does not work like that. I heard the script and liked it. For instance, there is one shot which is also featured in the promo where he is trying to woo a woman in a strange language and manner. If you mute that scene, it seems to be serious but when you put on the volume, it is an utterly ridiculous conversation. It is the language, mentality and sensibility of the person which is funny," he says.

Arshad points out that though he appears to be doing a lot more comedies than serious films, he defies categorisation. "The comedies that I am doing are the ones that are sequels and I am obliged to do these. Truth is that most scripts which are coming to me are terrible. On my way from Mumbai to Delhi, I read five scripts, one more terrible than the other and I got off the plane and rejected all of them," he says.

But with the change and improvement in content, isn't better work coming to him now considering the fact that he has been called one of the most underrated actors by

the likes of Naseeruddin Shah? "The truth is great scripts come from good writers who incidentally have access to big stars, the likes of Shahrukh, Salman and Aamir, so why will they cast me? That is the reality," he says nonchalantly with a shrug. He goes on to add that the last interesting film that he acted in was *Jolly LLB*, which released in 2013.

He believes that the audience is not stupid and can tell a good film apart from a bad one. "They can say this is a good film and that one made a lot of money but was not great," he says but further explains, "All of us want to see a film with stars and stardom won't die. But looking at the trend last year where the big films without content flopped, the stars will have to pick up scripts that are worthy of them being in it."

The audience is a lot more discerning and can pick out the good films from the bad as they are exposed to all kinds of cinema from all over the world. "Even children know what is good and what is bad," he says. He believes that this is the reason that many of the so-called stars are also doing interesting content-driven films. "In a *Dangal* for instance, an Aamir will get into a *dhotti*, go to a village and shoot which is the way it is supposed to be done. Earlier, this would have been called an art film but now the gap is being bridged. There were two kinds of films earlier — commercial and art and that is now merging into content-driven films. But five or 10 years ago, we would have called it an art film. Now everything is on the same level, waiting to be taken by everybody."

The actor is, therefore, working on a web series for giving full play to his creative energies, *Asura*, on Voot, which is a psychological thriller murder mystery and will be out by May. And there is *Total Dhamaal* releasing next month. "I start working on *Pagalpanti* which is Anees Bazmi's film with John, Illeana, Saurabh and Pulkit. It is a silly comedy which people love and which will make a lot of money," he says. Arshad has dabbled in serious films as comfortably but hasn't had a recall though. "I don't have a fear of acting. There are a lot of actors who say *Humse comedy hoti nahin*. I do both happily

without getting stressed. I just listen to the script and I go ahead if I like it. My serious stuff happens on the web and my funny stuff on the big screen. So all is good," he says.

He goes on to add that it takes a lot to get him out of the house and "so it should better be worth it. I do not want to keep going on and on to realise that my whole life has gone without doing anything besides work. My son is 14 and my daughter is 11. In some years they won't need me. But work will keep on happening," says the actor who made his debut with the film *Tere Mere Sapney* in 1996.

Incidentally, it was the *tapori* number, *Ankh Marey*, from this film that was recently featured in *Simmba* starring Ranveer Singh and Sara Ali Khan. He unabashedly admits that he is happy that people like the original better and recalls that his friend Tisca Chopra called him during the screening to tell him that people were clapping, singing and whistling when he came on screen. "They clapped not because I appeared on screen; I think they clapped because I would be gone in 10 seconds," he says, underplaying the moment of glory.

And since no interview can be completed without references to the #MeToo movement, particularly when it concerns one of his favourite directors, Raj Kumar Hirani, he says, "Of course, no predatory behaviour should be tolerated. But it works both ways. Women use their sexuality to get ahead and there are women whose sexuality is abused. Having said that, let me say that such incidents are difficult to assess. I have worked with him (Hirani) in two films. Never was there a hint of anything going wrong. He is such a positive guy. It just hit me really hard," he says.

Of course, he negotiates the question of nepotism rather well. "Let us be honest, if you are a doctor or a builder and help your son become one, then it is acceptable. So why are the same standards not applied to the industry?" he counters questions. But as an outsider, who has a hard time side-stepping cliches to keep himself relevant, he knows what entitlement can do to a fine actor like him.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

STUDIO CHAT 40 MINUTES

The exhilarating journey of the Winchester brothers continues as *Supernatural* enters its 14th season. Sam (Jared Padalecki) and Dean (Jensen Ackles) have spent their lives on the road, battling every kind of supernatural threat. Over the years, after countless adventures, they have faced vampires, ghosts, demons, shapeshifters, angels and fallen gods — but what will the brothers encounter next?

What is the underlying theme of season 14?

In the previous season, the theme was essentially about bringing the family back together. It was about finding Mary (Samantha Smith) and bringing Jack (Alexander Calvert) into the fold. Now the family is back together, but Dean is missing. He is the rock upon which people have relied since the dawn of the show. What happens when he's gone? How does that affect everyone? If and when he does come back, how does that affect everyone? Season 14, in that sense, is the prodigal son's story.

In the season 13 finale, Dean agreed to become Michael's vessel. Will Dean be Michael in season 14?

No. He will not be Michael the whole season but it's not something that we're going to tie off by the end of episode two. It will take a while.

What challenges did you face while writing Michael's character?

As much as our guys evolve every season, Michael has also changed a little by the end of the previous season. We peeled back the onion. This warlord of apocalypse in the first episode of season 13 was very different from the character at the end of the season. You soon realised that he's actually quite disappointed with how things worked out. He comes to our world with a second chance. In that sense, it's the same character — but presented in a different way.

How much did you enjoy writing for Jensen Ackles?

The prodigal son's story

While the makers are waiting for the ratings game to decide whether to end *Supernatural* or not, writer ANDREW DABB has some surprises. By TEAM VIVA



When you're writing for someone like Jensen, you know that whatever you're writing, he's going to make it better. That's across the board, no matter what it is. When you're writing for Dean, there's a temptation to put jokes in there — but that's much harder to do with Michael. He's not very pop culture-savvy. He's not a laugh riot. He has a mean sense of humour, so there's been a little bit of an adjustment — but anything we give Jensen, he knocks out of the park.

Besides Michael, are there going to be any other 'big bad' characters in season 14?

I think Michael is going to be the big problem. When you've got someone like him on the loose, suddenly the werewolf alpha doesn't seem like too

much of a concern. That will be the focus for everyone.

How does the fact that Michael is on the loose impact the happenings in heaven and hell?

The Michael we saw in *Apocalypse World* had a very crystallised view towards all the different factions. Angels were on his side. There were no rogue angels fighting Michael. Those have been weeded out. Demons were the enemy and they have largely been eliminated. Humans are really the only thorn in his side but they were in the process of being eliminated. When Michael comes to our world, he's got a problem. There are only five angels left in our world, so making an angel army is impossible. The demons are a bit in disarray because Crowley (Mark

Sheppard) is gone and there's really no clear leadership. Humanity is as it always is, which is chaotic and weird. So you've got a Michael who wants a similar thing. He wants a power base. I think there's a question of where that power base is going to come from, because his go-to place, heaven, is really not in position to help him in the way he'd like to be helped.

There are fewer episodes in season 14. Does it point towards the show's end?

There are a lot of shows that have far fewer episodes than we do. There are shows with six, eight and 10 episodes. Most shows now are closer to 13, which include almost every streaming show, so we still have significantly more than everyone else. I think Jared and Jensen want to spend more time with their families, which I think is admirable, but we will change up the storytelling a little to accommodate the shorter run. For us in the writer's room, we have to crank back a little bit on the mythology because we can't do quite as much — but that's not always a bad thing. And then we are going to have to crank back a couple of the standalone mysteries, which again is not always a bad thing. Our hope is to create 20 episodes that are better than the 23 that came before, but there's going to be a different rhythm to the season, which is something we're still trying to figure out.

Do you have any message to the fans to assure them that season 14 isn't the final season of Supernatural?

At this point, I would certainly hope that we would get a really strong heads up if this was our final season. We have not received that, so we're not going into

it thinking this is the last year. You never know. The ratings gods are fickle. But should it happen to be the final season, we have ideas to wrap it up. However, I would be very surprised if this was our last season.

There were some amazingly crazy storylines in season 13, including the Scooby-Doo episode. Will there be anything similar in season 14?

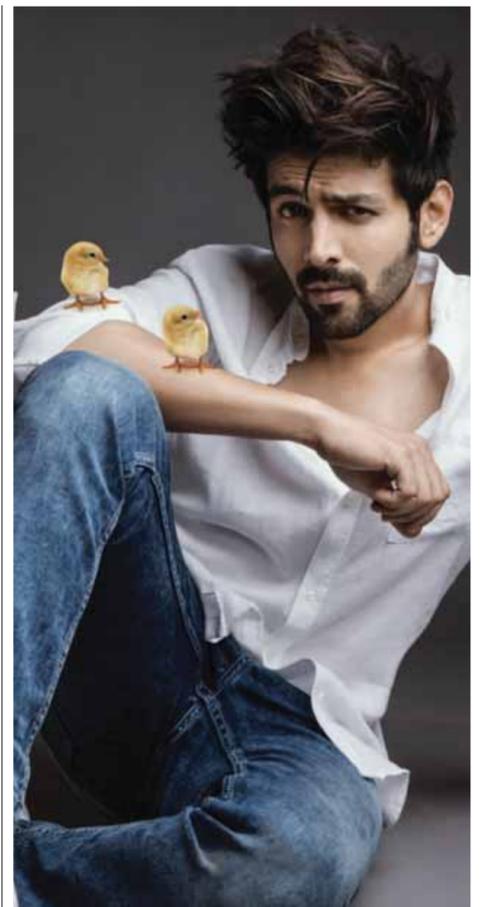
I don't know if we could ever go as crazy as Scooby-Doo again. That episode was 18 months in the making. I think we have some interesting meta things in mind for season 14; some are more on the comedic side and some are more on the heartfelt side, but there's nothing quite as crazy as Scooby-Doo. We think the stuff coming up is pretty cool.

Supernatural will celebrate its 300th episode in season 14. Have you planned anything special for the occasion?

The 100th episode of *Supernatural* was a very conventional episode. There were very few nods that it was anything special at all. For the 200th episode, we went in the exact opposite direction. It was very meta and very fan-based. For the 300th episode, we want to split the difference.

What can you tease about the story of the 300th episode?

A writer named Meredith Glynn came up with the seed of the idea. Sam and Dean live in this bunker. They've lived there for a number of years. This bunker is in a place called Lebanon, Kansas. We've never seen what the people of Lebanon think of Sam and Dean; these two guys that come to the bar, who drive the car through the town and go to the laundromat with their shirts covered in blood. We're going to explore that world. It becomes a story about Sam and Dean but it allows us to make it a bit of a love letter to the show and a love letter to them. It's going to be fun. (The show airs from January 31 at 10 pm on AXN.)



"Chicks love a vegetarian." A new tongue-in-cheek campaign by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, features heartthrob Karik Aaryan. "It only took one video of animals suffering and dying in the meat industry to convince me to go vegetarian. The kindest thing anybody can do for cows, pigs, chickens, and all animals is to stop eating them," the actor said.

SHARAPOVA SENDS WOZNIACKI PACKING

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Maria Sharapova stunned defending champion Caroline Wozniacki to sweep into the Australian Open last 16 on Friday and join ice men Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, who clinically disposed of their opponents.

The Russian five-time Grand Slam winner, who has struggled since returning from a drugs ban in 2017, was at full throttle in ending the Dane's dream of a second major title.

Sharapova won 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 with the roof closed on Rod Laver Arena and will next play in-form local hope Ashleigh Barty, who bounced Greece's Maria Sakkari, for a berth in the quarter-finals.

"I thought the level was quite high. I knew it would be a tough match," said the 2008 champion, who has been in sizzling form at the tournament as she chases her first Slam title since Roland Garros in 2014.

"These types of matches are what I train for and it was really rewarding to win that last point," added the 30th seed.

Second seed Nadal called young Australian Alex de Minaur "one of the best in the world" ahead of their evening clash, then proceeded to hand him a tennis lesson, dismantling the teenager 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

"I hit a good serve and played a solid game," said the 2009 champion who is searching for an 18th Grand Slam title.

He paid tribute to De Minaur, who saved six match points.

"He's a big fighter and super quick. Alex has an amazing future."

Nadal's reward is a meeting with Tomas Berdych, who rallied



Maria Sharapova celebrates a point win over Caroline Wozniacki during their third round match at the Australian Open championship in Melbourne

to beat Argentine 18th seed Diego Schwartzman 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

The Czech veteran reached the semi-finals in 2014 and 2015 but is unseeded this year as he returns from a back injury that almost forced his retirement last year.

Swiss great Federer was also on fire in taming big-serving American Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 to stay on track for a third successive title at Melbourne Park and a 21st Grand Slam crown.

On a rain-affected day that

delayed play on outside courts, the 37-year-old showed no mercy to the 21-year-old in his 100th match on the centre court in Melbourne.

"I had a really good feeling out here today against someone who can be dangerous," said Federer after reaching the Melbourne fourth round for the 17th time — more than anyone else ever.

"Taylor played really well. He is going to have many more years on tour playing at this level."

The double defending cham-



Djokovic vs Shapovalov
Live from 9:00am IST
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Champion is gunning for a record seventh Australian title. If he goes on to win the tournament, he will become the first man ever to claim seven or more crowns at two Slams, having already won eight Wimbledon.

Next up for him is fiery Greek 14th seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who beat Georgia's 19th seed Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4.

The man who lost to Federer in the final last year, Marin Cilic, battled back from two sets down, surviving two match points to beat Spain's Fernando Verdasco in a 4hr 18min epic.

'MY BRAND OF TENNIS'
Barty beat Greece's Sakkari 7-5, 6-1, with the 15th seed yet to drop a set in her best performance at Melbourne Park.

She has won seven of eight matches this month to back up a title victory in Zhuhai late last year to shape up as a dangerous oppo-

nent for Sharapova. "It's getting to the point now where I'm feeling more and more comfortable on the court and can play my brand of tennis, which when I execute I know it works against the best in the world," said a confident Barty.

No Australian woman has won the season-opening Grand Slam at Melbourne Park since Christine O'Neill in 1978.

Germany's second seed Angelique Kerber, the 2016 title winner, steamrolled Australian youngster Kimberley Birrell 6-1, 6-0 as the Wimbledon champions continued her under-the-radar progress.

Meanwhile, unseeded American Amanda Anisimova continued her dream run, ousting 11th seed Aryna Sabalenka in straight sets. The 17-year-old will play eighth seed Petra Kvitova for a place in the quarter-finals.

Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova also advanced, crushing Aliaksandra Sasnovich for a showdown with fifth seed Sloane Stephens.

EAST BENGAL SECURE 1-0 WIN AGAINST ARROWS

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A Jamie Santos Colado strike in the second half helped East Bengal beat Indian Arrows 1-0 to jump to the second place in the I-League here on Friday.

Santos scored the all-important goal in the 48th minute at the at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan.

The Kolkata giants now have 22 points -- five shy of leaders Chennai City FC -- from 12 matches.

The Arrows remain at eighth position with 13 points after an equal number of games.

East Bengal's Spanish coach Alejandro Garcia made two changes to the starting eleven from their previous game against Chennai.

Regular Lalrindika Ralte was suspended and Kamalpreet got a start while Samad Ali Mallick sat on the bench as Lalram Chullova came back in after suspension.

The Arrows coach Floyd Pinto fielded an unchanged side from their 3-0 victory against Shillong Lajong in their previous game.

It was Santos who had the first shot at goal in the 12th minute when he latched onto a second ball but his attempt was off target.

He then fed Joby Justin from the right flank but the striker's header was well collected by Prabhshukhan Gill at the Arrows goal. The closest East Bengal came to scoring in the first half was when Frenchman Kassim Aidara's scorching shot from 20-25 yards out off a loose ball hit the right upright and came back.

The winning goal came just three minutes into the second half. Joby latched on to a ball on the right flank, just a minute after he had attempted another wonderful cross from the same position, but this time cut the ball back into the box instead of driving it across.

The ball seemed to have been intercepted by the Arrows defence, but they fumbled and Santos, lurking around, pounced on the opening and blasted it into the net.

The Arrows then had a couple of chances but KP Rahul's shot hit the side-netting in the 81st minute.

In the 84th, Joby again found Santos with a cross after darting inside the box but the Spaniard could not connect it.

Defender Borja Gomez was adjudged Hero of the Match and left-back Manoj Mohammad saw red in injury time as the game drew to a fiery close.



Lukaku on outside looking in new-look Man Utd

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Romelu Lukaku's Manchester United future is in the spotlight as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer plots to maintain his 100 percent winning record against Brighton on Saturday.

Solskjaer is the first manager in the club's history to begin his career with six straight victories and the feel-good factor is back at Old Trafford after a miserable spell under Jose Mourinho.

A former super-sub himself, Solskjaer warned his players when he took over from Mourinho that some would have to take the opportunities given to them from the bench, and Belgium striker Lukaku has been one of the losers from the switch in tactics and positive vibes that have arrived under the Norwegian interim boss.

Mourinho stood loyally by the 25-year-old despite a drop in form and productivity during a season that eventually cost the manager his job.

Solskjaer's own decision about the forward positions was made for him when he took over at Old Trafford before Christmas, with Lukaku on leave from the club for personal reasons.

That meant the

Norwegian was able to play with a more dynamic, versatile and speedy forward line for his debut game at Cardiff, and he has not looked back since that 5-1 victory.

Marcus Rashford has been the main beneficiary, starting all five league games under Solskjaer and scoring four goals while operating as the focal point of the United attack.

Behind him, Anthony Martial and Jesse Lingard have also made telling contributions, with French international Martial, in particular, appearing to benefit from an end to his fraught relationship with Mourinho.

As part of that tactical reshuffle, Solskjaer has also been able to get more out of Martial's compatriot Paul Pogba by pushing him into a more advanced midfield position. It has left a question mark over Lukaku's role in this new attacking set-up.

SUBSTITUTE ROLE
Lukaku has played just 64 league minutes since Solskjaer's arrival, although the striker has managed to score twice in that time and bag a goal in his only start to date under the Norwegian, the 2-0 FA Cup win over

Reading. Lukaku has been making his mark as an impact substitute but that is not the usual role of a player bought for \$75 million pounds (\$97 million), plus add-ons.

Alexis Sanchez will also present Solskjaer with an issue when he is finally fully fit from hamstring troubles that have limited him to just one start in the past two months. Chilean Sanchez is unavailable for Saturday's visit of Brighton alongside defenders Chris Smalling and Marcos Rojo.

The 30-year-old was sidelined when Solskjaer took over but played his way back to fitness, playing 27 minutes in the 2-0 win at Newcastle at the start of the month.

A recurrence of his hamstring injury, in the win over Reading a few days later, once again sent him to the treatment room, although he could be back for United's visit his former club Arsenal in the next round of the cup.

Despite his recent lack of playing time, Sanchez would appear to be a better fit for Solskjaer's preferred style of play than Lukaku, with his versatility and mobility meaning he can fill a variety of attacking roles.

Saina tames Okuhara; Srikanth exits

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Saina Nehwal scripted a hard-fought straight-game win over former world champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan to enter the women's singles semifinals but a fighting Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of the \$ 350,000 Malaysia Masters on Friday.

Seventh seeded Saina, who

had a 8-4 head-to-head record against Okuhara before Friday, fought back from 9-15 and 14-18 down in the two games to extend her dominance over the second-seeded Japanese with a 21-18, 23-21 win in a 48-minute quarterfinals at the Axiata Arena.

"Again a great match with @nozomi_o11. Nice to b on the winning side ..21-18, 23-21



Saina Nehwal reacts after winning quarterfinal match against Okuhara

#quarterfinals #malaysiamasterssuper500," tweeted Saina after the match.

The 28-year-old from Hyderabad, who had won the title in 2017 and was a runners-up in the 2011 edition, will face a tough test next when she faces three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain on Saturday.

Saina has defeated Marin five times and has lost to the Spaniard as many times in the last 10 meetings.

However, Srikanth squandered a one-game advantage to go down 23-21, 16-21, 17-21 to fourth seed Korean Son Wan Ho in the men's singles quarterfinals that lasted an hour and 12 minutes.

The women's singles match started on an even keel as both Saina and Okuhara fought hard, moving together till 9-9. Okuhara registered six straight points to create a huge gap but Saina showed her mettle as she slowly erased the deficit and grabbed a 17-16 lead at one stage.

Okuhara made it 17-17 before Saina closed out the opening game by grabbing the remaining points. The Indian was 4-2 up early on in the second game but Okuhara jumped to a 8-5 lead before Saina wrestled a 11-9 advantage at the break.

After the interval, Saina led till 14-12 but Okuhara reeled off six points to take a comfortable 18-14 lead. But Saina again slowly started dominating the rallies and clawed her way back to 19-19.

Okuhara then squandered two game points before Saina converted the first match point that came her way to secure the semifinal berth.

Srikanth, who was on an unbeaten run at the recently-concluded Premier Badminton League, had recovered from a 4-11 deficit to pocket the first game but he couldn't breach a 4-9 gap in the second game to allow Son to take the game into the decider.

The seventh seeded Indian then wasted a 5-1 advantage in the third game to allow Son march ahead after leading 11-10 at the break.

Fabinho eases burden on Reds injury-hit defence

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

An untimely series of injuries to defenders has left Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp short-handed at the back as he tries to keep the Premier League leaders on track for a first title in 29 years at home to Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold joined a growing injury list with a knee problem picked up in the warm-up ahead of last weekend's 1-0 win at Brighton that could keep the English international out for up to a month.

Centre-backs Joe Gomez, Dejan Lovren and Joel Matip are still working their way back to fitness, while the decision to let Nathaniel Clyne leave on loan to Bournemouth earlier this month has been questioned.

However, Klopp has been able to rely on the versatility of summer signing Fabinho to cover both at the heart of defence alongside the commanding Virgil van Dijk, and at right-back.

The 25-year-old, signed for nearly 40 million (\$ 51 million) from Monaco, took his time to adapt to English football, something Klopp predicted would happen as far back as July when Fabinho made his pre-season debut against non-league Chester.

But recent weeks have shown that Klopp's vision for Fabinho to serve as a vital and versatile cog in his championship-challenging squad have come to fruition.

"Fabinho is a brilliant player. To have a good footballer in that position when you have the ball is great," said Klopp.

"He has a defensive brain and can play in a lot of positions." Fabinho had played at right-back, where he has recently started for Brazil, and as a defensive midfielder for the Ligue 1 side, where he caught Klopp's eye.

Yet the German also saw his potential as providing cover in the centre-half positions, an observation that became particularly



important at Brighton.

Alongside the immaculate Van Dijk, Fabinho turned in a mature display as Liverpool kept a 13th clean sheet in 22 Premier League games to maintain an important four-point cushion over their closest rivals Manchester City.

"Some weeks ago, I knew this could be an option because we had some players out injured and we only had two centre-backs available," Fabinho told the Liverpool website.

"When Dejan got injured, I knew it would be logical that I'd play in that position.

"I had some training sessions playing in that position, which helped me adapt better and pick up certain aspects, like positioning and movements you need to be natural at to play in this position." Fabinho had to be patient to make an impact on the Premier League.

Not until late October at struggling Huddersfield did Klopp hand him his league debut off the bench and a first start followed a week later against Cardiff in his more natural midfield role.

But the Brazilian has since started a further eight league games and his adaptability and versatility suggests he will have a considerable role to play in Liverpool's bid for honours both in the Premier League and Champions League with Van Dijk suspended for the first leg of their last-16 tie against Bayern Munich next month.

Dembele nets brace in Barca's win

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona overturned a first leg defeat to beat Levante in the Copa del Rey but could yet be thrown out of the competition after being accused of fielding an ineligible player.

Barca won 3-0 at the Camp Nou on Thursday, with Lionel Messi setting up two Ousmane Dembele goals and then scoring himself to seal a 4-2 victory on aggregate.

Their place in the quarter-finals, however, is under threat after Levante president Francisco Javier Catalan confirmed shortly before kick-off that the club would lodge a complaint to the Spanish Football Federation on Friday.

Levante claim Barcelona defender Juan Brandariz 'Chumi' played illegally in the first leg as he should have been serving a suspension.

Chumi was banned after he received a yellow card playing for Barcelona's B team in the Segunda B division.

Barcelona, however, insist a change in the rules in November means the suspension does not carry over into the Copa del Rey.

Levante may feel precedent is on their side after Real Madrid were disqualified from the Copa del Rey in 2015 for fielding Denis Cheryshev, despite the player being suspended.

Madrid had overlooked Cheryshev receiving three yellow cards while playing for Villarreal in



Lionel Messi, centre, reacts after missing a chance during a Spanish Copa del Rey match between FC Barcelona and Levante at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona

the competition the previous season. Messi started, along with fellow regulars like Jordi Alba, Clement Lenglet, Ivan Rakitic and Arthur. Luis Suarez, Sergio Busquets and Marc Andre Stegen all began on the bench.

Barcelona were dominant from the outset, as a curling Messi free-kick was pushed wide and Philippe Coutinho, excellent again, shot over.

Messi and Arturo Vidal both went close and finally in the 30th minute, Dembele made the breakthrough, latching onto Messi's pass

before bundling the ball into the net.

A minute later, the Frenchman had a second. Coutinho found Messi on the break and he slipped free the sprinting Dembele, who ran round Aitor Fernandez and scuffed the ball home off the goalkeeper's outstretched leg.

Levante were still only a goal away from extra-time but Messi ended any hopes of a comeback. Dembele freed Nelson Semedo down the right and he found the Argentinian in the middle. A chipped finish was all it needed.

FABREGAS BRACED FOR HOME DEBUT

AFP ■ MONACO

Cesc Fabregas is set for his home debut as a Monaco player, while Paris Saint-Germain look for revenge against their recent Cup conquerors Guingamp in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

Cesc Fabregas got his first taste of the unusual experience of a matchday in Monaco in midweek, but the Spain star had to watch from the stands as Thierry Henry's side drew 1-1 with Nice, coached by another former Arsenal star in Patrick Vieira.

Signed from Chelsea last week, Fabregas impressed on his debut in a 1-1 draw at Marseille, but the 31-year-old was ineligible against Nice, a match that was originally due to be played in December before being postponed.

Just hours after admitting to journalists it had been a wrench to leave the Premier League, Fabregas sat next to fellow new signings Naldo, Fode Ballo-Toure and William Vainqueur to watch the Cote d'Azur derby.

Now the new signings are available again as Monaco host Strasbourg still searching for a first home win of the season as the relegation-threatened side look to climb the table.

"With the new signings we are going to do some interesting things in the weeks ahead. I am convinced of that," said



Monaco's French World Cup-winning full-back Djibril Sidibe.

On Saturday, PSG — still unbeaten in Ligue 1 this season and 13 points clear atop the table — host bottom-of-the-table Guingamp with revenge on their minds. Guingamp visited the Parc des Princes just last week and won 2-1 in a League Cup quarter-final, inflicting a first domestic Cup defeat on Paris in five years.

Meanwhile the derby between Saint-Etienne and Lyon is the most authentic in the French game, and can be one of the most fiery anywhere in Europe.

Les Verts are still unbeaten at home this season and lie third in the table, two points better off than Lyon, who needed a late Nabil Fekir free-kick to draw in Toulouse in midweek.

INDIA FINISH OFF IN STYLE

Chahal clinches career best 6/42 before Dhoni and Jadhav star with bat to help India win maiden bilateral ODI series in Aus



Dhoni said: "It was a slow wicket, so it was difficult to hit whenever you wanted to. No point going after the bowlers who were bowling well, so we wanted to take it deep and that was the plan."

"Of course supported brilliantly by Kedar, who plays unorthodox shots. He did a great job in executing."

India captain Virat Kohli praised the team for the win.

"It wasn't a great wicket to bat on, so we had to take it deep, but they were professional in getting the job done," he said.

"Kedar with bat and ball is always handy. Kuldeep had played a few games, so you don't want to make things too predictable. So we brought on Yuzvendra Chahal, and he played beautifully."

It is the first time India remained unbeaten on Australian soil in all three formats and Kohli said it augurs well for the upcoming World Cup.

"It's been an amazing tour for us. We drew the T20 series, won the Test and the ODI series. We are feeling confident and balanced as a side with the World Cup in mind," he said.

Playing his first match in the series, Chahal sizzled with a maiden six-wicket haul to be adjudged the Man of the Match.

Meanwhile, Australian captain Aaron Finch said: "We took it first to the wire. Our batting in the first couple of games was very good. Maybe we should have set our targets lower on those sort of pitches."

"When you give great players a couple of chances, it's always tough... We did put down chances, but the boys gave it their all. Their batting in the first couple of games was very good."

'Dhoni is a superstar and all-time great'

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian coach Justin Langer paid tribute to Mahendra Singh Dhoni as a superstar and an all-time great of the game after the veteran wicketkeeper-batsman produced a master class run-chase in India's ODI series clinching win.

Langer was amazed by Dhoni's fitness at the age of 37 and said that playing against him has been a rich learning experience for his young side.

"He (Dhoni) is 37 years old. His running between the wickets is elite, and his fitness is elite. For him to run between the wickets for three days in a row, it was 40 degrees the other day, and play like that, he is a superstar of the game and that's what Australians should be aspiring to be — superstars of the game," Langer said at the post-match press conference.

"MS Dhoni, like Virat Kohli, like Cheteshwar Pujara in the Test series, they give us really great role models. MS Dhoni, his record, everything speaks for itself as a captain, batsman, wicketkeeper. He is literally an all-time great of the game and it has been, as hard as it is to lose, a privilege to play against those guys."

Dhoni was dropped twice — when on 0 and 74 — and Langer said that cost his side the match. He also said that Dhoni gave his young side a batting tutorial on how to go about in such a run chase.

"You drop MS Dhoni a couple of times and you don't win. You don't give great players chances. We did that tonight. We get down the 49th over and MS is there again. It was a great lesson for our squad. We talk about match winners, getting the job done — he showed us again. It is a great tutorial for our batters," he added.

"If MS Dhoni can come out and run between wickets like that after keeping wickets for 50 overs, that is the level the whole world should be aspiring to. I would be amazed if they (Australian players) don't learn from playing against those guys. For a young squad, there is no better lesson and learning to rub shoulders with great players. I'm glad we have had the experience," he said. Dhoni copped a lot of criticism from all quarters for his slow strike-rate at the start of the series, but has sounded back with three half-centuries in three matches to be adjudged Man of the Series.

Mahi's caliber can't be replaced: Shastri

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Ravi Shastri has seen Sachin Tendulkar get "angry at times" but not Mahendra Singh Dhoni, "a once in 40 years player" who will be very difficult to replace once he bids adieu to the game, according to India's head coach. The 37-year-old Dhoni showed glimpses of his golden days by anchoring India to a series win with unbeaten knocks of 55 and 87.

"He is a legend. He will go down as one of our great cricketers. I have never seen an individual so sound. I have seen Sachin at times get angry. Not this man," Shastri told the 'Daily Telegraph'.

Shastri made it clear that a player of Dhoni's calibre can't be replaced.

"You can't. Such players only come once in 30 or 40 years. That is what I tell Indians. Enjoy while it lasts. When he goes you will see a void that will be very hard to fill," he said. The coach is hopeful that Rishabh Pant would live up to the hype surrounding him but insisted that Dhoni is something else.

When former England captain Michael Vaughan asked if Pant could be Dhoni in the next 20 years, Shastri replied: "I would love to. He has the talent. His hero is MS. Every day he is on the phone to MS. I think during the Test series he must have spoken more to MS than anyone else."

BEST AVERAGE IN SUCCESSFUL RUN-CHASES

(min 1000 runs)					
Batsman	Country	I	Runs	AVG	100
MS Dhoni	IND	73	2783	103.07	2
Virat Kohli	IND	78	4899	97.98	21
Michael Bevan	AUS	45	1725	86.35	3
AB de Villiers	SA	59	2566	82.77	5
Joe Root	ENG	34	1556	77.80	4
Michael Clarke	AUS	53	2142	73.86	3

Melbourne.

Batting at number four, Dhoni, who generally bats at number six, anchored India's chase with a 114-ball 87 not out which was studded with six boundaries.

"I am happy to bat at any number. The important thing is where the team needs me," said Dhoni, when asked where he wants to bat.

"Whether I play at 4 or 6, we need to see if the team balance can be retained. I'm happy to bat lower down at 6. I can't say I can't bat at No 6 after playing 14 years," he said after the match.

Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav shared a 121-run partnership for the unconquered fourth wicket while chasing a tricky target of 231.

Asked what the game plan was,

DHONI'S UNBEATEN 87 OFF 114 BALLS WAS A TESTIMONY TO HIS HIGH QUALITY MATCH AWARENESS AS THE STREET-SMART KEDAR JADHAV (61 NO, 57 BALLS) DONNED THE ROLE OF A FINISHER

AP/PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal took a record 6-42 to propel India to a seven-wicket win over Australia in the third one-day international and a 2-1 series win on Friday.

Chahal's return was not only a career-best, beating his 5-22 against South Africa, but matched the best figures in an ODI in Australia, a record held since 2004 by his compatriot, India fast bowler Ajit Aragkar.

Chahal, who missed the first two ODIs, helped India to bowl out Australia for only 230 after captain Virat Kohli won the toss on a rainy afternoon in Melbourne.

After fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar removed both Australia openers, Chahal ran through the middle and lower order to end the innings with eight balls left in their 50 overs.

Peter Handscomb's 58 from 63 balls was the only substantial contribution from an Australia batting order struggling to find consistency.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni once again closed out India's match and series victory with an unbeaten innings of 87 from 114 balls in a perfectly

paced run chase, completing the win with four balls to spare for the second consecutive match.

After putting on 54 for the third wicket with Kohli (46), a century-maker in the second ODI, Dhoni completed India's win in an unbroken partnership of 121 with Kedar Jadhav, who finished 61 not out.

Dhoni scored half-centuries in all three matches and was named man of the series. His unbeaten half-century in the second match at Sydney also saw India to victory, chasing Australia's 298, with four balls to spare.

Australia bowled exceptionally well in defense of a mediocre total. Jhye Richardson bowled his 10 overs for 27 runs, dismissing Kohli, and spinner Adam Zampa's 10 overs cost only 34 runs.

'CAN BAT AT ANY POSITION'

Former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Friday said he has no preference in the Indian batting order and is ready to bat at any position as per the need of the team.

Dhoni was adjudged the Man of the Series after he guided India to a comfortable seven-wicket win in

No. 4 spot need to solidified: Kohli

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India captain Virat Kohli on Friday said the number four slot in the batting line-up is still to be "solidified", months after he backed Ambati Rayudu for the position till this year's World Cup.

The skipper said that there has been a lot of experimentation at number four, and while the batting line-up at Adelaide, where Rayudu batted at four, was an ideal one, they would like to keep things mixed up until someone assumed responsibility at number four.

"If you look at that last game, Ambati Rayudu batted at four, Dhoni at five and Dinesh Karthik at six. Because we brought in Vijay Shankar and Kedar Jadhav, we didn't want Karthik to change his spot because he is doing a good job," he said after the third and final ODI of a historic tour of Australia.

Rayudu was backed for the position by Kohli during the home series against West Indies last year.

"...The middle order we saw in Adelaide is pretty much the most balanced if you look at it. The number four position, again, has been a sort of an area which we want solidified," he said.

"But because of the combinations we want to play, sometimes you have to make those changes. Anyone who bats at four will have to take the responsibility for the World Cup, whoever it might be. That person will have to take responsibility at number four," he added.

The skipper credited the victory to Yuzvendra Chahal, who picked up the best figures for an Indian spinner on Australia soil and restricted the hosts to a low total.

"...Taking six wickets at the MCG is no small feat for a spinner. He is very intelligent bowler and he gets us those breakthroughs. He and Kuldeep are definitely a force to be reckoned with. When they play together, it is our most potent spin attack..." he added.

'No one is more committed to Indian cricket than Dhoni'

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

No one is more committed to Indian cricket than Mahendra Singh Dhoni and batting at number five is the ideal spot for him, said Virat Kohli in stout defense of the former captain.

Dhoni faced criticism for slow batting in the ODI series-opener in Sydney before redeeming his pride and reputation with match-winning contributions in the Adelaide and Melbourne ODIs.

Acknowledging Dhoni's contribution in the historic series-triumph in Australia, Kohli defended the former captain, saying he should be allowed breathing space.

"I think firstly as a team we are very happy for Dhoni. That he is amongst the runs, because it is very important to get runs under your belt to get that rhythm and get that confidence back. Especially when you have not been playing so much international cricket," said the India captain at the post-match press conference.



"Many things happen on the outside. People say a lot of things but as an individual we know that there is no one more committed to Indian cricket than Dhoni and people should let him have his space because he has contributed so much for the nation."

"They should let him figure out things on his own and what he needs to do. He is one of the most intelligent cricketers and he is not someone who is not aware about what needs to be done. As a team we are totally in sync with what he is doing and we are all very happy for him," said Kohli.

The skipper also reckons that the just-concluded Australia series has proved that number five is the most logical spot for Dhoni.

"Dhoni batted at number four in 2016 for a while. But after that he has been pretty happy playing at five and six for the team. We felt that number five was the ideal position for him. And if you saw him bat at Adelaide as well he was pretty comfortable in that position because that allows him to do a bit of both - get some game time as well as finish games off, attacking as and when required," Kohli said.

Saurashtra steady in chase of 373 runs against Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW: After being on the backfoot so far in the Ranji Trophy quarter-final match, Saurashtra came back strong and were looking favourites now to book the semi-final berth as they needed 177 more runs on the last day with eight wickets in hand, including Cheteshwar Pujara.

Saurashtra bundled out UP early for 194 in their second innings and piled up 195/2 in chase of 373 to win at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on Friday.

UP, who started the day at 172/8, could only add 22 more runs before being all out. Wicket-keeper batsman Upendra Singh (35) and Yash Dayal (1) were taken by Saurashtra Jaydev Unadkat, who finished with 2/34. Left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja claimed 4/53 while pacer Chetan Sakariya returned 3/38.

In chase of 373 to win and seal a semi-final spot Saurashtra had a good start with openers Harvik Desai and Snell Patel adding 132 runs for the opening wicket in 44 overs. UP finally broke through when young Shivam Mavi send back Patel for 72 off 114 balls.

Vishvaraj Jadeja then got together Desai to add 54 more runs before falling to Akshdeep Nath for 35 off 63 balls late in the day. Kamlesh Makhwana walked in as the night-watchman, to protect Cheteshwar Pujara, and he saw out the day scoring four runs off the 17 balls he faced. Desai at the other end had scored 83 after facing 208 deliveries. At stumps, Saurashtra

are 195/2, adrift of the target by 177 runs.

KARNATAKA ENTER SEMIS BENGALURU: Captain Manish Pandey and Karun Nair cracked brilliant half centuries as Karnataka registered a comprehensive six-wicket win over Rajasthan to storm into the semifinals of Ranji Trophy on Friday.

Pandey (87) and Nair (61) shared an unbeaten 129-run partnership for the fifth wicket in just 24.5 overs on the fourth and final day to help Karnataka chase down a tricky 184-run victory target.

Karnataka will now meet either Saurashtra or Uttar Pradesh in the semifinals.

Rajasthan had scored 224 in their first innings, riding on fifties by skipper Mahipal Lomrov (50) and Rajesh Bishnoi (79).

In reply, Karnataka put on 263 all out before returning to bundle out Rajasthan for 222 in their second innings, thus setting themselves a 184-run target.

Karnataka were 45 for 3 in 18 overs at stumps after day 3.

Starting the final day needing 139 runs to win with seven wickets in hand, the hosts lost nightwatchman Ronit More early in the morning which forced Pandey to walk into the middle.

Pandey spent some time on the wicket, before taking on the formidable Rajasthan bowling lineup.

He unleashed an array of delightful



shots, cobbling up a match-winning knock in 75 balls, which was embellished with 14 boundaries and two sixes.

Pandey chased down the remaining 14 runs in five balls as Karnataka players started to celebrate the fantastic win in the dressing room.

Nair gave an able support to Pandey,

who remained unbeaten on 61, a knock decorated with six boundaries off 129 balls.

Though Pandey hogged the limelight on fourth day, Vinay Kumar's unbeaten 83 in first innings was an equally important innings as it forced Rajasthan to concede lead for first time this season.

Vinay also bagged two wickets in

Rajasthan's first innings to bag the Man of the Match.

Brief scores: Karnataka first and second innings: 263 all out in 87.4 overs and 185 for 4 in 47.5 overs (Manish Pandey 87 not out, Karun Nair 61 not out (Aniket Choudhary 2/32)

Rajasthan first and second innings: 224 in 77.1 overs and 222 all out in 67.2 overs (Robin Bist 44, Mahipal Lomrov 42; Krishnappa Gowtham 4/54, Shreyas Gopal 3/52, Abimanyu Mithun 2/26).

VIDARBHA IN CONTROL

NAGPUR: Reigning champions Vidarbha were in complete control of their quarter-final against Uttarakhand after taking a huge 274-run first innings lead and then striking big blows later on the fourth day of the game.

At stumps, Uttarakhand were struggling for survival at 152 for 5 in their second essay with India pacer Umesh Yadav having grabbed three of those wickets in a fiery exhibition of fast bowling.

The visitors were adrift by 122 runs with five wickets in hand and would need to bat out of their skin to force a draw which will, however, be enough for Vidarbha to enter the semis.

Earlier, resuming at their overnight score of 559/6, Vidarbha added 70 runs to their tally before their innings ended with a massive tally of 629.

After Wasim Jaffer (206) and opener Sanjay Ramaswamy (141), Aditya Sarwate

became the third centurion for the hosts when he made 102 in 185 balls, striking 11 fours, after resuming at his overnight score of 67.

Batting for the second time, openers Vineet Saxena (27) and Karnaveer Kaushal (76) gave the visitors a steady start by putting up 72 for the first wicket.

But Yadav trapped Saxena in front to end the partnership and Vidarbha bowlers came on top.

One-down Vaibhav Bhatt (0) became Yadav's second victim, while Kaushal was cleaned up by slow-left arm orthodox bowler Sarvate as Uttarakhand were reduced to 3 for 152.

Avneesh Sudha, who hit a valiant 91 in the first essay, could not repeat the feat and fell for 28 and then Vidarbha took another wicket at the far end to reduce the Ranji debutant to 152 for 5.

When stumps were drawn, first innings centurion Saurabh Rawat (0 not out) was at the crease.

While in the other quarterfinal game in Lucknow, Saurashtra need 177 runs on the final day to reach last four against Uttar Pradesh.

Chasing 372 to win, Saurashtra is batting at 195 for two wickets in 67 overs. **Brief scores:** Uttarakhand 355 and 152 for 5 (Karnaveer Kaushal 76, Avneesh Sudha 28; Umesh Yadav 3-22) versus Vidarbha 629 (Wasim Jaffer 206, Sanjay Ramaswamy 141, Aditya Sarvate 102; D K Sharma 3-101).